

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

**A reading from the book of Exodus Ex 16:2-4. 12-15**

***I will rain bread from heaven upon you.***

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our hearts content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!' Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.' 'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your hearts content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God.'" And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 77:3-4. 23-25. 54. R. v.24**

***(R.) The Lord gave them bread from heaven.***

1. The things we have heard and understood,  
the things our fathers have told us,  
we will tell to the next generation:  
the glories of the Lord and his might. **(R.)**

2. He commanded the clouds above  
and opened the gates of heaven.  
He rained down manna for their food,  
and gave them bread from heaven. **(R.)**

3. Mere men ate the bread of angels.  
He sent them abundance of food.  
He brought them to his holy land,  
to the mountain which his right hand had won. **(R.)**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

***Put on the new person that has been created in God's image.***

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now

that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!** No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. **Alleluia !**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**Jn 6:24-35**

***Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.***

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' 'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon:** I am the bread of life, says the Lord; whoever comes to me will not hunger and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

**Next week's readings:**

<b>First Reading:</b>	<b>1 Kgs 17:7-16</b>
<b>Responsorial Psalm:</b>	<b>Ps 623:1-8</b>
<b>Second Reading:</b>	<b>Col 3:12-17</b>
<b>Gospel :</b>	<b>Mt 6:25-34</b>



# Parish of Belgrave

## The Catholic Church

**P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160**  
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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](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 Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

### Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B - 1st August, 2021

*Jesus teaches the crowds that he is the "bread of life."*

This Sunday we continue to read from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, but not continuously. Our Lectionary omits John's report of Jesus' walking on water. This event is reported much less dramatically in John's Gospel than in the Synoptic Gospels. After the feeding of the multitudes, the disciples leave in a boat and Jesus follows them. The disciples are said to be terrified by what they see. Jesus reassures them and rejoins them. In today's Gospel, we learn that the crowd has noticed the departure of Jesus and his disciples and so seeks them out in Capernaum. In the dialogue that follows between Jesus and the crowds, Jesus unfolds for us the gift of himself that that he gives in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel, there are four exchanges between Jesus and the crowd. In the first, the crowd, having followed Jesus to Capernaum, asks a very matter of fact question: "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus replies by naming their motivation in pursuing him. They have been fed. Jesus acknowledges this, yet challenges them to see beyond the fulfillment of their material needs. The crowds have followed Jesus because they have been fed. They ought to be seeking out Jesus because he can give them eternal life.

As the second dialogue begins, it seems that the crowd might be on their way to accepting Jesus and his mission. They ask: "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus replies that they must have faith in the one sent from God. But in the third dialogue, the crowd reveals their inability to see Jesus' true identity. They ask Jesus for a sign so that they might know that Jesus is from God. How strange this sounds since Jesus has just fed more than 5000 people. What more is expected?

But the crowd cannot see beyond the surface of the sign. They show this in their interpretation of the sign that came from Moses. In their description, they identify Jesus with Moses, as if to say, as Moses gave the people manna in the desert, give us a sign so that we will know that you are from God. They are looking to identify a prophet without realizing that God is standing before them. Jesus corrects their misinterpretation, saying that the manna received by their ancestors came from God. As God fulfilled their ancestors' needs in the desert, so God has provided them with food for eternal life. In the bread that they have received from Jesus, they have received physical nourishment and also spiritual nourishment. Jesus wants the crowd to see beyond the surface to the One who provides true nourishment.

The conclusion of the dialogue reveals the crowd's blindness. They ask for what Jesus has just told them they have found: "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus answers plainly that he himself is the Bread of Life they seek. Jesus himself is the Bread of Life who will satisfy every hunger and thirst. This is the first of several such statements found in John's Gospel. We understand these better when we remember that God revealed his name to the people of Israel as "I am," as Yahweh. Jesus is now claiming this name for himself. In the weeks ahead, we will see the offense that this gives to the people.

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

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**REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Amelia Violet mother of Kerry Lyons, Trevor Lyons, Jewel Zuijdwijk and Audrey Rawlins. Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

**Anniversaries:** Truong Pham, Ton Herbert, Ray Penman, Nora Ryan.

**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, 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, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

**First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave —**

Beginning of mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary Prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. There are twelve promises given to St Margarat Alacoque about the First Friday. We need to do 9 consecutive first Fridays. There are flyers in the foyer.

**First Saturday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave—**

Beginning of mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary is prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. During the holy hour of Adoration, Priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Lady of Fatima asked for 5 consecutive Saturdays. To learn more about this request from Our Lady we need to learn more about Fatima flyers in the foyer.

**Fr. Anthony Cruz**



**Our Lady of Assumption Novena starts on 6th August. The flyers are available at the church Foyer.**

*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

1. Places of worship must use electronic record keeping through the free Victorian Government QR Code Service. Please note, the registration sheets are available at the registration table at the church.

We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

<b>Belgrave</b>	<b>- 75 people</b>	<b>Emerald</b>	<b>- 40 people</b>
<b>Gembrook</b>	<b>- 35 people</b>	<b>Monbulk</b>	<b>- 50 people</b>

### #41 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES



**COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: 27 July 2021, 12:00pm**

**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.**

- **Face Coverings** - Face coverings must be worn indoors and outdoors in places of worship unless an exception applies. Hygiene precautions must be maintained at all times;
- **Religious Gatherings and Ceremonies** - Permitted for up to 100 people indoors and up to 300 people outdoors. Density quotient of 1 person per 4 sqm applies.
- **Funerals** - indoors and outdoors Permitted for up to 50 people (plus those necessary to conduct the funeral), subject to venue density limits.
- **Weddings** - indoors and outdoors - Permitted with no more than 50 people (including the couple and witnesses), subject to density limits for the venue.
- **Singing** - All Victorians must wear face coverings indoors at places of worship – this includes the congregation when singing. This will create difficulties for singing, and congregants should be encouraged to either refrain from singing, or to do so softly. - Face coverings must be worn by cantors or choirs indoors. They may be removed during the period of singing but must be replaced and worn otherwise. Physical distancing of at least 2 metres between each person while singing.

## Sacrament of First Holy Reconciliation

St. Paul's School Church, Monbulk

11th August at 3.30pm –5pm

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

18th August at 3.30pm –5pm



## Sacrament of Confirmation

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

14th August at 12pm

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

14th August at 2pm



## The Transfiguration of the Lord - 6th August

The Transfiguration is described in all three Synoptic Gospels (the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke). During this event, Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John up a mountain, where he was transfigured before them to reveal his heavenly glory. Elijah and Moses appeared, and Jesus conversed with them. Then, God spoke from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5). After telling the disciples not to be afraid, Jesus took them back down the mountain and told them not to tell anyone about the Transfiguration until he was raised from the dead.

The events of the Transfiguration can seem strange, but there is something important revealed in each of the details.

**The Timing-** Unlike many other events in the Gospels, where timelines do not always match up precisely, the Synoptic Gospels record the Transfiguration as occurring soon after Jesus's first prediction of his death and resurrection. This was a crucial moment. The Apostles were frightened at the idea of Jesus death, and they were still expecting a triumphantly conquering Messiah. With the Transfiguration, Jesus briefly revealed the glory of his resurrected body, which could only be achieved through the Cross. The preview of God's glory gave the Apostles the strength and courage to face imminent trials. As we see later in the Gospels, this courage was not fully locked into place until the Apostles received the Holy Spirit.

**The Law and the Prophets-** Jesus did not appear in his glorified form by himself. As his face and clothes dazzled, he spoke with Moses and Elijah, two of the most important figures from the Old Testament, about the upcoming event of his death. Their presence at this moment is an important indication that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, not a replacement for it. As Moses, having received the Ten Commandments, represents the Law, and Elijah, the great prophet, represents the prophets of the Old Testament, Jesus is the perfect realization of the Law and the Prophets in his life, death, and resurrection.

**The Apostles—** Jesus revealed his glory to only three of the Apostles: Peter, James, and John. This was in part because of the role they had among the Apostles and the future roles they would have in building up the Church. Additionally, however, by revealing something important to only some of the Apostles, Jesus established a system of witness and evangelization as the means of establishing faith within the Church.

The details of the Transfiguration are rich with symbolism that make it a wonderful mystery to pray with and meditate on. All the details converge in this glorious event to bolster our Christian hope and to prepare us to face trials, so as to share in the inheritance of Jesus.



<https://medium.com/@CatholicTV/catholic-classroom-the-significance-of-the-transfiguration-abca874bc159>