

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

A reading from the first book of Samuel

1 Sm 3:3-10.19

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Palm Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8.9

(R.) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord,
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **(R.)**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **(R.)**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **(R.)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20

Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jn 1:35-42

They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.





Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

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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 Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	6.00pm Vigil Mass	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B - 17th January 2021

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him *Peter*, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/second-sunday-of-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

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Gembrook: Pam Giulieri
Emerald: John Conway & Lisa McLean
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

Anniversaries: Nicholas Keena, John Healy, Norm Newbold, Maria Egan, Fr. Guida Taddeo Gumbo.

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, 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, StepheLois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, Alida Cabret, 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 Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

- Record Keeping is still required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit – and must include: First Name, Last name, Contact Number, Date and Time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- Please wear a face covering at all times as we may not be able to maintain 1.5m social distance. (Children under 12 years of age are excepted from wearing masks.)
- Those who can't wear masks for lawful reason must maintain 1.5m social desistence.
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave - 120 people

Emerald - 40 people

Monbulk - 60 people

Gembrook - 40 people

Please sign in before you enter the Church with your *name and your contact number*.

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.

These are for sale at the next parish fete. Send to the parish office or call Tony Whyte (St Paul's Monbulk) for collection.

BAPTISM:

To arrange a Baptism in the Parish, please phone the parish office during the office hours on 97542141.

BAPTISM

This weekend at Belgrave and Gembrook, we warmly welcome **Jude Matthew Ensil** and **Hamish Brian Willis** into our faith community. May They be richly blessed throughout his life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and mercy of God.

Vacant Positions

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

- Coordinator of Catechesis and Youth Ministry, The Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn & Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park
- Faith Development Co-Ordinator, St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully
- Discipleship Intern, CAM, East Melbourne
- Parish Secretary, The Parish of St Simon the Apostle, Rowville

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



Important Dates

20th January St. Fabian and St. Sebastian

21st January Saint Agnes, Virgin, Martyr

Who is St. Sebastian?



According to his legend, Sebastian was born at Narbonne, Gaul. He became a soldier in the Roman army at Rome in about 283, and encouraged Marcellian and Marcus, under sentence of death, to remain firm in their faith. Sebastian made numerous converts: among them were the master of the rolls, Nicostratus, who was in charge of prisoners and his wife, Zoe, a deaf mute whom he cured; the jailer Claudius; Chromatius, Prefect of Rome, whom he cured of gout; and Chromatius' son, Tiburtius. Chromatius set the prisoners free, freed his slaves, and resigned as prefect.

Sebastian was named captain in the praetorian guards by Emperor Diocletian, as did Emperor Maximian when Diocletian went to the East. Neither knew that Sebastian was a Christian. When it was discovered during Maximian's persecution of the Christians that Sebastian was indeed a Christian, he was ordered executed. He was shot with arrows and left for dead, but when the widow of St. Castulus went to recover his body, she found he was still alive and nursed him back to health. Soon after, Sebastian intercepted the Emperor, denounced him for his cruelty to Christians, and was beaten to death on the Emperor's orders.

Saint Sebastian was venerated at Milan as early as the time of St. Ambrose and was buried on the Appian Way. He is patron of archers, athletes, and soldiers, and is appealed to for protection against plagues. [He is patron saint of athletes because of his physical endurance and his energetic way of spreading and defending the Faith. Sebastian is also patron to all soldiers. He entered the Roman army under Emperor Carinus in 283 in order to defend the confessors and martyrs of his day without drawing attention to himself. His efforts kept the Faith of Marcus and Marcellian firm during their persecutions, right up to the time of their martyrdom. He was declared patron of plague sufferers of his reported cures of those afflicted with many diseases.]

"St. Sebastian" Catholic.org <http://www.catholic.org/>

Source: <http://saintsebastianwoodside.org/who-is-st-sebastian/>

Dear parishioners,

On December 5th Our Archbishop A. Peter Comensoli has written a pastoral letter to the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, expressing his concerns over the Bill (Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020) quietly tabled last week by the State Government of Victoria. The Archbishop has asked us to make the parishioners aware of the Bill and its Implications, and encourage the parishioners to phone our local Member of Parliament to express our view.

Because, the bill has not been widely publicised, many parents and families, clergy and people of faith are currently unaware of the contents of this proposed legislation, which might have a chilling effect on the ability of Victorian people of faith to express a view, share their faith, or talk about biblical teaching without fear of state interference. In fact, the ultimate outcome of this bill may not actually be to protect anyone who is vulnerable, but to silence people of faith from expressing their view.

<https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/bills/591143exi1.pdf>

<https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/bills/591143bi1.pdf>

Let us not forget to express our views to our Local Member of Parliament.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

Organ Recital at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne

Thomas Heywood, Friday 5th February, 2021, 6.00pm-7.00pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne

Music by Bach, Elgar, Verdi, Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Guilmant, Cocker & Mulet

Tickets \$25. Children age under 15 free.

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/ BNSIT

Internationally acclaimed organ virtuoso Thomas Heywood enjoys an outstanding reputation as one of the world's finest concert organists.

'An acknowledged master', Heywood has travelled over 750,000 miles or 1.2 million kilometres performing solo concerts on the most celebrated pipe organs across the globe.

Director of Music

St Patrick's Cathedral

MELBOURNE

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