

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129. R. v.7

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message,

Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.



Next week's readings

- First Reading:** Is 50:4-7
- Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2
- Second Reading:** Phil 2:6-11
- Gospel:** Mt 27:11-54



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,	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A - 25th/26th March, 2023

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

[Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://liturgyhelp.com)

Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intentions for 2023 – This Month's Prayer

MARCH - For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

<https://www.churchpop.com/2023/01/16/heres-pope-francis-prayer-intentions-for-each-month-in-2023/>

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Anthony Cruz MC
 Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
 87518112.
Phone:
Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
Parish Office: 97542141
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
 Monica Rayner
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chairperson — Dennis
 Monbulk: Peter van Haaster
Belgrave:
Gembrook: Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and
 Samantha Willis
Emerald: Dennis
Mt. Dandenong:

**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: 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:

Laurie Webber, Leanne Murray, William & Kath Pizaro, Maureen Rath, Ron Hearnese, Richard Gilchrist, Elizabeth Ruigrok, Brian FitzGerald, Louise Ryan, Catherine Wijenands, Janine Lancashire, Joe Schubert, Judy Lloyd.

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: Glen Butler, 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, 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.**

Parish Working Bee - St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

To prepare the church and the grounds for the great Feast of Easter everyone is invited to attend a working bee on **SATURDAY 1ST OF APRIL FROM 10 AM – 2 PM**. There are plenty of jobs from light work to heavier jobs.

We need to do some cutting back of shrubs, weeding, sweeping, spraying, painting, cleaning of sacristy, dusting etc. Lunch and morning tea provided as well as a lot of fun as we support others who provide services of looking after the church from behind the scenes.

**Any enquiries, Maureen Coyne
(0431483963)**



Church Working Bee



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday of the Lord's Supper —6 April 7.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave — Washing of the Feet and Eucharist.

8.30 pm Solemn Reservation. Adoration.

Good Friday - 7th April:

10.00am. The Stations of the cross at Sumava Czech Centre, Locks Way, Belgrave South. (Please DO NOT bring any food) but bring an umbrella if rain is forecast.

3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with Adoration of the Holy Cross and Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night —Saturday 8th

April: 6.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Reynolds Lane, Belgrave.

Blessing of the Fire. followed by the vigil Mass.

Sunday of the Resurrection — Easter Sunday 9th

April:

6.30am -St. Joseph's Church, Emerald.

Blessing of the Fire, Holy Eucharist.

Please note also.... that breakfast will be served after the **Easter Dawn Mass at St. Joseph's church. All are welcome.**

9.00am - Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook.

9.00am— Holy Mass St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.

11.00am—Holy Mass at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk.

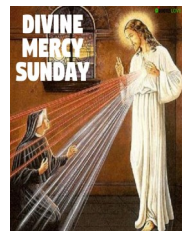
Divine Mercy Sunday — 16th April at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

Celebrant: Fr. Anthony Cruz

- 7.45 am — 8.45am —Reconciliation. (Two Priests are available)
- Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image at 9.00 am followed by the Holy Mass
- Exposition of the blessed sacrament
- Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Holy Rosary
- Reposition of the blessed sacrament

(When leaving the church, please venerate the Divine Mercy image).

- **The Divine Mercy novena starts on Good Friday.**



The Stations of the Cross in Lent

The Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.



Reconciliation

St. Joseph's Church, Emerald

28th March at 5pm- 5.50pm followed by Holy Mass at 6pm

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

26th March 8am- 8.50am followed by Holy Mass at 9am

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

26th March 10.15am — 10.55 am followed by Holy Mass at 11am

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

Fridays and Saturdays

10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th March at 9.45am—10.15am

Need your support for St. Vincent de Paul Society Belgrave

St. Thomas More's Vincent de Paul committee members need more food and food items to distribute for needy people in our community. The donation box is placed in the St. Thomas More's church foyer.



Fiat — A weekend prayer

(24th March—26th March)

The Rev. Peter Comensoli has issued an invitation to all parishes in Melbourne to a Weekend of communal Prayer in our own or other parishes from 6pm Friday 24th March to 6pm Sunday 26th March.

The theme for this 48hrs of prayer is to meditate on Mary's Fiat, her total "Yes".

Each parish is invited to commit to at least one hour of prayer a day over the weekend.

This weekend promises to be a moment of grace for the local Church, as together we meditate on Mary's fiat. We reflect on what Mary's example means for us as individuals

To assist in sharing in what is happening around the Archdiocese each parish is asked to register their times of prayer. <https://.trybooking.com/CGFXG>

Belgrave parish is committed to 1 hour of prayer on the 3 days as follows - however each individual is free to attend other parishes or choose their own time of prayer.:

Friday 24th March - St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave 6pm to 7pm - followed by stations of the cross.

Saturday 25th March - St. Joseph's Church, Emerald - 5pm to 6pm - followed by holy mass

Sunday 26th March - St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave - 4pm to 5pm

Baptism

Let us welcome **Mila Sage Rakusic** in our faith Community as she is going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More church Belgrave.



May she be richly blessed throughout her life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

"Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine and world peace:

Our Candlelight Vigil will continue this year on the **first Wednesday of the month** (Wednesday 5th April, in Holy Week.) commencing at 7 pm in the St. Thomas More's church chapel.

7.00 pm Mass

7.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.45 pm Rosary

8.05 pm Benediction

8.10 pm Finish.



Please join us for any of the above to pray especially to the end of the War in Ukraine and for peace in the world.

KSC Public Speaking Course

This course is designed to help you overcome your fear of public speaking and improve your communication skills. You'll learn the techniques and strategies that successful speakers use to engage their audience and deliver their message with confidence and get opportunities to practice in a supportive environment to help you improve. There are only 10 places available.

This course is an initiative of the Knights of the Southern Cross Victoria.

When: 7.30-9.30pm, Thursdays nights (10 weeks) starting 13th April.

Where: Majellan Room, St Gerard's Catholic Church Hall, 71 Gladstone Rd. Dandenong.

Cost: \$30

Register: Email Michael Palma - mmpalma98@gmail.com

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 25 & 26 March

Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413

