

The Ascension of the Lord Year B

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 1:1-11

***Why are you standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.***

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R.)

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 4:1-13

To the measure of the full stature of Christ.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another

charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all. Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men. When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia !

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 16:15-20

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Next week's readings:

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

Second Reading: Gal 5:16-25 **Gospel :** Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15



Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
Phone: 97542141
Office Hours: 10am—2pm Tuesday to Friday
Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave
Email: belgrave@cam.org.au

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 Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	10.30am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Ascension Sunday— 16th May, 2021

The death of a member of his family or of a loved friend, must be the saddest event imaginable in the life of an atheist. He is one who really is convinced that there is no God, no future life and therefore that the relative or friend is to turn into dust in the grave, never to be met with again. The thought that every day that passes is bringing him too nearer to that same sad fate, death, which will be the end of all his ambitions, all his enjoyments, the end of everything he thought he was or had, must be something hard to live with.

Thank God, we have the good fortune to know, and reason and faith convince us of this truth, that death is not the end of man. It is rather the real beginning. Today's feast—the Ascension of our Lord in his human nature—to his Father's and our Father's home, is the confirmation and the guarantee of this doctrine of our faith. We shall all rise from the grave with new, glorified bodies and ascend to heaven, as Christ did. There we'll begin our true life of eternal happiness.

While it is true that even for good Christians the death of a beloved one is a cause of sorrow and tears, this is natural as we still are of the earth earthly. Yet the certitude that our beloved one has gone to his true life and will be there to meet us when our turn comes, is always at the back of our minds to console and comfort us. What all human beings want is to live on forever with our dear ones. Death breaks that continuity but only for a little while. That break is necessary for the new life to begin.

It is only in heaven that this natural desire of an unending life with all those we love can be realized and death on earth is the door to that eternal life.

Look up to heaven today. See Christ ascending to his Father and our Father. Say : Thank you, God, for creating me, and for giving me, through the Incarnation of your beloved Son, the possibility and the assurance that if I do my part here, when death comes it will not be an enemy but a friend, to speed me on my way to the true, supernatural life which you have, in your love, planned and prepared for me.

It was written, and foretold, that Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory. The servant is not above the Master. I too must suffer. I too must accept the hardships and the trials of this life, if I want, and I do, to enter into the life of glory. Christ, who was sinless, suffered hardship and pain. I have earned many, if not all of my hardships, by my own sins. I should be glad of the opportunity to make some atonement for my past offenses, by willingly accepting the crosses he sends me. These crosses are signs of God's interest in my true welfare. Through him he is giving me a chance to prepare myself for the day of reckoning, for the moment of my death which will decide my eternal future. For every prayer I say for success in life, I should say three for a successful death, a death free from sin and at peace with God.



Source: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-05-16>

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Anthony Cruz anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
Phone: 87518112.
Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
Parish Office: 97542141
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chairperson — Andrew Jans 0419590155
Monbulk: Rin Van Raay
Belgrave: Marie Madden
Gembrook: Pam Giulieri
Emerald: John Conway & Lisa McLean
Mt. Dandenong: Stephen Billington & Virginia Schneiders

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
 Principal: Caroline Quinton
 Phone: 9754-4444
 Email: cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au
www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Michael Watt
 Phone: 9756 7201
 Email: principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au
www.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.

Anniversaries: Gerard Kruyer, Ross Smith, John Connor, Norman Jones, Mary Rose Cannon, Alex Steel Koen Goederee, Gregory Papa, Stephen Surman, Willem Rath.

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: Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo and Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Helen Hermann, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Peter Campion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

Easter House Blessing

Fr. Cruz is available for blessing of the houses during the season of Easter on request. Please contact the parish office or meet Father Cruz after the mass.

Mother's Day at Gembrook

A big thank you to the very gracious and caring young mums and dads who surprised us with the most scrumptious morning tea. We all felt so special. The Windsor has competition.

God Bless you all and your young children

Mary Leahy



St Paul's Primary School, Monbulk, invites you to join us for...

READY, SET, PREP!

Get ready for school with a 'taste' of St Paul's!

Registrations Now Open!

Invitation to: 3yo, 4yo and 5yo pre school children

9:30am Friday 30 April: GARDEN TIME - BACKYARD BLITZ

9:30am Friday 14 May: SCIENCE FAIR

9:30am Thursday 27 May: ART ADVENTURES

9:30am Friday 11 June: MINI MASTERCHEF

Spaces are limited due to density limits - so register today!

To register your place: 9756 7201 or email: office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au



Please pray before the Recessional Hymn

St Joseph Prayer



Heavenly Father,

St Joseph set aside his own plans
to embrace your dream for us.

You invited his help in caring

for Jesus your Son, our Saviour,

and the Revealer of your wonderful love.

Enable us to live by your loving plan
and to reflect to the world the light of Christ.

St Joseph, man of dreams

and trusting steward, pray for us.

Lord Jesus,

You grew in wisdom and maturity

as you lived in the family

of Nazareth in daily communion

with St Joseph and Mary your mother.

From St Joseph you learned

the dignity of human work.

Give parents the wisdom

to support their children and to guide them

in the way and work of your Kingdom.

St Joseph, faithful parent

and diligent worker, pray for us.

Creator Spirit,

We see in St Joseph a tenderness

and reverence for all your creation.

We learn from him to approach others justly
and tenderly, and to see our world as endowed

with the glory of God.

Teach us to love one another

and to be of humble service to all of creation,
empowered by your life within us.

St Joseph, wise protector and humble servant,
pray for us.

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

- Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- People must carry a fitted face covering at all times.** Fitted face coverings are no longer mandatory indoors or outdoors (except in particular circumstances, note above), but should be worn by participants (unless they have a lawful exemption or are children under 12 years of age) if a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained.
- Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave - 100 people Emerald - 60 people
 Monbulk - 80 people Gembrook - 60 people

"Self Compassion: in Difficult Times"

Do you want to understand better ways of coping with day to day difficulty - particularly in COVID times? We will explore (& practise) some of the principles explained by Dr Kristen Neff -US Research Psychologist.

This session will be offered at *St Thomas More's Church* in Belgrave on Sunday 23rd May after mass.

10.15am-11.30am

Morning tea provided.

Please text and call Kathleen Ward 0409533753 to book in.

GLOBAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHINA

A week of prayer for the people of China to be prayed in the week of 23-30 May, 2021. As you may be aware, there are reports that the persecution of people of faith in China has recently increased in recent times. This not only includes Catholics and Christians but also Buddhists, Muslims and other believers who are routinely persecute, imprisoned and tortured.

More informations and resources could be found at www.globalprayerforchina.org

Lay Leadership Gathering

The Archdiocese of Melbourne has planned for a Lay Leadership gathering on 22nd of this month. I wish and encourage that our parish leadership team members represent our parish. From each mass centre of our parish we need the laity participating in it. Kindly use the link below for bookings.

The gathering will be held on Saturday 22nd May 2021 from 9.30am (beginning with morning tea and registration) to 2.pm at the Venito Club. |9| Bulleen Rd, Bulleen. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

As this is a catered event registration is essential please. Kindly register through this link. <https://www.trybooking.com/BQZVR>

Baptism

Let us welcome **Claire Forbes and William Jones** into our faith community as they are going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave and Sacred Heart Church Gembrook. May they be richly blessed throughout their life's , constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

We warmly welcome **Sebastian Czaja and Zachary Czaja** into our faith community who were baptised last week at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave.

CatholicCare Appeal 2021

This weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to faithfully meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the vulnerable, isolated and marginalised in our community by providing pastoral and spiritual support. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial donation to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death.

You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.ccam.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

Sacrament Workshop

SACRAMENT	St Thomas More Church	St Paul's Church
CONFIRMATION ceremony	Sat 29 May 12pm	Sat 29 May 2pm
Workshop - Parent/Child	Tuesday 27 April 6.30-7.30pm	Wed 31 March 3.30pm
Run through session in Church for parent/child/ Workshop	Thurs 27 May 3.30 - 4.30pm	Tuesday 18 May 3.30pm
To enroll, please call the parish office during office hours.		
FIRST RECONCILIATION ceremony	Thurs 17 June 3.30 - 5.30pm	Wed 16 June 3.30 - 5.30pm
Workshop - Parent/Child	Wed 9 June 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 2 June 3.30 - 4.30pm
To enroll, please call the parish office during office hours.		
FIRST EUCHARIST ceremony	Sun 22 Aug 9.00 am	Sun 15 Aug 10.30am
Workshop - Parent/Child	Thurs 29 July 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 14 July 3.30pm
Run through session in Church for parent/child/ Workshop	Thurs 12 Aug 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 11 Aug 3.30pm