

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 9:26-31

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R.)**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.
(R.)

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' **(R.)**

A reading from the first letter of St John 1 Jn 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned

by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 15:1-8

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

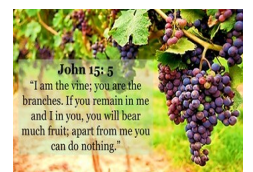
Next week's readings:

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

Gospel : Jn 15:9-17





Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
Phone: 97542141
Office Hours: 10am – 2pm Tuesday to Friday
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 Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	10.30am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B — 2nd May, 2021

My sisters and brothers in the Lord,

Today we are invited to remain in Christ as branches in a vine. We do this by recognizing that God is at work in everyone and by striving to keep His commands and to do what is pleasing to God. Always the Christian life sounds easy and yet is a challenge for us all.

The first reading today is from the Acts of the Apostles. In the Easter Season we read the whole of the Acts of the Apostles. The Sunday readings give us important portions of the Acts of the Apostles. Saint Paul, formerly Saul, was converted directly by the Lord Jesus. Almost everyone was afraid of him because of his previous persecutions of Christians. It was not easy to come to trust that he was not now simply trying another way to find Christians to put them to death. Finally Barnabas believes in him and is able to convince others to accept him.

The second reading is from the First Letter of Saint John. The teaching today is very simple: we must believe in Jesus and we must love one another. The simple teaching is always difficult to live. Belief in Jesus keeps drawing us deeper and deeper into the mystery of God—or we abandon Jesus entirely. Today many people want to believe in Jesus only as a good man and a good teacher. But it is clear: we must accept Jesus as God or reject Him. And if we accept Jesus as God, then we must love everyone, especially those who mistreat us the most. This is how Jesus lived, even pardoning those who put Him to death.

The Gospel is from Saint John and teaches us that we must cling to Jesus the way that a vine is attached to a branch. Our lives must grow from Jesus. We are part of Him and must live in Him and all the force of our lives must come from Him. The only way to be disconnected from Jesus is to be broken off from Him. We can break ourselves off from Him by choosing to no longer be with him. Sin clearly does not break us off from Him when we choose to repent. So repentance must always be at the heart of our life with Jesus.

On this fifth Sunday of Easter, we are invited to trust those who choose the Lord, even if we know that in the past such people may have been against the Lord. We are invited to deepen our belief in the Lord Jesus and always to be faithful in loving one another. We are invited to cling to the Lord, no matter how we fail or sin. Christ has risen from the dead in order to draw us to Himself. Let us sing alleluia and give thanks to the Lord.

Source: <https://christdesert.org/>

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

Anniversaries: Silvia Schnelbrieder, Frank Carville, Kathleen Boyle, Fr. James Kierce PE, Koen Goederee, Gregory Pappa, Lucia Falcone, Maria Eyssens, Martha Grainger, Bob Smart.

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: Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo and Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, 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 Campion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

Easter House Blessing

Fr. Cruz is available for blessing of the houses during the season of Easter on request. Please contact the parish office or meet Father Cruz after the mass.



St Paul's Primary School, Monbulk, invites you to join us for...

READY, SET, PREP!

Get ready for school with a 'taste' of St Paul's!

Registrations Now Open!

Invitation to: 3yo, 4yo and 5yo pre school children

9:30am Friday 30 April: GARDEN TIME - BACKYARD BLITZ

9:30am Friday 14 May: SCIENCE FAIR

9:30am Thursday 27 May: ART ADVENTURES

9:30am Friday 11 June: MINI MASTERCHEF

Spaces are limited due to density limits – so register today!

To register your place: 9756 7201 or email: office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au



Please pray before the Recessional Hymn

St Joseph Prayer



Heavenly Father,

St Joseph set aside his own plans
to embrace your dream for us.

You invited his help in caring

for Jesus your Son, our Saviour,

and the Revealer of your wonderful love.

Enable us to live by your loving plan
and to reflect to the world the light of Christ.

St Joseph, man of dreams

and trusting steward, pray for us.

Lord Jesus,

You grew in wisdom and maturity

as you lived in the family

of Nazareth in daily communion

with St Joseph and Mary your mother.

From St Joseph you learned

the dignity of human work.

Give parents the wisdom

to support their children and to guide them

in the way and work of your Kingdom.

St Joseph, faithful parent

and diligent worker, pray for us.

Creator Spirit,

We see in St Joseph a tenderness

and reverence for all your creation.

We learn from him to approach others justly
and tenderly, and to see our world as endowed

with the glory of God.

Teach us to love one another

and to be of humble service to all of creation,
empowered by your life within us.

St Joseph, wise protector and humble servant,
pray for us.

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

- Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- People must carry a fitted face covering at all times.** Fitted face coverings are no longer mandatory indoors or outdoors (except in particular circumstances, note above), but should be worn by participants (unless they have a lawful exemption or are children under 12 years of age) if a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained.
- Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave - 100 people Emerald - 60 people
 Monbulk - 80 people Gembrook - 60 people

Calling all youth musicians!

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you — I whom you have delivered.

Psalm 71:23

If you play guitar, piano, or like singing, we would love to welcome you to play with us on the 4th Sunday of the month at St Pauls in Monbulk.

Everyone welcome, no matter your skill level. We practice from 9:30am.

Text Julia on 0488032862, or just turn up.

Julia Hall



Prayer Evening, St Joseph's, Emerald

All parishioners are invited to attend an **Evening of Guided Prayer at St Joseph's Emerald, at 7:00pm on Wednesday, 12th May.** Supper will be provided. This initiative follows the success of a similar evening held during Lent. Everyone is welcome.

Baptism

Let us welcome **Peter Blandford and Juniper Gay** into our faith community as they are going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. May they be richly blessed throughout their life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

BAPTISM: To arrange a Baptism in the Parish, please phone the parish office during the office hours on 97542141.

A big thank you to the fundraising committee, who have given all their support to sell all of the raffle tickets. If you haven't returned the stubs yet, please return to a parish fundraising volunteer.



Sacrament Workshop

SACRAMENT	St Thomas More	St Paul's Church
CONFIRMATION	Sat 29 May 12pm	Sat 29 May 2pm
Workshop - Parent/Child	Tuesday 27 April 6.30-7.30pm	Wed 31 March 3.30pm
Run through session in Church for parent/child/ Workshop	Thurs 27 May 3.30 - 4.30pm	Tuesday 18 May 3.30pm
To enroll, please call the parish office during office hours.		
FIRST RECONCILIATION ceremony	Thurs 17 June 3.30 - 5.30pm	Wed 16 June 3.30 - 5.30pm
Workshop - Parent/Child	Wed 9 June 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 2 June 3.30 - 4.30pm
To enroll, please call the parish office during office hours.		
FIRST EUCHARIST ceremony	Sun 22 Aug 9.00 am	Sun 15 Aug 10.30am
Workshop - Parent/Child	Thurs 29 July 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 14 July 3.30pm
Run through session in Church for parent/child/ Workshop	Thurs 12 Aug 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 11 Aug 3.30pm

First Saturday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave—1st of May

Beginning with Mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary is prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. During the holy hour of Adoration, Priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Lady of Fatima asked for 5 consecutive Saturdays. To learn more about this request from Our Lady we need to learn more about Fatima flyers in the foyer.

First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave — 7th of May

Beginning with Mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary Prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. There are twelve promises given to St Margarat Alacoque about the First Friday. We need to do 9 consecutive first Fridays. There are flyers in the foyer.

Fr. Anthony Cruz