

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ez 36:23-26

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

A reading from the book of Exodus Ex 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the

The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:

that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Jn 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



Next week's readings

First Reading: 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22 R. v.1

Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14

Gospel: Jn 9:1-41



St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

The Catholic Church in the Dandenong Ranges

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
 Phone: 97542141
 Office Hours: 9.30am – 2pm Tuesday to Friday
 Internet: 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

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 & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave 17 Terry Avenue,	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 LENT YEAR A—11th/ 12th March, 2023

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

All people thirst for meaning, but of what does that meaning consist? The people in the desert thirsted for water, but they misunderstood their thirst. The woman of Samaria thirsted. Her conversation with Jesus showed that she thirsted for understanding and insight as well as water. For what do we thirst in this world of such great excess and unmeasured need? Life has not become simpler with all of our advances. We still thirst for more – for the newest, the fastest and the best. How much is enough, and when do we cross the line into ‘too much’?

The gospel readings for the scrutiny Sundays very clearly lay out the choices that are placed before the catechumens and the rest of the believing community as well. This Sunday it is between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob's well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one. A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?

[Third Sunday of Lent \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://liturgyhelp.com)



Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intentions for 2023 – This Month's Prayer

MARCH - For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

<https://www.churchpop.com/2023/01/16/heres-pope-francis-prayer-intentions-for-each-month-in-2023/>

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 Monica Rayner
Chairperson — Dennis
Monbulk: Peter van Haaster

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Monbulk:

Belgrave:

Gembrook: Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and Samantha Willis

Emerald: Dennis

Mt. Dandenong:

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

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
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ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Michael Watt
 Phone: 9756 7201
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Many people across the world who have died due to natural calamities (Turkey and Syria) and ongoing War in Ukraine. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Chris Madden, Sr. Joyce White, Angela Casey, Francis Kuyper, Richard Rossa.

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: Glen Butler, Tony O' Meara, Aliyah Lawless, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, 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, 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, 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.**

Third Sunday of Lent 11 & 12 March

Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/ envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413



The Stations of the Cross in Lent

The Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.



Reconciliation

St. Joseph's Church, Emerald

28th March at 5pm– 5.50pm followed by Holy Mass at 6pm

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

26th March 8am– 8.50am followed by Holy Mass at 9am

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

26th March 10.15am — 10.55 am followed by Holy Mass at 11am

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

Fridays and Saturdays

10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th March at 9.45am– 10.15am



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday of the Lord's Supper —6 April 7.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave — Washing of the Feet and Eucharist.

8.30 pm Solemn Reservation. Adoration.

Good Friday - 7th April:

10.00am. The Stations of the cross at Sumava Czech Centre, Locks Way, Belgrave South. (Please DO NOT bring any food) but bring an umbrella if rain is forecast.

3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with Adoration of the Holy Cross and Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night —Saturday 8th April:

6.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Reynolds Lane, Belgrave.

Blessing of the Fire. followed by the vigil Mass.

Sunday of the Resurrection — Easter Sunday 9th April:

6.30am -St. Joseph's Church, Emerald.

Blessing of the Fire, Holy Eucharist.

Please note also.... that breakfast will be served after the **Easter Dawn Mass at St. Joseph's church. All are welcome.**

9.00am - Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook.

9.00am— Holy Mass St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.

11.00am—Holy Mass at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk.

**Fiat — A weekend prayer
(24th March—26th March)**

The Rev. Peter Comensoli has issued an invitation to all parishes in Melbourne to a Weekend of communal Prayer in our own or other parishes from 6pm Friday 24th March to 6pm Sunday 26th March.

The theme for this 48hrs of prayer is to meditate on Mary's Fiat, her total **"Yes"**.

Each parish is invited to commit to at least one hour of prayer a day over the weekend.

This weekend promises to be a moment of grace for the local Church, as together we meditate on Mary's fiat. We reflect on what Mary's example means for us as individuals

To assist in sharing in what is happening around the Archdiocese each parish is asked to register their times of prayer. <https://trybooking.com/CGFXG>

Belgrave parish is committed to 1 hour of prayer on the 3 days as follows - however each individual is free to attend other parishes or choose their own time of prayer.:

**Friday 24th March - St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave
6pm to 7pm – followed by stations of the cross.**

**Saturday 25th March – St. Joseph's Church, Emerald -
5pm to 6pm – followed by holy mass**

**Sunday 26th March – St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave
– 4pm to 5pm**

**Sacrament of Confirmation, First Reconciliation
and First Holy Eucharist**

Sacrament of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist for students attending Non-Catholic Schools. To enroll, please contact the parish office during office hours on or before 13th March.

Telephone 97542141

Email belgrave@cam.org.au

Sacrament	Preparation Dates (Classes)	Day	Time	Location
Confirmation 20 th May 12pm	27/04 , 04/05 11/05, 18/05	Thursdays	4.30pm	St. Paul's Church Monbulk
First Reconciliation 12 th August 9.45am	11/07, 18/07 25/07, 01/08	Tuesdays	4.30pm	St. Thomas Mores Church Bel- grave
First Eucharist 10 th September 9am at STM church Bel- grave 11am at St. Paul's church Monbulk	08/08, 15/08 22/08, 29/08 05/09	Tuesdays	4.30pm	St. Thomas Mores Church Bel- grave St. Paul's church Monbulk

**Need your support for St. Vincent de Paul
Society Belgrave**



St. Thomas More's Vincent de Paul committee members need more food and food items to distribute for needy people in our community. The donation box is placed in the St. Thomas More's church foyer.

Dear Parishioners of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

With the current state of the world, we would ask you all to join us in a Novena to the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese – St Patrick. The novena commences on the Thursday the 9th of March and concludes on St Patrick's Day, Friday the 17th of March.

Currently we find ourselves in the centre of a spiritual battle. There is much to pray for: world peace, our Archbishop, our priests and parishes, the need for vocations, our families; as well as the subtle but constant reduction of our freedoms.

During this Lenten time could we also implore you to try to attend one extra Mass a week for all the above and for your own special intentions.

Novena to St Patrick:

St Patrick, despise not my weakness but remember my cries as I ask for your help. Listen to my humble request so that my prayer will ascend to the throne of God, with the praises and blessings which will forever sanctify His greatness. May my hope be fulfilled by the help and intercession of our forefathers, who now enjoy eternal bliss.

St Patrick, obtain for me the grace to love God with my whole heart, to serve him with my whole strength, and to persevere in all that is good to the end. O faithful shepherd of souls, take my soul, and the souls of all the faithful, under your special care.

St Patrick, as a father to the Church and her faithful people, grant that all hearts may share the blessed fruits of the Gospel you planted and water. Grant that, as our ancestors of old discovered, we can live a life devoted to God.

St Patrick, protect those who teach us. Give them the grace to walk in your footsteps, to nurture God's flock with the word of life and the bread of salvation. We ask this blessing through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

O Glorious Saint Patrick, pray for us and seek my private intention through this Novena: (Share your request...) but may, "God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

... St Patrick, Pray for Us ...

