

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) NIGHT

Entrance Antiphon Ps 2:7

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 9:1-7

A son is given to us.

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. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

Ti 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk 2:1-14

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Jn 1:14

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

Next week's readings

First Reading:	Nm 6:22-27
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2
Second Reading:	Gal 4:4-7
Gospel:	Lk 2:16-21



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

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 &	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church 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 (From 22nd of January, 2023)	

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) NIGHT - 24th December, 2022

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Gospel situates the birth of Jesus within Roman rule of the first century. Through the Incarnation, the ordinary becomes transparent and reveals the extraordinary; the divine is known in the child. Only those of humble heart experience this wonder. They behold it and they come to embrace it. In fact, it is the nature of this child, born in history, to reverse the orders of power.

God is portrayed as a valiant liberator who champions the cause of justice and who brings a liberation that reverses history and the ways of war, power and oppression. This reversal is made more shocking by the fact that the one who is the mighty warrior and conqueror of the nations is a child. This child is the weak and voiceless one, the one who has neither power nor legal rights. God's reversal of the long-standing realities of this world is accomplished through the apparently insignificant, through the gift of this child who is given to us in the middle of the night.

Something new has happened: the age of God's fulfilment has arrived. The age of grace and fresh hope, made available to all people of good will, is an era of redemptive presence. Now all people can walk in the newness of life and grace. Yet, while this new age has begun, it is not yet fully realised. We live believing in its presence and awaiting its fulfilment. Although we are celebrating Christmas, we still await the final coming of the Lord.



May the Lord Jesus Christ provide you with both divine and Physical strength and prosperity to last you through the rest of your time on earth!

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

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Chairperson — Dennis
Peter van Haaster

Phone:

Parish Secretary:

Parish Office:

Sacraments :

Child Safety Contacts:

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Monbulk:

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
 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: Father Joseph Patrick Hynan PE.

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:

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, Diane Kamoen, 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.**

Special collection for Aliyah Isabelle Lawless

Dear Parishioners

It has come to our attention that one of our Gembrook families who recently moved to Endeavour Hills has had a terrible accident happened to one of their children.

The little 4 year old has sustained burns to 25% of her body and is expected to stay in hospital for at least 2 months.

We wanted to offer an opportunity to anyone who would like to give some financial support to the family.

There will be a special collection next Sunday (1st January) or otherwise you can deposit directly into the bank account of Isabelle Lawless

BSB: 062 799

Acct No: 11863078

Thanking you in advance for your generosity.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve Mass (Saturday 24th December)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

5.30pm Carols

6.00pm Children Mass (**Salesian Priest**)

11.00pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Joseph's Church Emerald

6.30pm (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

7.30pm Carols

8.00pm Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

Christmas Day Mass (Sunday 25th December)

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

9.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

Belgrave parish office notice

Fr. Cruz will not be available from 3rd January to 20th January as he will be participating in Annual retreat and Mid-term General Chapter conference in India. All the weekend masses in our churches will be taken cared by Salesian priests.

No weekday masses until 22nd January.

Parish Office is closed from 23rd December to 6th January 2023. Re- open on 10th January, 2023.

Christmas message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

Friends, I recently heard an Advent prayer that has a striking line in it, describing Jesus' birth. It said:

[Jesus], when the soles of your feet touch the ground,

... you become one of us, to be at one with us.

The image of God's bare feet touching the earth is such an evocative one.

Especially at this time of year, we know only too well what it feels like to do the 'great Aussie dance' across a hot beach or prickly lawn!

But of course, this image is far more than a physical reminder.

For Christmas is the divinity of God born into our humanity.

Through the Incarnation, God comes to us, withholding nothing of himself from us.

Barefooted—taking on our flesh, our human condition—in order to touch, and to be touched, in the particularities of our lives: this is Emmanuel—God with us.

Christmas is God placing an exclamation mark on his words, 'I am with you!'

Our God, whose name is Jesus, has walked with us through the tough years of the pandemic and is touching the ground now where healing and renewal is needed.

The Son of God is walking through the streets of Ukraine and Myanmar, Ethiopia and Lebanon, with feet bloodied from war, conflict and repression, yet still taking the steps needed towards peace and liberation.

He has seen and felt both the joy of our existence and the suffering of those who are lost or vulnerable. He has awakened us to an attentiveness for our global humanity, and a care for our common home.

So I wonder if, this Christmas and for the year ahead, it is time to remove the 'shoes' that keep us from standing barefoot with Jesus—to feel the sacred ground of our lives with God?

Might we come before him 'barefoot' in our frailties, yet alive in the wonder of our humanity—made in his image—ready and willing to live as the people of God he has created us to be—fraternally, lovingly, caringly; generous, forgiving and hopeful.

May Jesus, the barefooted child of the living God, fill you and your loved ones with abundant joy and peace. Happy Christmas!



The new year mass times

31st December

St. Joseph's church Emerald 6pm

1st January

St. Thomas More church, Belgrave - 9am

Sacred Heart church, Gembrook - 9am

St. Paul's church, Monbulk - 11am

Dear Parishioners

I would specially like to thank our parishioners who contributed to the life and the functioning of the parish in 2022 through their generous service.

And also to our Volunteers...

Mass Managers, Liturgy group members, Parish council members, Parish Finance Committee members, Bookkeeper, Parish property manager, Social Justice group, Alter servers, Lectors, Money collectors and counters, Sacramental Coordinator, Musicians, Choir members, visitation group, Special communion ministers, Working bee organizing committee members, Vincent de Paul Committee members, Garden maintain volunteers, Child Safety Committee members, Alter decorators, Cleaners, and other Volunteers...

Fr. Anthony Cruz MC

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

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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

• **Front-End Developer**

Catholic Development Fund

• Integration Engineer

• Risk & Compliance Analyst



Parish Positions

• Pastoral Worker – St Andrew's Parish, Werribee

• Pastoral Worker – St Clement of Rome Parish, Bulleen

• Cleaner – St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully

• Parish Bookkeeper – St Andrew's Parish, Werribee

• Parish Secretary – St Christopher's Parish, Syndal

• Youth Pastoral Worker - St Christopher's Parish, Syndal

Other Positions

• Cook – Oblate of Mary Immaculate

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 hradmin@cam.org.au