

## First Sunday of Lent Year B

### Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Psalm 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

### A reading from the book of Genesis Gen 9:8-15

**I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

**(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

**(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

### A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1 Pt 3:18-22

**The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.**

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God.

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

**The word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

**Mk 1:12-15**

**He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

- **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death O Lord, until you come again.**

### Communion Antiphon: Mt 4:4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

### Next week's readings:

**First Reading: Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9**

**Second Reading: Rom 8:31-34**

**Gospel: Mk 9:2-10**





# 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](http://pol.org.au/belgrave)  
**Email:** [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

*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	6.00pm Vigil Mass	9.00am	9.00am	10.30am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

**Fr. Cruz is available for The Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday 9.30am – 10.30am at Thomas More church, Belgrave by individual appointment.**

### Homily for the First Sunday of Lent Year B – 21st February 2021

A mother camel was talking to her young son. "Mother", asked the young camel, "why do our feet look different from the others?" The mother replied, "Well, son, our feet have three hooves so that when we walk on the sand in the desert, we will not sink." The son again asked, "But why do we have such long eyelashes?" And the mother said, "Those long eyelashes will protect our eyes from the sands during sandstorms." "And why do we have these ugly humps on our back?" asked the young camel. "Well," the mother explained, "in the desert, water and food are scarce. Those humps look ugly, but that is where we store our food and water when we cross the desert." But the young camel was still not satisfied. "Now I know that these hooves are for walking in the sand, those long eyelashes are to protect our eyes from the sand, and the humps are for our food and water as we walk in the desert. But why do we need these? We are not in the desert! We are right here inside Manila Zoo!"

For many of us, we may feel like this young camel. We are in Manila, and there is no desert here. It is simply difficult to relate to the Gospel this Sunday about Jesus in the desert. But we must understand, however, that the desert may not necessarily be a physical location. In biblical context, the desert is any situation where a person can be in solitude. And in this solitude, two things can happen: an encounter with God, and an encounter with the Tempter. This is what happened to Jesus in the Gospel this Sunday.

The Gospel said: "The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert." This has two purposes. First, so that he could be alone and commune with the Father through prayer and fasting for forty days and nights. Second, so that he would experience what every human being undergoes, especially the temptations and sufferings. The Letter to the Hebrews expressed that: "Therefore he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested" (Heb 2:17-18).

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/homily-for-the-1st-sunday-of-lent-year-b>

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**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Chairperson — Andrew Jans 0419590155  
**Monbulk:** Rin Van Raay  
**Belgrave:** Marie Madden  
**Gembrook:** Pam Giulieri  
**Emerald:** John Conway & Lisa McLean  
**Mt. Dandenong:** Stephen Billington & Virginia Schneiders

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## Lenten Retreats 2021

1. *Week Lent Easter Retreat with Fr Peter Varengo*  
21 - 26 February
2. *Saturday 13 March: Family Retreat Day*
3. *Saturday 20 March: Youth and Young Adult Reflection Day*
4. *Friday 26 March: Seniors Retreat Day*



Further information: [donboscoretreats.org.au](http://donboscoretreats.org.au)

Online registrations essential as Covid number limits apply

### Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

- Record Keeping is still required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit – and must include: First Name, Last name, Contact Number, Date and Time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- Please wear a face covering at all times as we may not be able to maintain 1.5m social distance. (Children under 12 years of age are exempted from wearing masks.)
- Those who can't wear masks for lawful reason must maintain 1.5m social distance.
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave - 90 people

Emerald - 40 people

Monbulk - 60 people

Gembrook - 40 people

Please sign in before you enter the Church with your *name and your contact number*.

**DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?**  
In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.

### #27 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: Ash Wednesday - 17 February 2021, Midday. 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.

In response to the directives announced by Government as part of its Roadmap for the reopening of the State of Victoria, the following is operational from 11.59pm Wednesday 17 February 2021.

Following a 5-day 'circuit - breaker' period of lockdown, Victoria is now returning to the "COVIDSafe Summer" phase, with some small areas of note. (see below).

### Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services may open for permitted religious ceremonies.

☑ Religious gatherings can be held indoors or outdoors. Venues must apply the 1 person per two square metre rule to ensure people have enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance between them. There are no group limits other than the density quotients;

☑ The two square metre rule can be used only if electronic record keeping is used, otherwise, the four square metre rule must apply. The square metre rule doesn't include babies under 12 months of age;

☑ Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;

☑ People must carry a fitted face covering at all times. Fitted face coverings must be worn indoors by all participants unless they have a lawful exemption or are children under 12 years of age. It is advised that fitted face coverings be worn outdoors if a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained. Those with a lawful exemption for not wearing a face covering (over 12 years of age) must maintain the 1.5m distancing at all times and should be recorded as being exempt and attending without a face covering;

☑ Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;

☑ Doors must remain closed to prevent public access if there is no-one available to ensure that particular number limits are maintained; ☑ A place of worship can have indoor or outdoor religious gatherings at the same time. Ceremonial participants other than faith leaders are included in the two square metre rule only if electronic record keeping is used. Otherwise, the four square metre rule applies; ☑ Places of worship can continue to be open for essential public support services. Essential public support services include food banks, help for people experiencing homelessness or other essential activities. A distance of at least 1.5 metres must be kept between people.



## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

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

**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: Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, 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, StepheLois Lenaghan, 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, Peter Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

### **Volunteers Needed**

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave, needs more volunteers to manage the Mass Registration Table. If you can come 15 minutes before the Sunday Mass and register attendees' details ( Name, Phone Number and Number of Attendees), that will be much appreciated.

Children's Liturgy team members for all mass centres— Interested to join the team and teach our kids on Sundays? Please call the parish office or speak to Fr. Cruz.

### **World Day of Prayer 2021**

All parishioners are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer 2021 service for Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook, which will be held on Friday, 5th March at St Joseph's Emerald. Please join Christians of all denominations in this beautiful Liturgy of prayer and song, prepared this year by women of Vanuatu. The theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation." We begin with Morning Tea at 10:00am. The service starts at 10:30.

Any enquiries: Marilyn Huber:59683218.

**BAPTISM:** To arrange a Baptism in the Parish, please phone the parish office during the office hours on 97542141.

### **First Sunday of Lent** 21st February 2021

Jamila is a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Bangladesh with her elderly mother and baby daughter. With the support of Caritas Australia, and through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila has been able to access to emergency food, shelter, counselling, and vocational training that will help to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.



### Dear Parishioners

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is an important part of our parish's life, and seeks to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love, values and teaching of Christ in our world. The Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, journeying with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

The PPC can be described as a body within the Church that offers leadership to the parish and a voice for parishioners. Using a model of servant leadership, the PPC embraces the example given by Jesus at the last Supper.

Membership of the PPC is for a two year term, with parishioners elected by the Parish community or co-opted by the Parish Priest. The current members have served our parish community for the past two and a half years and will be ceasing their roles at the end of this month. We are now seeking new members to replace them and provide leadership for our parish leadership over the next two year period. Two members from each mass centre ensures each centre is properly represented.

Please prayerfully consider if you could serve on the PPC. The process of nomination will commence shortly. If you have any queries please feel free to contact your current PPC mass centre representative, or myself on 0419 590 155.

Andrew Jans- PPC Chairman