

**Entrance Antiphon Phil 4:4-5**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**Is 35:1-6, 10**

***God himself will come and save us.***

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**

**Lord, come and save us**

**A reading from the letter of St James**

**Jas 5:7-10**

***You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.***

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**Mt 11:2-11**

***Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?***

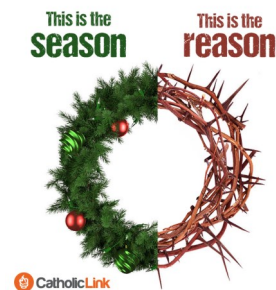
John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon Cf. Is 35:4**

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



**Next week's readings**

**First Reading:** Is 7:10-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 23:1-6. R.

**Second Reading:** Rom 1:1-7

**Gospel:** Mt 1:18-24



# St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

**P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160**  
**Phone:** 97542141  
**Office Hours:** 9.30am – 2pm Tuesday to Friday  
**Internet:** [pol.org.au/belgrave](http://pol.org.au/belgrave)

*The Parish of St Thomas More and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: [www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)*

**Our Parish Vision Statement:**  
*We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....*

CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk &	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A -17th/18th December, 2022

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.



John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

[Third Sunday of Advent Year A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://liturgyhelp.com)

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
*Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au*  
 87518112.  
**Phone:**  
**Parish Secretary:** Mirani Perera  
**Parish Office:** 97542141  
**Sacraments :** *belgrave@cam.org.au*  
**Child Safety Contacts:** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
 Monica Rayner  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Chairperson — Dennis  
**Monbulk:** Peter van Haaster

**Belgrave:**

**Gembrook:** Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and  
 Samantha Willis

**Emerald:** John Conway & Dennis

**Mt. Dandenong:** Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

**WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH  
 AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.**

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
 Principal: Declan McDermott  
 Phone: 9754-4444  
 Email: [principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
 Principal: Michael Watt  
 Phone: 9756 7201  
 Email: [principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities and ongoing War in Ukraine. May their souls rest in peace.

**Anniversaries:** Leo Walsh, Paul Granieri, Terry McDermott, Dorothy ward.

**Prayer for the deceased:** Lord open wide the doors of your Mercy to all those who have passed away in the parish of St. Thomas More, Belgrave. In your compassion grant eternal bliss to all of them.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Diane Kamoen, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Maureen Lyons, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Joshua McQuade, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

- **Sick List: If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 97542141.**

## ***Summer School of Evangelisation 2023***

Date: 15- 22 January, 2023

More information visit

[Summer School of Evangelisation Melbourne  
\(ssemelbourne.org.au\)](https://ssemelbourne.org.au)

## **Melbourne Overseas Mission Sunday**

**11th December**

### **Global Gifts Campaign**

*If you are looking for ways to support Caritas throughout Advent and the Christmas period, you may be interested in Global Gifts: find more information, here:*

<https://www.globalgifts.org.au/>



## **Fundraising news**

We are in the process of collecting old stamps and old coins.

Can you please keep all used postage stamps ( Australian and overseas ) and overseas money, also old stamp albums.

Send to the parish office or call Tony Whyte (St. Paul's Monbulk) for collection.

Thank you.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

### **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**



<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Front-End Developer

### **Catholic Development Fund**

Integration Engineer

Risk & Compliance Analyst

### **Parish Positions**

Pastoral Worker – St Luke's, Lalor

Pastoral Worker – St Andrew's Parish, Clayton South

Pastoral Worker – St Clement of Rome Parish, Bulleen

Parish Secretary – St Dominic's Parish, Melton

Cleaner – St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully

Pastoral Worker — St. Andrew's Parish, Werribee

Parish Bookkeeper - St. Andrew's Parish, Werribee

### **Other Positions**

Engagement & Projects Lead – Catholic Social Services (CSSV)

Retail Shop Assistant – Central Catholic Bookshop expression of interest

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator - St Vincent's Private Hospital

Cook - Bayside Catholic Mission

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at [hadmin@cam.org.au](mailto:hadmin@cam.org.au)

## **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. If you are interested please visit our Parish Website [www.melbatholic.org/ivanhoe](http://www.melbatholic.org/ivanhoe) and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohls 0427 879 733.

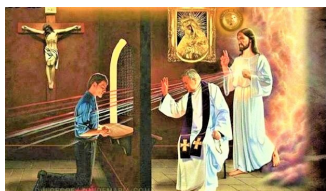
## Confession

### **St. Thomas More Church**

Friday - Saturday 9.45am - 10.45am  
(9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th December)

**St. Joseph's Church** - Saturday 4.30pm —5.30pm  
(10th and 17th December)

**St. Paul's Church Sunday** - 12.30pm—1.30pm  
(11th and 18th December)



## Christmas Mass Times



**Christmas Eve Mass**  
(Saturday 24th December)

### **St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave**

5.30pm Carols  
6.00pm Children Mass (**Salesian Priest**)  
11.00pm Carols  
11.30pm Midnight Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

### **St. Joseph's Church Emerald**

6.30pm (**Fr. Cruz**)

### **St. Paul's Church, Monbulk**

7.30pm Carols  
8.00pm Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

**Christmas Day Mass**  
( Sunday 25th December )

### **Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook**

9.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

### **St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave**

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

### **St. Paul's Church, Monbulk**

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS**

**MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE** is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement in 2023.

Email: [somml@bigpond.com](mailto:somml@bigpond.com)

(preferred for contact) Tel: 9326 1895



## **"Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine and world peace:**

**( Every Wednesday )**

Father Cruz will recommence the Candlelight Vigil including Mass, private prayer and the Rosary, offered for the end of the war in Ukraine and for peace in the world. This intention is also one of the requests of Mary the Mother of God, when she appeared in Fatima to three peasant children, several times in 1917.

Time will be strictly 7 pm – 8.15, but come for whatever time you can.

7 pm Mass  
7.30 Private prayer  
7.45 Rosary  
8.00 Benediction  
8.15 Finish.



Everyone is welcome to attend.