

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn 9:11,38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.



Next week's readings

- First Reading:** Ez 37:12-14
- Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 129. R. v.7
- Second Reading:** Rom 8:8-11
- Gospel:** Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45



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, 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	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A - 18th/ 19th March, 2023

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.

By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

[Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](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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 Monbulk: Peter van Haaster
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.**

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Tony O' Meara, the husband of Pat, the father of Stephen, Felicity and Jessica.

Gaudenzia Failla and 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.

- The Funeral mass for late Tony O' Meara will be held at St. Thomas More church, Belgrave on Monday 20th March at 11.30am. There will be a " **Cuppa** " in the school hall after mass, if you wish to bring a plate of food to share. Thank you.

Loretta 0409 233 722

Anniversaries:

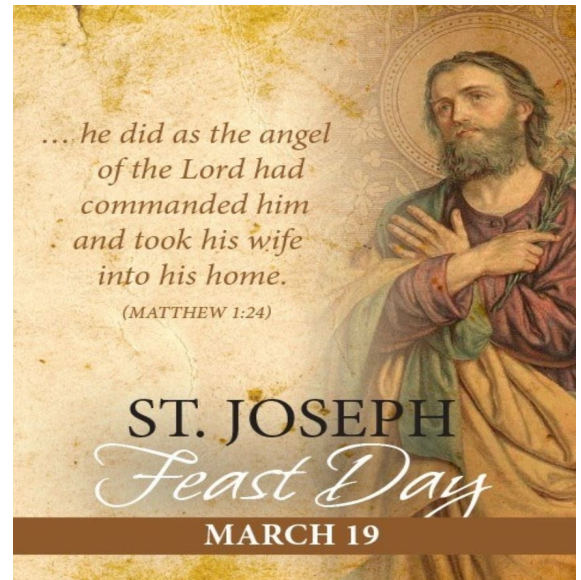
Yvonne Mitchell, Kathleen Dawson. Peter (Goff) Martin, Thea Iaquinto, Dawn Taylor, Paul Kolemvus, Joshua Whyte, John Van Bergenhenegouwen, Maria Gawronski.

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, 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.**

Month of March - St. Joseph



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.

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

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.



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent 18 & 19 March

Thu lives in Vietnam. When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg.

Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.

Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.

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



Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Disaster

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance.

We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe.

Your generous donation means our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy.

Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.



Baptism

Let us welcome **Ursula Irena Iwasiw—Medine and Audrey Rae Beech** in our faith Community as they are going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More church Belgrave and St. Paul's church Monbulk.

Theodor Dietrich Bergmann was baptized last weekend at St. Thomas More church Belgrave.

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

