

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

Ez 2:2-5

The people are rebellious; they shall know there will be a prophet in their midst.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122. R. v.2

(R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords. (R.)

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of his mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he shows us his mercy. (R.)

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain. (R.)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

2 Cor 12:7-10

I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia !

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 6:1-6

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Mt 11:28

Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.



Next week's readings:

First Reading: Am 7:12-15

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Second Reading: Eph 1:3-10

Gospel : Mk 6:7-13





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	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B - 4th July, 2021

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

Are we able to see the presence of God in others? Are we able to recognize that God speaks through others? Do we see and acknowledge the prophets of our own time? Today's readings call us to open our hearts, our minds and our whole being to the presence of God in others.

The first reading today is from the Prophet Ezekiel. God sends prophets to His people. We don't always like to hear the words that a prophet speaks. On the other hand, not everyone who speaks is a prophet. The Old Testament and the New both understand clearly that a true prophet must speak according to the Word of God, and not according to the words of men.

Today many claim to be prophetic, but most lack any claims to speaking the Word of God. A true prophet in our Christian tradition must reflect both the Holy Scriptures and the Church. The Prophet Ezekiel clearly speaks the same message as the other prophets and that message is always the same: faithfulness to God's word revealed in Holy Scripture, love for God, love for others, care for the needy and the oppressed.

This message of the Scriptures remains the same from the beginning to the end of the Scriptures. The message always demands that we give up our own concerns and be concerned only for God and God's message for us. The moment we begin to seek our own good, our own enrichment, our own way of thinking—then we become unfaithful to the word of God.

The second reading today is from the Second Letter to the Corinthians. Here we also listen to God's word: "I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong." We are invited to embrace the word of Jesus Christ with all our strength and all our being. When we do embrace this word of God, we shall surely suffer and know our own weaknesses. This also is a form of prophecy because the more we embrace Christ and follow His way, the more our lives speak about God and His incredible love for us. We prophesy simply by living.

The Gospel today is from Saint Mark and takes us back to the challenge of rejection. We should remember that Ezekiel told us that it does not matter if a prophet is recognized or not. What matters is that the prophet speaks the word of God. Today's Gospel points out that we can reject a true prophet simply because we don't believe that God acts in the ordinary events of our lives and in seemingly ordinary people.

God is always speaking to us: in others, in the events of our lives, in the Church, in our world. In order to understand God we must be attentive first of all to His revealed word. When that revealed Word is our whole way of living, then we begin to recognize His word in all the other realities of our lives. Today God invites us: listen to the prophets! Open your hearts and minds and beings! God loves you and wishes to speak with you. Harden not your hearts today!

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/year-b-homily-for-the-14th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-3/>

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Anthony Cruz anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
Phone: 87518112.
Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
Parish Office: 97542141
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chairperson — Andrew Jans 0419590155
Monbulk: Rin Van Raay
Belgrave: Marie Madden
Gembrook: Pam Giulieri
Emerald: John Conway & Lisa McLean
Mt. Dandenong: Stephen Billington & Virginia Schneiders

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
 Principal: Caroline Quinton
 Phone: 9754-4444
 Email: cquinton@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
www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

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

Anniversaries: Annie Philomena Jones, Joe Beekman, Cyrille Paruit. Lyn Hearnese, Tom West, Inez McLaughlin, Anne Di Nardo.

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, 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, Ingvyn 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, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

1. Places of worship must use electronic record keeping through the free Victorian Government QR Code Service. Please note, the registration sheets are available at the registration table at the church.
2. In Metropolitan Melbourne (indoors or outdoors): Permitted for up to 300 people per venue, under a density quotient of **1 person per 4 sqm applies (no group limits apply)**.
3. In Metropolitan Melbourne, face coverings must be worn by the congregation when singing indoors at all times. This will create difficulties for singing, and congregants should be encouraged to either refrain from singing, or to do so softly.
4. Face coverings must be worn by cantors or choirs indoors. They may be removed during the period of singing but must be replaced and worn otherwise.

We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave	- 80 people
Emerald	- 40 people
Gembrook	- 30 people
Monbulk	- 50 people

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.

First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave —

Beginning of 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.

First Saturday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave—

Beginning of 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.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 4th of July 2021.



This year the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council have adopted the NAIDOC theme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday – Heal Country. In Laudato Si', Pope Francis has called us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Today's Gospel is very fitting because Mark tells us of Jesus returning to his 'native place' – Nazareth – to a non-accepting, hostile reaction. Jesus had been welcomed and revered in other places, why is it that he is mocked and disregarded in his own home? "Is he not the carpenter?" the crowd called because they saw him as "without honour" and were unable to believe in him. He did not fit into their ideological view and thus did not deserve respect in their eyes.

In Australia, our own First Nations people have suffered a similar reception to Jesus in Nazareth. Their knowledge and complex cultural systems, created and honed over millennia, are often dismissed as primitive and irrelevant to our fast-paced world of today. This could not be further from the truth, particularly as we become more aware of their continued care, love, and respect for 'country', grounded in a relationship with the creator that formed independently of Western influence.

2021 marks the 250th Anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in Australia. Yet the Spirit of God was poured out onto the original inhabitants of this great Southern Land many, many thousands of years prior. God's Spirit could be heard through the singing of the birds, the cascade of the waterfall, the rustle of the wind and, most importantly, in silence.

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, a respected Ngangiwumirr Elder, artist and 2021 Senior Australian of the year explains the importance of listening and understanding the silence:

"My people today, recognise and experience in this quietness, the great Life-Giving Spirit, the Father of us all. It is easy for me to experience God's presence. When I am out hunting, when I am in the bush, among the trees, on a hill or by a billabong; these are the times when I can simply be in God's presence. My people have been so aware of Nature. It is natural that we will feel close to the Creator."

Source: <http://natsicc.org.au/2021-atsi->

House cleaning

If you need a reliable woman to clean your house, either regularly or one-off, ring **Sophie** on 0451189292.



Baptism

Let us welcome **Aiden James Millard and Kendall Anita Anne** into our faith community as they are going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave and Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook. May they be richly blessed throughout their life's, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist



St. Thomas More Church—Belgrave

First Reconciliation	Wednesday 28th July at 3.30— 4.30pm
Workshop	Monday 26th July in School Library
First Holy Eucharist	Sunday 22nd August 2pm
Workshop	Workshop 1 Wednesday 4th August in School Library. Practice Workshop— Wednesday 4th August in School Library. Practice Workshop— Wednes day 19th August in STM Church.

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

First Reconciliation	Tuesday 20th July at 3.30pm
Workshop	14th July at 3.30pm
First Holy Eucharist	7th October 6pm
Workshop	11th August at 3.30pm

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

First Reconciliation	27th July at Gembrook Church at 4.00pm
Workshop	Tuesday 13th July 3.30pm — 4.30pm in Back room of the Gembrook Church Tuesday 20th July Lesson 2 Tuesday 27th July Lesson 3