

**Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 95:1,6**

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 8:23 – 9:3**

*In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.*

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1**

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17**

*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia** Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 4:12-23**

*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun! and of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon Jn 8:12**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

**Next week's readings**

**First Reading:** Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor 1:26-31

**Gospel:** Mt 5:1-12



# 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

*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 (from 23rd January)	

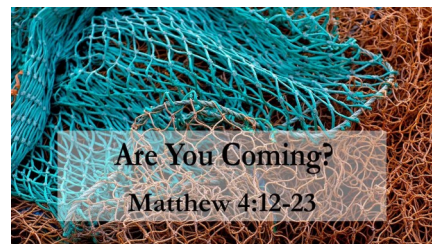
## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 21st/22nd January, 2023

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Discipleship is not something that we take upon ourselves. We are called to it. Some people are very conscious of this call. They are aware of it in their aspirations and dreams; they recognise it in the events of their lives. They hear the call as clearly as Simon, Andrew, James and John heard the voice of Jesus. For others, the call to discipleship is not so clear. They may experience an undefined restlessness, a dissatisfaction with their lives. People can respond to the call in one of two ways. They can consider the mere suggestion of discipleship an intrusion into their plans, or they can drop what they are doing, leave their former concerns behind and follow Jesus.

There is a misunderstanding about being called and leaving everything behind. Although the gospel says that the four men left their occupation of fishing in order to follow Jesus, this kind of 'leaving behind' was not, and still is not, required of all, for it is in the ordinary events of life that our salvation unfolds. For most people, this is precisely where they are to function as disciples. Still, disciples of Jesus are called to leave behind certain ways of living as they follow him. They are called away from lives of pettiness and division. They are called away from the kind of factionalism that seems to have threatened the unity of the Corinthian community. They are called away from narrow-mindedness and mean-spirited competition. It is much easier to leave nets than to leave the web of one's prejudices.

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



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 Monica Rayner  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Chairperson — Dennis  
 Monbulk: Peter van Haaster

**Belgrave:**

**Gembrook:** Rita McPherson, Louise Jans and Samantha Willis

**Emerald:** John Conway & Dennis

**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**  
 Principal: Declan McDermott  
 Phone: 9754-4444  
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**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
 Principal: Michael Watt  
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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities and ongoing War in Ukraine. May their souls rest in peace.

## **Anniversaries:**

Fr. Noel MacKay, Stephen Whyte, Mary Lord, Henk Koelewyn, Ted Shaw, Connie Pepi, Lena Addamo, Connie Occhipinti, Tony Borg, Melissa 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: 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, 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.

- **Sick List: If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 97542141.**

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS**

**MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE** is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement in 2023.

Email: [somml@bigpond.com](mailto:somml@bigpond.com)

(preferred for contact) Tel: 9326 1895



## **NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE?**

Disposal of a car from a deceased estate, or when a family member has had to relinquish their licence or go into residential care, can be a challenging process - getting a roadworthy, taking photos to advertise on the internet, cleaning and polishing, taking calls (if they come), even garaging it until a prospective buyer turns up (if indeed they do!).

If you need to dispose of a vehicle either from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, please consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Geelong Foundation", a registered charity with tax deductible status which for nine years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims / survivors of church-related sexual abuse.

Many of these suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and have limited or no employment. A donated vehicle could vastly improve their quality of life.

If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", please contact Fr. Kevin Dillon (0421 777 360, or [frkdillon@outlook.com.au](mailto:frkdillon@outlook.com.au)) or Adam Kaali (0411 486 605, or [adam-kaali@hotmail.com](mailto:adam-kaali@hotmail.com)).



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

## **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

### **Parish Positions**

- Pastoral Worker – St Andrew's Parish, Werribee
- Parish Secretary – St Dominic's Parish, Melton
- Parish Bookkeeper – St Andrew's Parish, Werribee
- Youth Pastoral Worker - St Christopher's Parish, Syndal

### **Other Positions**

- Cook – Bayside Catholic Mission

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at

[hadmin@cam.org.au](mailto:hadmin@cam.org.au)

## Happy Australia Day

26th January

**May God who formed our southern land be for us a rock of strength.**

**May God who rules our southern seas keep us safe in every storm.**

**May God who made our southern skies turn our darkness into light.**

Anonymous



### St. Agnes of Rome — Feast 21st January

Agnes is one of the most glorious saints in the calendar of the Roman Church. The greatest Church Fathers vie with one another in sounding her praise and glory. St. Jerome writes: "All nations, especially their Christian communities, praise in word and writing the life of St. Agnes. She triumphed over her tender age as well as over the merciless tyrant. To the crown of spotless innocence she added the glory of martyrdom."



Our saint's name should be traced to the Greek hagne (the pure, rather than to the Latin agna). But the Latin derivation prevailed in the early Church. The reason may have been that eight days after her death Agnes appeared to her parents with a train of virgins, and a lamb at her side. St. Augustine knew both derivations. "Agnes", he writes, "means 'lamb' in Latin, but in Greek it denotes 'the pure one'". The Latin interpretation occasioned the yearly blessing of the St. Agnes lambs; it takes place on this day in the Church of which she is patron, and the wool is used in weaving the palliums worn by archbishops and, through privilege, by some bishops. In the church built by the Emperor Constantine over the saint's grave, Pope Gregory the Great preached a number of homilies. Reliable details concerning the life of St. Agnes are very few. The oldest material occurs in St. Ambrose's *De Virginibus*, parts of which are read today at Matins. The value of the later (definitely unauthentic) "Passion" of the saint is enhanced by the fact that various antiphons and responsories in the Office are derived from it.

From such liturgical sources we may construct the following "life of St. Agnes". One day when Agnes, then thirteen years old, was returning home from school, she happened to meet Symphronius, a son of the city prefect. At once he became passionately attracted to her and tried to win her by precious gifts. Agnes repelled him, saying: "Away from me, food of death, for I have already found another lover" (r. Ant.). "With His ring my Lord Jesus Christ has betrothed me, and He has adorned me with the bridal crown" (3. Ant., Lauds). "My right hand and my neck He has encircled with precious stones, and has given me earrings with priceless pearls; He has decked me with lovely, glittering gems" (2. Ant.). "The Lord has clothed me with a robe of gold, He has adorned me with priceless jewels" (4. Ant.). "Honey and milk have I received from His mouth, and His blood has reddened my cheeks" (5. Ant.). "I love Christ, into whose chamber I shall enter, whose Mother is a virgin, whose Father knows not woman, whose music and melody are sweet to my ears. When I love Him, I remain chaste; when I touch Him, I remain pure; when I possess Him, I remain a virgin" (2. Resp.). "I am betrothed to Him whom the angels serve, whose beauty the sun and moon admire" (9. Ant.). "For Him alone I keep my troth, to Him I surrender with all my heart" (6. Ant.).

Incensed by her rebuff, Symphronius denounced Agnes to his father, the city prefect. When he threatened her with commitment to a house of ill fame, Agnes replied: "At my side I have a protector of my body, an angel of the Lord" (2. Ant., Lauds). "When Agnes entered the house of shame, she found an angel of the Lord ready to protect her" (1. Ant., Lauds). A light enveloped her and blinded all who tried to approach. Then another judge condemned her to the stake because the pagan priests accused her of sorcery.

Surrounded by flames she prayed with outstretched arms: "I beseech You, Father almighty, most worthy of awe and adoration. Through Your most holy Son I escaped the threats of the impious tyrant and passed through Satan's filth with feet unsullied. Behold, I now come to You, whom I have loved, whom I have sought, whom I have always desired." She gave thanks as follows: "O You, the almighty One, who must be adored, worshipped, feared - I praise You because through Your only begotten Son I have escaped the threats of wicked men and have walked through the filth of sin with feet unsullied. I extol You with my lips, and I desire You with all my heart and strength."

after the flames died out, she continued: "I praise You, Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, because by Your Son the fire around me was extinguished" (4. Ant., Lauds). And now she longed for union with Christ: "Behold, what I yearned for, I already see; what I hoped for, I already hold in embrace; with Him I am united in heaven whom on earth I loved with all my heart" (Ben. Ant.). Her wish was granted; the judge ordered her beheaded.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2020-01-21>