

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

A reading from the prophet Micah Mi 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a

body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. **Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk 1:39-45

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



Next week's readings:

First Reading: Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel Lk 2:41-52



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

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.am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Forth Sunday of Advent Year C - 19th December, 2021



On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fourth-sunday-of-advent-cycle-c-sunday-connection/>

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Chairperson — Dennis

Monbulk:

Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford

Belgrave:

Therese Melia Geary , Evert Jansen

Mia Jansen

Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and

Samantha Willis

Gembrook:

John Conway & Dennis

Emerald:

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

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ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: John Sale of Macclesfield, the father of Toby. Fiona Gilhooly, loved friend of the McDonnell family. Maria Carrosa.

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

Anniversaries: Joyce Lester, John Horton –Crundall, Brett Schmidt, Steve Tupper, Sylvia Schmuki Mueller, Evelyn Kiker.

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: Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen 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, 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.

#54 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne **Information Updated: 15 December 2021, 5:00pm**



The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These guidelines are in accordance with Victorian pandemic orders under the new Public Health and Wellbeing Act, which will come into effect from 11.59pm Wednesday, 15 December 2021, and will be in place until 12 January 2022.

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. We also look forward to the time when all people can join together in various

locations, and for the many activities that truly unite us fully as communities.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

Face Coverings

Face coverings no longer need to be worn at weddings, funerals, or worship.

Face coverings continue to be required indoors in limited high-risk settings including retail, health care and aged care.

It is recommended that face coverings be worn if you are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.

Numbers

There are no limits on participants at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship – including the opening for private prayer.

Vaccinations

There will not be any vaccination requirements nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship.

Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be fully vaccinated.

Please note that other activities outside of worship, particularly those activities that involve hospitality, will require full vaccination for participation and will entail QR code check-ins and COVID Marshals. This will apply to varying activities held within the parish context.

People under 18 years of age will no longer be required to show proof of their vaccination status.

Cleaning of Facilities

Places of Worship will not need to be cleaned between use, but good hygiene standards should be maintained according to a parish COVIDsafe plan. This includes the continued availability of sanitiser throughout the venue.

Care Facility Visitors

Hospital Visitors

There are limits on attending high-risk settings, even when fully vaccinated. Please work with the care provider in determining what is required and permitted.

Human Rights Day Dinner

A total of \$1788.50 was raised at the dinner held last Saturday night. Of this \$500 will go to Kindred, an advocacy group based in Belgrave. The remainder goes to the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Centre. Thank you to all who contributed.

Marilyn Huber



Fully Vaccinated Digital Certificate for Church Volunteers

The Archdioceses of Melbourne, strongly advised us that all the volunteers provide a copy of your COVID19 fully vaccination digital certificate to the parish priest or parish office as soon as possible during parish office hours from Tuesday to Friday 10am to 2pm.

Mass Managers, Liturgy Group Members, Parish Council Members, Finance Committee members, Bookkeeper, Parish Property Manager, Social justice group, Readers, Money Collectors, Sacrament workshop Facilitators, Musicians, Choir Members, Visitation Group, Special Communion ministers, Social Committee Members, Vincent de Paul Committee members, Fundraising group, Child safety committee members, Alter decorators, Cleaners and the other volunteers

Fr. Anthony Cruz

The parish office hours

Parish office is closed on holidays - (27th and 28th December), 29th and 30th December.

Fr. Cruz is not available on 3rd January to 6th January 2022.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Mass (Friday 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

6.30pm Carols

7.00pm (**Salesian Priest**)

Christmas Mass (Saturday 25th December)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

Sacred Church, Gembrook

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

26th December Sunday

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**)