

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 53:6,8

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom 12:13.16-19

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Romans 8:26-27**

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Matthew 13:24-43**

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'" He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.' He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.' In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world. Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.



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	

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 22nd/23rd July, 2023

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we hear how the Spirit of God dwells in all of us, helping us in our weakness. The first disciples had Jesus to explain the parables; we have the Spirit to enlighten us. It is the Spirit who helps us to interpret the teaching of Jesus and to be receptive to the challenges that they pose.

The presence of sinners in the kingdom of God is often a stumbling block to good people. There will be a time for separation and judgment, but the time is not now. This means that the righteous will have to live with the sinner and, even more challengingly, show them the same kind of concern that they show to others. The presence of sinners does not necessarily erode the quality of the kingdom. Rather, it provides disciples an opportunity to rise to the occasion of generosity and forgiveness.

There are two images of judgment in the readings. The one in the gospel is terrifying and decisive. The wicked are bound together into bundles and readied for burning. We must remember that this is a parable. In the first reading and in the psalm response the justice of God is said to be lenient, clement and kind. The power of God is demonstrated not in retribution but in mercy. God is said to be 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness and fidelity', and repentance is a very real possibility. This is the image that gives us hope.

<https://liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Jul23/0/RefDiBer>

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023

July - For a Eucharistic life — *We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.*

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2023>

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Parish Office: 97542141
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
 Monica Rayner
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chairperson — Dennis
Monbulk: Sue Luxford
Belgrave: David Bhoynz
Gembrook: Rita McPherson
Emerald: Dennis G. and Irene Reed

**WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH
 AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.**

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
 Principal: Declan McDermott
 Phone: 9754-4444
 Email: principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au
www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Michael Watt
 Phone: 9756 7201
 Email: principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Joan Munday, the Mother of Anne Slagtman-Collins, former Pastoral Associate of the Parish.

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.

Anniversaries: Linda Maude Bullivant. Harry Tuplin, Fr, Lgnacy Smaga SChr, Berenice Shaw, Joop Bakker, Anne Durrant, Jason Breakwell, Mary Thornburn, Fr. Leo Saleeba, Kevin Ryan, Terry Garric.

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: Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper John Barber, Kaz Holt, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, 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, 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.**

This month *Aid to the Church in Need* is raising money to build a parish house in Sierra Leone. The parishioners of the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour have been trying to help their priest who is living in a house that is decaying due to heavy rainfall and salt-laden sea air but they themselves are poor and have little to give. ACN has promised to help but we need your help to make this possible. To learn more and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyprojector or scan the QR code.

Aid to the Church in Need | **ACN Australia & New Zealand**

PO Box 335, Penrith NSW 2751 AUSTRALIA

PO Box 90445, Auckland 1142 NEW ZEALAND

1800 101 201 | +61 2 9167 9517 (direct)

teresa@aidtochurch.org |
www.aidtochurch.org



Church Volunteers

A very big **thank you** to our church volunteers who render your valuable service to our parish church communities in various capacities.

Please enter your details in the volunteer list placed in the church foyer. If you have not submitted a copy of your working with children check, please hand over to your mass manager or parish office.

Retreat in Everyday Life – Moments of Grace – over five weeks, beginning Monday, 31 July and concluding 28 August (at Heart of Life, Malvern, or via Zoom) Flexible timing.

The Retreat in Everyday Life involves a commitment to daily prayer and weekly spiritual accompaniment for an hour per week over five weeks with this year's theme 'Moments of Grace'. This is an ideal opportunity for a Parish or spiritual community to retreat together, as well as for individuals who would like to experience an opportunity to recognise God's presence in their everyday lives in a more intentional way. Register your interest <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/retreat-in-everyday-life-moments-of-grace/> or info@heartoflife.melbourne and we will be in touch to have a conversation. Cost: Donation

Mindfulness & Meditation – Saturday, 28 August 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm (in-person)

When we are present to the 'now', centredness and relaxation become a natural part of life, and we know how to act from a heart of love. Facilitated by Paola Cheng who is a Spiritual Director, mental health social worker and meditation teacher, this is a day of prayer in the practice of Mindfulness and Meditation. We invite you to bring an open mind and heart to journey with others and within oneself. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/mindfulness-meditation/> or email info@heartoflife.melbourne. Cost: \$60 (BYO Lunch)

In the spirit of reconciliation, Heart of Life acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia, and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

 **Heart of Life**

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern, Victoria 3144, Australia

Tel: (03) 9890 1101 Email: info@heartoflife.melbourne Web: www.heartoflife.melbourne

40TH
ANNIVERSARY
1983 - 2023

Next week's readings

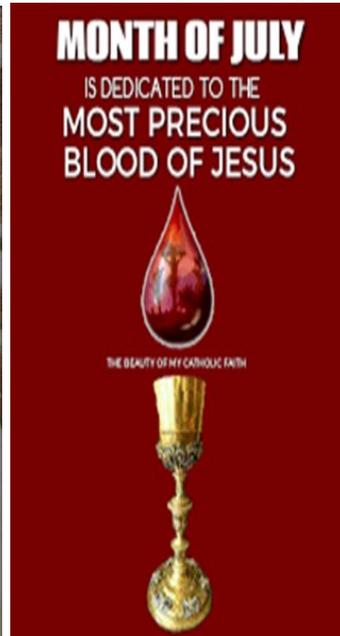
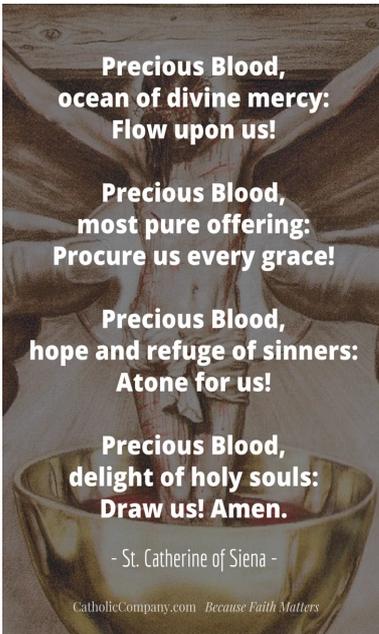
First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52



Forum on the “Voice to Parliament” Referendum

Do you feel you know enough about the upcoming **Voice to Parliament Referendum**? Would you like the chance to explore its implications and ask questions?

If you are seeking more information or understanding this is the forum for you.

It will be presented by Dr Heather Wearne who is a volunteer educator with the “Yes 23” national campaign. Heather is a retired academic who worked in tertiary and secondary education and she has much experience with Indigenous issues. She will provide background information about the “**Uluru Statement From the Heart**” and the “**Voice to Parliament**”. She will share her understanding and knowledge about **Constitutional recognition** and the reasons why it matters so much to many First Nations Peoples. She will speak to the role and function of the Voice to Parliament and discuss what is at stake with the **Referendum**. Heather will make sure that there will be time to answer your questions and uncertainties about the Voice.

Date and Time: The Forum will be held at St John’s Church, 494 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham on Sunday 6th August from 12:00 noon (after the 11:15am Mass) until about 2:30pm. Light lunch provided.

Baptism

Let us welcome **Kye Hingston and Cooper Graffen** into faith community as they are going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave and Sacred Heart church Gembrook.

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



Please see below an update to current vacant roles listed on our Melbourne Catholic website.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

- Archdiocesan Personal Assistant , Western Region
- Executive Officer, East Melbourne

Parish Positions

- Parish Secretary – Holy Family Parish , Doveton
- Pastoral Worker - St Peter and Paul's Parish—Doncaster East
- Parish Coordinator- St Jude’s Parish—Scoresby
- Parish Secretary-Our Lady of Southern Cross Parish, Clifton Hill

Other Positions

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 hrad-min@cam.org.au