

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

Entrance Antiphon: God is in His holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in His house;
He Himself gives might and strength to His
people.

**A reading from the first book of the Kings
3:5-7-12.**

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David, my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people that you have chosen, a people so many that its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this,' the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now, I do what you ask. I give you a heart, wise and shrewd, as none before you has had, and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps. 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
Is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
Than silver and gold.

Let your love be ready to console me
By your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
For your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands
More than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways.

Your will is wonderful indeed;
Therefore, I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
And teaches the simple.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

**A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the
Romans 8: 28-30.**

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love Him, with all those that He has called according to His purpose. They are the ones He chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of His Son, so that His Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those He intended for this; those He called, He justified, and with those He justified, He shared His glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: 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 13:44-52.**

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value, he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet, cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are of no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' they said, 'Yes.' And He said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven, is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom, things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all His benefits.

Next week's readings: Isaiah 55:1-3; Ps. 144:8-9, 15-18; Romans 8:35,37-39; Matthew 14:13-21.



Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church
in the Dandenong Ranges

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160

Phone: 0400436793 Office Hours 9am-4pm (not Tues).

Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave Email: belgrave@cam.org.au

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 Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>
	WEEKDAY				

Mass changes: **MASSES CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE ON-LINE DUE TO COVID19 RESTRICTIONS—we will keep you up-to-date.**

Reconciliation: Marriages & Baptisms by appointment. **RECONCILIATION:** Email Fr. Cruz—anthony.cruz@cam.org.au or phone 0400436793 to book.

JULY 26TH, 2020 — SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A.

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your messages of condolence, by card, phone and visits, on the passing of my brother Jebamalai Raja, whose earthly life came to an end at the age of 41, on the 15th of this month, due to Covid-19. I am really grateful to those of our parishioners who made it a point to come and visit me in person and spend some quality time with me – consoling me with your motherly love and affection, despite the lockdown situation, and others, of course, through a telephone conversation or a condolence card in the mail expressed their deepest sympathies.

My brother's death was a really disheartening one in the sense that he was so young, and the most disappointing thing was that three of his young children are going to miss him a lot as they were so fond of him. I am quite sure the Lord will certainly take care of them.

I remember while I was doing my ministry in St Francis of Assisi parish at Mill Park, I used to go to the Northern Hospital in Epping and the Austin Hospital in Heidelberg to administer the sacrament of "the anointing of the sick," for our parishioners. A couple of times the relatives of the sick person whom I was anointing asked me whether it was certain that that person would be healed. I used to explain to them how the love of God embraces the sick person through this wonderful sacrament called, "the anointing of the sick." Our loving Lord Jesus looks at all of us from the perspective of salvation that he accomplished through his ministry, passion, death and resurrection. Jesus will certainly heal a sick person when anointed if the healing is necessary for his/her salvation. If the healing is not necessary for the salvation of the sick person, the sick person may die because he/she is already in the state of grace after having been forgiven by the Lord through the sacrament of the anointing. So whether a sick person revives from sickness or dies due to some sickness, what is important for the Lord is the salvation of that person.

This is what the Catholic Church teaches us. Humanly speaking the death of my brother was a difficult thing to accept, but when I look at his death at such a young age in the light of the theology of the anointing of the sick, it's most comforting and helps me to understand the love of the Lord in a better way.

Kindly follow the Covid-19 restrictions in place and be safe. I assure you of my prayers for all of you.

Once again I thank you all for your prayers for my brother's soul and your motherly love and affection. May God bless us all. Fr. Cruz.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Anthony Cruz anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
Email: belgrave@cam.org.au Phone 0400436793
Parish Office hours 9 am –4 pm Mon/Wed/Thurs/Friday.

PARISH SECRETARY : Helen Surman 0400436793 belgrave@cam.org.au
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au

Child Safety Contacts: Maria 9754 5200 & Jeanette 97542759

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chairperson — Andrew Jans 0419590155

Monbulk: Rin Van Raay

Belgrave: Daryn Corish & Marie Madden

Gembrook: Pam Giulieri & Matthew Thomas

Emerald: John Conway & Lisa McLean

Mt. Dandenong: Virginia Schneiders & Stephen Billington.

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE

Principal: Caroline Quinton

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: Tony and Sean Lavin (brothers of Marg Waldeck, Emerald); we also continue to pray for the many thousands of people across the world who have died from the corona virus. May the dear souls of all the above people rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Ron Herbert, Bartola Failla, Anne Melia, Vivienne Main, Lia Kelleners, Charles Byrne, Elvira Cleveland, Catherine Kroon.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Lida and Robert Ploeg, Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, Stephen, Lois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, Alida Cabret, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Geoff Henwood, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Helen Hermann, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Peter Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

*“Heart of Life is offering a **“Retreat in Everyday Life – All Shall Be Well”** – over five weeks, beginning Monday, 3 August and concluding 31 August. This at-home retreat, available via Zoom, invites you to spend some time in prayer at home each day pondering your experiences of the day, and to be accompanied by a prayer-companion on how God might have been present for you. To register your interest, please call 9890 1101 or email holsc@bigpond.com, no later than Monday 27 July.”*



THE CATHOLICCARE SUNDAY APPEAL will be held over the weekend of **8th and 9th of August**. Anne, a single parent when she was 17, and the sole carer of her seven grandchildren since her daughter's untimely passing. She has endured many challenges. Anne is one of many supported by CatholicCare. *“I'm a happier person. I'm in a better place. I'm feeling optimistic”* – Anne. Please donate to CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. Through your support and generosity, for people like Anne, CatholicCare programs and services provide the opportunity to break the barriers and look forward to living life to the full. **You can donate now online at www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible**

A NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS JOINED IN THE

ZOOM-ENABLED ROSARY held on line last Saturday morning to pray for both Fr Cruz's brother, Jebamalai Raja, and Helen and Michael Dinkgreve's daughter (Helen Hermann's granddaughter), Michelle, who passed away recently. Thank you to Andrew Jans for his initiative in organising this. It was much appreciated.

Thanks also, to Evie Czarnecki for organising a weekly Rosary on Zoom—**every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.** The link for this week is

Topic: Belgrave parish rosary
Time: Jul 26, 2020 09:30 AM Australia/Melbourne

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74798717219?pwd=SWkxbHpUUzU1c3FHdVRUcnllMUZrQT09>

Meeting ID: 747 9871 7219
Passcode: 8sBwT4

COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS brought in on the 9th July: Except for the exemptions noted below, all public Masses, Liturgies and communal devotions (whether indoors or outdoors) are temporarily suspended until further notice.

- **BAPTISMS:** All guidelines must be followed regarding: limited numbers (no more than 5 persons, including celebrant); physical distancing measures;- hygiene precautions (with particular attention to the use of water and cotton buds or swabs for anointing as per previous correspondence); doors must remain closed to prevent public access.
- **WEDDINGS:** As above.
- **FUNERALS:** 10 mourners permitted, plus those required to conduct the service. Safety measures as above.

RECONCILIATION:

By appointment—email Fr. Cruz on anthony.cruz@cam.org.au or phone 0400436793 during office hours/03 875 18112 after hours and on Tuesdays.

ADORATION—is not available at present.

It is now compulsory for all Victorians to wear a face mask when out in public to avoid the spread of the virus. Please take this responsibility seriously to protect yourself and others.

**TV, RADIO, ONLINE—FOR THESE TIMES
WHEN WE CANNOT ATTEND MASS:**

Mass is available on the following:

TV - Channel 10, Mass for you at home,
Sunday mornings at 6.00 a.m.

RADIO - 89.9 Light FM, -A traditional Roman
Catholic Mass, Sunday mornings at 7am.

ONLINE - Mass online - [https://
melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass](https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass), or [https://
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/](https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/) or [http://bit.ly/
MassOnDemand](http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand)

AUSTRALIAN JESUITS ON FACEBOOK—
Go to:[https://
www.facebook.com/151909541627410/
posts/1577966115688405/](https://www.facebook.com/151909541627410/posts/1577966115688405/)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has
additional online resources to help you through
this time of suffering: [www.cam.org.au/
coronavirus](http://www.cam.org.au/coronavirus).

THANK YOU to all parishioners who have main-
tained their Parish Thanksgiving contributions dur-
ing the current restrictions. Anyone who currently
does not contribute to the Parish finances this way
(by envelope, direct debit or credit card) can phone
Helen on 0400436793 during working hours to
make arrangements for this to happen. To contrib-
ute to the presbytery account (usually the 1st col-
lection) you can also do so by direct debit or credit
card. Again, just request arrangements to be made.

OUR LOVE AND GRATITUDE GOES TO

MAREE LYONS, who just this week announced
that, after 15 years of service, she is stepping
down from the Liturgy Group. This is due to
family circumstances and health reasons.
When our Masses return, Maree will continue
on with her role in the Belgrave choir.

Maree has done an absolutely wonderful job,
mostly behind the scenes, over those many
years. Our Easter and Christmas celebrations,
especially, have benefitted greatly by her work
and the work of her fellow-committee members.
**Thank you, Maree. May God bless you and
your family with better health and much joy
into the future.**

**AS OF NOW ALL LITURGICAL CELEBRA-
TIONS STAND SUSPENDED**

*except marriages
and funerals with restricted numbers. Still, the
sacrament of Reconciliation is available by ap-
pointment. Please call **03 87518112** for confes-
sions. If any of you want to talk to me, you are
most welcome to call me on that number also. I
am celebrating private Mass everyday. If you
want me to offer Mass for any of your personal
intentions, kindly let me know and I will do so.*

Fr. Anthony Cruz

'TREASURING OUR LATER YEARS' (via Zoom
until face-to-face permitted), 6 x Tuesdays,
1pm-3pm, 4 Aug to 8 Sep 2020. Facilitated by
Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants
the opportunity to explore new possibilities that
ageing offers daily. It will include reflections on
themes that take on particular relevance and
meaning in our later years, eg Spirituality...
deepest dimension of our life; What is giving my
life meaning?; At its core, life is about relation-
ships; etc. Cost \$115 for the series, or \$20 per
session. Bookings and payment via Trybooking
at <https://www.trybooking.com/BKLUH> . For
more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or
telephone 9890 1101.



Heart of Life

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

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Web www.heartoflife.melbourne

Heart of Life is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

WITH THE LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS,

it is easy to lose contact with fellow parish-
ioners—at a time when they need contact and
support the most. Fr. Cruz and the Visitation
Group will soon be phoning as many parish-
ioners as they can to make contact and offer
support and a 'listening ear.'

I thought, also, that **you** might wish to pass on
some encouragement by:

- Letting others know that if they are on the
internet, yet not receiving messages from
the Parish, that they only need to let us
know on 0400436793 and we'll keep
them in the loop.
- Letting those without the internet know
that every week the notices are posted on
the door of each Mass Centre to keep
those parishioners informed.
- By putting a card or letter in the mail to
those you know are isolated. If you don't
know their address, send it to the Parish
Office, Post Office Box 100, Belgrave
3160, and I'll pass it on to that person.
- Adding a positive message to your fellow-
parishioners via this newsletter. If you
send me a message by Thursday morning
each week, I can include it on your
behalf. This also applies if you have some
good news to share, e.g. the birth of a
grandchild, a significant birthday, etc.

Don't be shy!!

Helen S.