

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

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 first book of Samuel

1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 15:45-49

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled

on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk 6:27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

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: Sirach 27: 4-7

Responsorial Psalm Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:45-49

Gospel Lk 6:39-45



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 | 9.00am Saturday Confession 9.45 am | 11.00am |
| | WEEKDAY | | | 9.00am | |

Homily for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C - 20th February, 2022

On this seventh Sunday, the Church reminds us of the essential virtues and elements of our Christian life. They include: Mercy and compassion, love of God and neighbor, self-control and appreciation of values, moral responsibility, awareness of sin and, the sense of the sacred. These are marks of our spiritual progress and Christian growth. These also form part of the church's social doctrine. Today's first reading is very dramatic. David had the death warrant of his enemies in his hands, yet he refused to pronounce it. Rather, he left it for God to pronounce in his own way, and at his appropriate time. He heeded God's word: "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Do not take revenge. Vengeance is mine" (Rom 12: 17-19; Deut 32:35).

In today's Gospel Jesus gave a very important sermon on these essential virtues and elements that must guide our lives and actions as Christians. It is a new commandment because, it over rules the Old Testament law of reprisal attack or retributive justice. There is no doubt that, humanly speaking, it is a very difficult one. However, it demands a lot of sacrifice and courage. So, how do we reconcile our constant quest for justice with the virtues of mercy and compassion? Is there any common ground between them? This is especially, in our world where we constantly speak of mercy, and at the same time advocate for the strictest sense of justice. The is, maximum punishment (even death penalty), for our offenders.

The II weekday preface of the Eucharistic prayer gives us a clue to this problem It says: "In justice God condemned us, in mercy he redeemed us." Yes, it is what it is. Justice and mercy can be mutually exclusive contrary to what our society has programmed us to believe. Hurts and wounds do not heal so fast. In some cases, their scars do not disappear completely during one's life time. However, Christ knew this perfectly well. He not only preached this sermon, but he also lived it. So, he is not asking us to do what he did not do. Paul reminds us in our second reading that, we derived our body and way of life from the earthly man (Adam). While we derived the spirit that gives life and animates our body from the heavenly man (Christ). Hence, those who have received Christ are guided by his spirit. They are born of the Spirit. Though, Christ's new commandment may seem difficult, His spirit and grace will enable us to live these essential virtues and elements of our Christian life.

There are so many lessons for us from today's readings. First, we must learn to leave vengeance for God. So, we must not take every opportunity for revenge against our offenders. Forgiveness heals all wounds, and wipes all scars away. Second, we must not always bow to pressures from circumstance, or from our colleagues in order to do evil. This is because, two wrongs can never make one right. Reprisal attack or revenge may hurt one even more than it will hurt one's offender. In this case, we may win the war but not the peace, the love and, the friendship.

Finally, no matter our situation or circumstance, we must not lose the sense of the sacred. We must guard against sin. Also, let us remember that we cannot help God in his judgement. He knows what to do, how to do it, and the best time to do it. So, we must let God be God "Lord is merciful and kind."

Source: <https://frcanicenjoku.com/homily-for-7th-sunday-of-ordinary-time-year-c>

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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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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Donald James Cox, the father of Jeff Cox and father in law of Glaydo. Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

- Funeral Mass for late Donald James Cox will be on 22nd February in St. Joseph's Church Emerald at 11am.

Anniversaries:

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: 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, 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.

#55 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne **Information Updated: 23 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 Public Health and Wellbeing Act 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— From 11:59pm Thursday 23 December 2021, face coverings will be required for gatherings indoors .

(except in the home) for people aged eight and over, or for those with medical exemptions

A reminder this will mean: For Clergy: Face coverings must be worn as you enter for Mass. They may be removed during the celebration of Mass but are to be placed back on for the distribution of Holy Communion and at the conclusion of Mass as you process out.

The Reader: may lower his/her face covering for the readings. This applies as well for the Universal Prayer.

Cantors and Singers: when a cantor is singing, the face covering may be lowered. It must be worn at all other times. Distancing between singers is recommended.

Communicants: Each communicant comes forward and removes one side of their face covering and sanitises their hands at a sanitation station provided nearby. Following reception of the Blessed Sacrament they step to the side to place the host on their tongue. The communicant replaces their face covering and returns to their seat.

Weddings: Face coverings must be worn by all participants indoors, except the Bride and Groom who do not need to wear face coverings during the ceremony. Face coverings can be removed for photos, but people must be encouraged to stay 1.5m away from others.

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

QR Code Check ins— QR code check in is required for all Places of Worship.

For those who do not have a device, provision must be made to assist with a check in or to capture name and contact details.

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

Voluntary Pastoral workers needed for our mass centres

Who would assist Fr. Cruz in providing information about our own parishioners who are sick and not able to come to church for weekend mass. It's a important ministry in the parish like the ministry done by the visitation group.

Belgrave 3
Gembrook 1 (one person needed)
Emerald 1 (one person needed)
Monbulk 1

Please contact the parish office on working office hours.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

Happy 84th Birthday to Donald Kempster



'The LORD bless you, and keep you.
The LORD make his face to shine on you,
And be gracious to you.
The LORD lift up his face toward you,
And give you peace.'

Numbers 6:24-26 (NHEB)

Chaplaincy Appeal 2022



Chaplaincy Appeal 2022

Thank you! Last weekend, we conducted the annual Chaplaincy 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 or call (03) 9287 5513.



Baptism

Let us welcome **Maeve James Laughton** into our faith community as she is going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. May she be richly blessed throughout her life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

Needed

The parish is seeking volunteers at each Mass Centre to act as **First Aid Officers**, who would assist persons in the need of basic first aid. Applicants will be given basic first aid training at no cost to them. Please consider.

The parish council is seeking volunteers at each Mass Centre to act as a commander who would, in the event of an incident, assess the situation and take initial control at their respective centre. Reporting to the parish council and to Fr Cruz.

We need to support Father as he administers our large parish. It is our parish, it is our responsibility to assist in the well-being of all.

All applications to Fr Cruz

Dennis

Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

FOOD, LIVE MUSIC & STALLS · ART SHOWCASE by Mt Dandenong PS

Rotary 9810
STORM RECOVERY festival
27 FEB 2022 · 10am - 2pm

St George's Anglican Church Paddock
Main Street, Monbulk

LIVE READING of "The Story of the Big Storm" by Julia Hall

a time to heal - a time to thank - a time to help

GOLD COIN DONATION ENTRY to CFA & SES

Important Dates

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 21st February | St. Peter Damian |
| 22nd February | The chair of St. Peter, Apostle |
| 23rd February | St. Polycarp |