

**Entrance Antiphon Ps 12:6**

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**A reading from the book of Leviticus**

Lv 19:1-2. 17-18

***You must love your neighbour, as yourself.***

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

**The word of the Lord.****Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

***The Lord is kind and merciful.*****A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 3:16-23*****All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.***

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**The word of the Lord.****Gospel Acclamation 1 Jn 2:5**

**Alleluia, alleluia** Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. **Alleluia!**

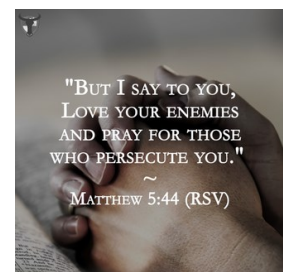
**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 5:38-48*****Love your enemies.***

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

**The Gospel of the Lord****Communion Antiphon Jn 11:27**

Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God, who is coming into this world.

**Next week's readings****First Reading:** Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R.

**Second Reading:** Rom 5:12-19**Gospel:** Mt 4:1-11



# 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 & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave 17 Terry Avenue, 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	

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 18th/19th February, 2023**

**REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.



We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching.

[Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://liturgyhelp.com)

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**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:** Dennis Griffin

**Mt. Dandenong:**

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

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 Principal: Declan McDermott  
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**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 natural calamities ( Turkey and Syria) and ongoing War in Ukraine. May their souls rest in peace.

## Anniversaries:

Donald James Cox, Fr. Rod Pitts, John Scott, Katryna Hanigan, Barry Steen, Jim Dawson, Barrie Hood, Rosemary Hogan.

**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: Aliyah Lawless, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Champion, 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.**

## Baptism

Let us welcome **Malachy Don Amarsinghe** into faith community as he is going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave.

**Enzo Coniglione, Rocco Coniglione and Anthony Coniglione** are baptized last weekend at St. Thomas More church.

May they be richly blessed throughout their lives, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.



## Holy Week Timeline



22nd February	Ash Wednesday
2nd April	Palm Sunday
6th April	Holy Thursday
7th April	Good Friday /Passion of the Lord
9th April	Easter Sunday/ Resurrection
16th April	Divine Mercy Sunday

- **We encourage parishioners to bring palm leaves from last year, to church on Sunday ( 12th and 19th February)**

Ash Wednesday mass — St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

**9.am and 7pm**



## The Stations of the Cross

Every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave. ( **From 24th February**).



## Sacrament of Confirmation - May 20th at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

Sacrament of Confirmation for students attending Non-Catholic Schools. To enroll, please contact the parish office during office hours on or before 21st March.

Telephone 97542141

Email

belgrave@cam.org.au



## Pastoral Care Appeal 2023

**Thank you!** Last weekend, we conducted the annual Pastoral Care Appeal in our parish. The presence of Catholic chaplains is a crucial witness to our faith, a crucial dimension of our service of love, and a vital testimony to the value of life in all its stages. Thank you to those who have supported this Appeal.

If you still wish to donate or if you would like to have more information about the Chaplaincy Services, please visit [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or call (03) 9287 5513.

## Statue of Mary untouched in earthquake that demolished cathedral in Turkey



Image of the Virgin Mary in the rubble of the Cathedral of Alexandria in Turkey, Feb. 6, 2023. | Credit: Facebook Antuan Ilgit SJ



By [CNA Staff](#)

CNA Newsroom, Feb 7, 2023 / 14:20 pm

A statue of the Virgin Mary was untouched after the collapse of a Catholic cathedral in an earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria on Monday, inflicting heavy damage with a death toll already exceeding 6,000 and leaving thousands more injured.

The image of Our Lady was unharmed in the quake that brought down Annunciation Cathedral in the city of Alexandretta in the Turkish province of Hatay. The cathedral was the main church of the Apostolic Vicariate of Anatolia.

On Facebook, Father Antuan Ilgit, a Turkish Jesuit priest, asked the faithful to “pray for us and for the people. It was a powerful earthquake. We don’t have definite news yet. However, our cathedral is no more!”

“Thank God we, our sisters, and our collaborators are well and we’re trying to take in those who come to stay with us,” he added.

In a subsequent Facebook post, the priest commented that “the collapse of the cathedral is shocking; just yesterday I celebrated Mass there, on Sunday!”

“Now the living stones that need attention are here, and with the help of God we will be able to rebuild everything,” Ilgit said.

“We are all in the refectory, which is more accessible, where we also celebrated Mass! I brought the image of the Madonna from the cathedral; this image will be our strength and with her we will face everything,” he said.

“We continue to trust in God and in his holy providence. It’s raining, it’s cold, and the tremors are very strong. We feel your closeness and count on it. We also hold beloved Syria in our hearts. May the Lord keep us in his love and be gracious to us!” the priest concluded.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/253576/statue-of-mary-untouched-in-earthquake-that-demolished-cathedral-in-turkey>

## BISHOP ROBERT RABBAT ' S SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

PLEASE DONATE NOW

The recent Syrian earthquake has hit people who were already displaced in a region that has been devastated by more than a decade of civil war. Yet again, we are seeing people fleeing and desperate for shelter in freezing winter conditions. We want to help provide that light in the deepest darkness, to get through this devastating disaster.

MCF DGR ACCOUNT

Ref: Syrian Appeal

BSB: 062784

Account: 100011493



All donations are Tax Deductible.

For a receipt please email

[mcf@melkite.org.au](mailto:mcf@melkite.org.au)

or contact on (02) 9750 5514

**ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**COUNTRY FAIR**  
**SATURDAY**  
**18 MARCH**  
**11AM - 4PM**  
**59 MOORES RD, MONBULK**  
**HEAPS OF RIDES,**  
**AMUSEMENTS, FOOD &**  
**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**