

Entrance Antiphon Ps 118:137,124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis 9:13-18

Who can comprehend the will of God? What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Phlm 9-10, 12-17

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk 14:25-33

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

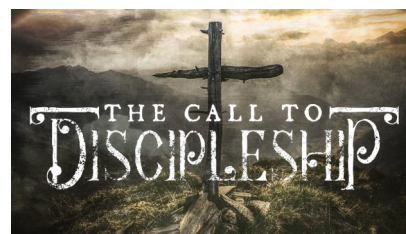
Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Jn 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.



Next week's readings

First Reading: Ex 32:7-11. 13-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 50:3-4. 12-13. 17. 19. R.

Second Reading: 1 Tm 1:12-17

Gospel: Lk 15:1-10



St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

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 &	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C - 3rd / 4th September, 2022

Today's Gospel, Luke 14:25-33, contains some of the most demanding utterances of Jesus in the New Testament. Certainly, the concluding statement, "None of you can be my disciple unless he or she gives up all possessions", is the most extreme statement on renunciation of wealth in the Gospel of Luke.

By prefacing the Gospel sequence and the warnings it contains with the passage from Wisdom the Lectionary seems to want to assert: "These extreme utterances of Jesus are nonsense to reason alone. They can only be grasped and accepted by those imbued with divine Wisdom, the gift of God". As Paul says concerning the "word of the cross" in 1 Cor 1:21-25; 2:14-15, such things are foolishness to the person operating purely on the rational level.

In a sense what Jesus is doing in the Gospel is simply being honest with his disciples. He foresees that those who follow him will inevitably become caught up in the suffering and death he now sees to lie ahead of him. It is no kindness to followers to keep them in ignorance of this. He must prick any illusions they have about where following him might lead.

Love for Mission - He does so, initially, in the strong language about "hating" one's "father, mother, wife, children, etc.". In this kind of language, we must see a Semitic idiom operative. It is not a matter of literally coming to "hate" one's family members in the way the English expression might suggest. Semitic languages, by and large, do not have a word for "prefer". When a person prefers one thing over another, he or she is said to "love" one (the thing preferred) and "hate" the other. "Hate", then, is simply an expression of rejecting something (possibly something quite good in itself) in favour of something considered more desirable. While it would be wrong to water down the strength of Jesus' prophetic utterance, what he is saying, then, is that family allegiances – so strong in the Palestinian culture of Jesus – have to take second place as far as following him is concerned. Those who adopt his mission, his commitments, and his way of life will inevitably cause some pain and sacrifice to their loved ones, who perhaps have other plans for them.

Count the Cost - Hence the need to count the cost – a process Jesus illustrates with the two parables that follow. The force of the one about the builder of the tower derives very much from the sense of societal shame that was so strong in the Palestinian culture of Jesus's day. The one about the king marching out to war draws on a mathematical calculation valid in the strategy of any age. The early Church may have particularly related these parables to the situation of persecution in which it so often found itself.

Christianity would hardly have survived beyond the first couple of generations if everyone had adopted the very radical concluding challenge about the need for a would-be disciple to give up "all possessions". The challenge has to be heard in the context of the invitation to the Kingdom central to Jesus' message. In comparison with this supreme good the losses entailed in the present conditions of discipleship find some proportion. It was consciousness of such divine generosity that led saints such as Francis of Assisi to embrace radical poverty so wholeheartedly.

Source: <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/homily-notes--23rd-sunday-in-ordinary-time--year-c>

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Chairperson — Dennis

Monbulk:

Tony Whyte and Peter van Haaster

Belgrave:

Gembrook:

Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and Samantha Willis

Emerald:

John Conway & Dennis

Mt. Dandenong:

Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

**WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH
AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.**

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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 and ongoing War in Ukraine. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Peter Lyons, Margot Green, Kathy Sta Maria, Helen Van Bergehenegouwen, Stephanie Sephanie Separovich.

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: Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Diane Kamoen, 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, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen 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, 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.

Fundraising Success

The cake stall marking Social Justice Sunday, which was held at St Thomas More, Belgrave after Mass last weekend, raised \$280. Thank you to Belgrave parishioners for your enthusiastic support.

A total of \$5463 has now been donated by our parish to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. A magnificent effort!

Social Justice Group

SAVE THE DATE

Working bee on Grand Final Day.
Saturday 24th of September 10am till 2pm.



Church Working Bee

Loads of jobs both outside and inside the church from branch cutting to cleaning out cupboards and some painting. The more the merrier and the quicker we will be with lots of hands-on-board.

Come and help make our parish look and feel well cared for.

Morning tea and lunch provided so please come for whatever time you have free.

Enquiries Maureen and Patrick Coyne 0418 585834 or 0431 483963

"Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine and world peace:

7th, 14th, 21st and 28th September

Over next four Wednesdays evenings we will hold a Candlelight Vigil including Mass, private prayer and the Rosary, offered for the end of the war in Ukraine and for peace in the world. This intention is also one of the requests of Mary the Mother of God, when she appeared in Fatima to three peasant children, several times in 1917.

"Let's not forget this ongoing war and the need of our prayers for all those involved"

Time will be strictly 7 pm – 8.15, but come for whatever time you can.

7 pm	Mass
7.30	Private prayer
7.45	Rosary
8.00	Benediction
8.15	Finish.



Everyone is invited to participate.



The Priests Retirement Foundation Appeal is on 3rd and 4th September. Your generosity to this appeal will help provide support for our retired priests in the Archdiocese. All contributions of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

The envelopes are available in the church foyer.

Dear parishioners of St. Thomas More,

We are delighted to invite you to see and purchase handmade religious articles made by the Sisters of St. Elisabeth Convent (Belarus).

The exposition will take place on the **18th September after 9.am Mass.**

Sisterhood of St. Elisabeth was founded in 1996. Our missionary began in National mental hospital located not far from the Convent. Sisters take care of mentally challenged children and adults. Life of the child with diagnoses such as Down syndrome, birth traumas or congenital physical defects may be quite short and it is painful to see them suffering. Also the adult patients need constant support owing to the fact that their illnesses make it impossible for them to adapt socially.

In the recent years a shelter and house of Labor for former drug and alcohol addicted people was organized 20 miles away from the Convent. A lot of homeless, struggling and lost people get a chance for new start in life to find the God.

In order to help these people some workshops were organized on the premises of the Convent where vulnerable people have a possibility to express themselves in art for God working together with nuns and sisters and making icons (including hand painted), crosses, crucifixes, wood carvings, embroidered and ceramic gifts, rosaries and vestments. All these goods made with love and prayer bring blessings to their owners.

We are happy and thanking God for the opportunity to introduce and offer them to you.

With Love in Christ,

Sisters of St. Elisabeth Convent

Appeal for the Unforeseen Expense

We were recently made aware that our Electrical boards in the Churches (Emerald and Belgrave) and Presbytery were no longer safe and compliant, and if we did not update these urgently, our fire insurance on both the Presbytery and Church buildings would not be covered. These were upgraded this last week to ensure we retain our full insurance coverage.

To help pay for this unforeseen extra cost, any help from any extra coins – or other - each week that you could spare, would be most helpful in helping pay of this cost. There is a collection box near the exit of the Belgrave church for this.

Or if you could provide parish office with a larger donation in relation to this work, your help in all of this would be most appreciated.

Thank you very much who had donated last week.

Fr. Anthony Cruz MC

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

For those who don't know me, my name is Josie Walsh. I have been in this parish since it was part of Ferntree Gully parish.

There are not many of us oldies left. In that time we have built four churches and two schools. Gembrook had its own church and Mt. Dandenong is no longer operating. We sent our children to the parish school even though we didn't have much money. As a parish we worked very hard at fundraising. Did you know? We have to pay \$30,000 for electricity compliance for the parish house and two churches. You may have heard of the Deanery raffle drawn about mother's day with car prizes and other prizes. For each \$2 ticket the parish received a \$1.50 return.

This year we weren't in it because no one would be responsible for distributing and returning tickets. The Mountain Doo was called off the last two years, due to COVID. What is happening this year? These two functions are the parish's major income. It is time to start now. Who will stand up and say let's get together and do this? You may not go to mass, but you send your children to the parish schools. You are a parishioner.

God bless.

From - old mother Walsh

Who was always good for a Loaf of Sandwiches.

"Flowers for St Thomas More's Church

A very big thankyou to Josie Anne Rayeroux and Elsha Scott for faithfully preparing the flowers for our church in Belgrave. Josiane has had spinal surgery and Elsha has moved into a retirement village so there is an opening for perhaps 2 persons to come and fill the gap to provide this important service to the church. The preparation can be done in your own time but usually later in the week, so flowers are fresh for Sunday Mass. No previous experience required just your willingness to add some beauty around the Altars in the church and the Chapel. Please call the office and leave a message if you would like to help."

Thank You.



Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

- Bookshop Manager - Permanent Full Time
- World Youth Day (WYD) Coordinator
- Parish Animation Consultant

Catholic Development Fund

- Account Executive, Client Services
- Events Coordinator
- Integration Engineer
- Risk & Compliance Analyst
- Relationship Manager
- Account Executive, Bunbury

Parish Positions

- Bookkeeper - St Peter Apostle Mission Parish
- Senior Pastoral Associate - St Mary's Parish Greensborough
- OSHC Program Coordinator - Hoppers Crossing Parish
- Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) Educator – Hoppers Crossing Parish
- Parish Secretary - St Dominic's Parish
- Parish Manager - St Dominic's Parish
- Parish Secretary - St Mary's Parish, Castlemaine
- Pastoral Associate - St. Clement of Rome Parish, Bulleen
- Parish Secretary – St Bernard's Parish, Belmont
- Parish Pastoral Worker - St Bernard's Parish, Belmont

Other Positions

- Accounts Assistant - 12-month contract, Faithful Companions of Jesus
- Administration Officer, Property - 12-month contract, Faithful Companions of Jesus

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at hadmin@cam.org.au

GOD OUR FATHER,
In Your wisdom and love You
have created us and called
us Your own.
Bless our fathers, that they
may be strengthened as
Christian fathers.

In moments of joy, rejoice
with them. In times of
struggle, give them Your
courage and perseverance.
Grant that we, their sons and
daughters, may honor and
appreciate them always with
a spirit of profound respect.
May the example and prayer
of St. Joseph inspire them to
live their vocation with
courage. Grant this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.



Happy Father's Day!