

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DAY

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 1:1-6

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 1:1-18

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



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 January, 2023)	

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DAY - 25th December, 2022

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.



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!

Merry Christmas

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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
 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 care of 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, 2023

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...

Thank you

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