

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

**Entrance Antiphon:** Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

### A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

**Dt 18:15-20**

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Palm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9**

**(R.) If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 7:32-35**

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a man who is married and devotes himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn

two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:16**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

**Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

**Mark**

**Mk 1:21-28**

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Communion Antiphon:** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

**Next week's readings:**

**First Reading: Jb 7:1-4. 6-7**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3**

**Second Reading: 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23**

**Gospel :Mk 1:29-39**



# 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](http://pol.org.au/belgrave)  
**Email:** [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto: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](http://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	6.00pm Vigil Mass	9.00am	9.00am	10.30am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

**Change of mass time — St. Paul's Church, Monbulk, Sunday mass at 10.30am**

### Homily for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B - 31st January, 2021

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

God's authority in our daily lives is important. Who speaks for God? Do we want to listen to God? Are we interested at all in finding the meaning of life outside of ourselves? The challenges of the readings today keep pointing us outside of ourselves and toward a divine authority who wants to communicate with us but who will never force Himself upon us. The first reading today, from the Book of Deuteronomy, is really strong. God's people have told God Himself that they do not want to hear His voice directly! So God tells them that they will hear him now only through prophets. But real prophets, not the fake ones.

We may think that there is something odd in not wanting to hear God, but so often we ourselves do not want to hear God in His Word, in His Scriptures and in His Church. Yet at times, if a really strong and charismatic personality comes and is able to preach the Word of God, there are times when we listen. We are no different from the people of the time of Moses! We need prophets when we don't listen to God. We need also to listen to God's words about false prophets—for they will die!

The second reading is from the First Letter to the Corinthians. We are told that the unmarried person is able to be more concerned to listen to the Lord and to seek the Lord's will. This does not mean such an unmarried person is better than a married person or even that such an unmarried person will actually be more concerned about the things of the Lord. Our holiness and our value before the Lord is in doing the Lord's will and surely many married people are more concerned about the Lord than some unmarried. On the other hand, it is clear that an unmarried person who truly seeks the Lord is able to be more concerned solely about the things of the Lord because of the lack of spouse and children. The point, however, is always the same: listen to the Lord!

The Gospel brings us back again to this them of listening to the Lord. The people in the Gospel are totally amazed at Jesus and his power over unclean spirits. They could see that Jesus spoke as a person having authority on His own. But did the people of the Gospel follow the Lord? Not always! Even when the Word of God is right in front of us, we are still able to resist. God has given us this freedom to choose and so often we choose against God and thus also against ourselves. Let us pay attention today to the many ways that God comes into our lives. Let us seek to be faithful to the voice of the Lord as it comes to us in Scripture and in the Church. Let us pay attention to the things of God and rejoice when God sends us the strength to be faithful. Amen.

Source <https://christdesert.org/>

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:**  
**Phone:**  
**Parish Secretary:**  
**Parish Office:**  
**Sacraments :**  
**Child Safety Contacts:**  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Monbulk:**  
**Belgrave:**  
**Gembrook:**  
**Emerald:**  
**Mt. Dandenong:**

**Fr. Anthony Cruz** [anthony.cruz@cam.org.au](mailto:anthony.cruz@cam.org.au)  
**87518112.**  
**Email:** [belgrave@cam.org](mailto:belgrave@cam.org).  
**97542141**  
**belgrave@cam.org.au**  
**Maria Mc9754 5200 & Jeanette Wicks 97542759**  
**Chairperson — Andrew Jans 0419590155**  
**Rin Van Raay**  
**Marie Madden**  
**Pam Giulieri**  
**John Conway & Lisa McLean**  
**Stephen Billington & Virginia Schneiders**

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
Principal: Caroline Quinton  
Phone: 9754-4444  
Email: [cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
Principal: Michael Watt  
Phone: 9756 7201  
Email: [principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

### Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

- Record Keeping is still required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit – and must include: First Name, Last name, Contact Number, Date and Time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- Please wear a face covering at all times as we may not be able to maintain 1.5m social distance. (Children under 12 years of age are exempted from wearing masks.)
- Those who can't wear masks for lawful reason must maintain 1.5m social distance.
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

**Belgrave - 120 people      Emerald - 40 people**

**Monbulk - 60 people      Gembrook - 40 people**

**Please sign in before you enter the Church with your *name and your contact number.***

### #25 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

#### COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: Monday 18 January, Midday



The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings** All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services may open for permitted religious ceremonies.

- Religious gatherings can be held indoors or outdoors. Venues must apply the 1 person per two square metre rule to ensure people have enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance between them. There are no group limits;
- The two square metre rule can be used only if electronic record keeping is used, otherwise, the four square metre rule must apply. The square metre rule doesn't include babies under 12 months of age;
- 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 face covering at all times;
- It is not mandatory to wear a fitted face covering during worship and prayer, but if the required distance of 1.5m between persons cannot be maintained, fitted face coverings should be worn (indoors or outdoors) unless there is a lawful exemption not to do so, or for children under 12 years of age.
- Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
- Doors must remain closed to prevent public access if there is no-one available to ensure that particular number limits are maintained;
- A place of worship can have indoor or outdoor religious gatherings at the same time. Ceremonial participants other than faith leaders are included in the two square metre rule only if electronic record keeping is used. Otherwise, the four square metre rule applies;
- Places of worship can continue to be open for essential public support services. Essential public support services include food banks, help for people experiencing homelessness or other essential activities. A distance of at least 1.5 metres must be kept between people.

#### OUTDOOR RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS

- Places of worship may hold religious ceremonies outdoors; The two square metre rule must be applied to ensure everyone has enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance from each other;
- It is recommended that fitted face coverings be worn outdoors if a distance of 1.5m between persons cannot be maintained;
- Outdoor religious gatherings must be held in an outdoor space that is near to the place of worship hosting the service. This means: - a service could be held on the grounds of a place of worship or in the car park; - a public outdoor space, like a park, close to the place of worship. You may need a permit from your local council. You can find your local council using Know Your Council; - schools that want to host an outdoor religious ceremony should do so near their place of worship. For many schools this could be the school's oval or sports grounds (if, for example the school assembly hall is used for religious activities and is therefore a place of worship). Schools can find further information on advice for schools and through Catholic Education Melbourne;

## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

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

**Anniversaries:** Hella Becker, Julie Moore, Henk Koelewijn, Cees Cabret, Catherine Bernard, Frank Volta, Marie Rivalland, Anna-Maree Chia, Maria Robinson, Marinus Bissels, Rosaria Coniglione, Joseph Melia, Nella Renna, Peter Straubenmuller.

## **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: Natalie Mcdermott, 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, StepheLois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, Alida Cabret, 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 Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

### **First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave**

#### **Next Week**

Beginning with Mass at 9am. After the Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet and 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

### **First Saturday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave**

#### **Next Week**

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.

## **BAPTISM**

Let us welcome **Ruby Alleyne Sheedy** into our lively faith community as the little baby is going to receive her baptism this weekend at St. Thomas More church, Belgrave. May she receive all the blessings she needs to live and grow as a loving child of God, the Father.

### **Don Bosco Retreat Centre Lysterfield**

#### **Positions Vacant**

Three part-time casual positions available

Cook / kitchen coordinator (12 – 24 hours per week)

Part-time casual cleaner (12 – 24 hours per week)

Part-time casual gardener (approx. 6 hours per week).

Please check website for further details



### ***Need a Wheel Chair ?***

A generous lady wants to donate a wheel chair for another needy person. If you need, please call Kerry Lyons on 0433-501-763

### **Lent 2021**

If you haven't done so before now, you might like to give some thought to joining a Lenten discussion group this year— it is a faith enriching experience and gives a focus to the meaning of Lent (which starts this year on February 17th [Ash Wednesday]). **“Comfort”** - a Lenten resource from the diocese of Wollongong, is available now at the Parish office for individual or group use. Please call or email to Parish office to make your order **on or before 3rd of February.**



### **Birthday of Fr. Anthony Cruz on 2nd February**

We wish you a wonderful birthday. May God give you the courage, knowledge, good health and wisdom to continue to propagate his words to mankind.

**St. Thomas More Parishioners**

