

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loin-cloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

Matthew Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Next week's readings

First Reading: Is 35:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

Second Reading: Jas 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11



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	

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT A - 4TH DECEMBER, 2022

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.



[Second Sunday of Advent A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://liturgyhelp.com)

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Monbulk: 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: Heinz Huber, the husband of Marilyn Huber. (Mass manager at St. Joseph's church Emerald)

- The funeral service for late Heinz Huber will be held at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave on 7th December at 11.45am. The refreshments will be served in the school hall.

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: Rosemary Pickthall, Arogya Mary, Tony Grieve, Rose Smyth, John McLaughlan, Kevin Hogan, Mark Broomhead, Teresa Findlay, Marie Russie, Georia Smith, La Croix, John Hinsburgen, David Makanani, Gerry Kogelman, Gavin Hare, Helen Gillick, Shaun Fitzmaurice, Sr. Gertrude Maria

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, Maureen Lyons, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret, 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.

- **Sick List: If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 97542141.**

Lent 2023

If you haven't done so before now, you might like to give some thought to joining a Lenten discussion group next year– it is faith enriching experience and gives a focus to the meaning of Lent (which starts next year on 22nd February [Ash Wednesday]). “**Hope**” a Lenten resource from the diocese of Wollongong, is available now at the parish office for individual or group use. Please call the office hours or email to parish office to make your order **on or before 13th December.**

Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve Mass

(Saturday 24th December)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

5.30pm Carols

6.00pm Children Mass (**Salesian Priest**)

11.00pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Joseph's Church Emerald

6.30pm (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

7.30pm Carols

8.00pm Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)



Christmas Day Mass

(Sunday 25th December)

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

9.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

Summer School of Evangelisation 2023

Date: 15– 22 January, 2023

More information visit

[Summer School of Evangelisation Melbourne \(ssemelbourne.org.au\)](http://Summer School of Evangelisation Melbourne (ssemelbourne.org.au))

Volunteers - Decorate the Church!

Volunteers needed for decorating on Saturday, December 10 after 9.00am mass at St. Thomas More church. (1 hour only) Please come and help beautify our church for Christmas.

Nativity scene

Christmas tree and other decorations...



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement in 2023.

Email: somml@bigpond.com

(preferred for contact) Tel: 9326 1895



You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

At Home

Palms' **Neighbours Without Borders** program (January 7 – 11) will **“focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church”** as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas

Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the [many requests Palms has from communities](#) in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or

0422 472 567.

“Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine and world peace:

(Every Wednesday)

Father Cruz will recommence the 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.

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 welcome to attend.



Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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

Internship Program - Expressions of Interest

Front-End Developer

Catholic Development Fund

Integration Engineer

Risk & Compliance Analyst

Parish Positions

Pastoral Worker – St Luke's, Lalor

Pastoral Worker – St Andrew's Parish, Clayton South

Pastoral Worker – St Clement of Rome Parish, Bulleen

Parish Secretary – St Dominic's Parish, Melton

Cleaner – St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully

Other Positions

Engagement & Projects Lead – Catholic Social Services (CSSV)

Retail Shop Assistant – Central Catholic Bookshop expression of interest

MAMI Officer – Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator - St Vincent's Private Hospital

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 hradmin@cam.org.au