

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 35:4-7

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145: 7-10.R.v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

A reading from the letter of St James Jas 2:1-5

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. **Alleluia,**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 7:31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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: Is 50: 5-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 114:1-6.8-9 R.v.9

Second Reading: Jas 2:14-18

Gospel : Mk 8:27-35





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

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	9.00am (on zoom)
	WEEKDAY	(on zoom)	(on zoom)	(on zoom)	

Dear Parishioners in the Lord,

Good afternoon . As the lockdown is extended further in the state of Victoria, confirmation (the third time re-scheduled to be held on 04-09-2021) stands postponed. I know that this will be frustrating for the parents and teachers alike, but we have, unfortunately, no other choice. Let us not lose our hope in the Lord and let us continue to be united with each other in prayers. The best way to conquer this toughest time of our life is to turn back to God by reading Holy Bible and pray our daily rosary without fail. Join us on zoom for daily mass and rosary. I continue to pray for your personal intentions and well-being. Stay home and be safe. May God bless us all and may the Divine Mother protect us all through her powerful intercession.

With love and prayers

Fr Anthon Cruz.



Homily for the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B—5th September, 2021

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding the dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/23rd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Phone:
 Parish Secretary:
 Parish Office:
 Sacraments :
 Child Safety Contacts:
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Mt. Dandenong:

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 Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford
 Therese Meliageary , Evert Jansen
 Mia Jansen
 Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and
 Samantha Willis
 John Conway & Dennis Griffin
 Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

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

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

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Michael Watt
 Phone: 9756 7201

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths:

Peter Lyons (94), the Father of Greg and Father in Law of Maree. Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

Anniversaries:

Margot Green, Kathy Sta Maria, Helen Van Bergehengouwien, 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: Ewa Wallis, 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 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, 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.

As of now all the Liturgical Celebrations stand suspended until we receive further information from Archdiocese of Melbourne. Parish office is closed.

Divine Worship on Zoom

Monday –Saturday: 9am Holy Mass, followed by

Holy Rosary

Saturday : 6pm Holy Mass (Vigil Mass)

Sunday : 9am Holy Mass: 5.30 pm Holy Rosary

Join the parish community on zoom in praying together as one family of God for the end the pandemic Covid-19. Zoom Link below

Topic: Father Cruz' Holy Mass and Holy Rosary on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMlZ0STY0TFRRYXJGOT09)

[pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMlZ0STY0TFRRYXJGOT09](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMlZ0STY0TFRRYXJGOT09)

Meeting ID: 750 464 5976..

Passcode: 7mJTww



#45 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated:



21 August 2021, 12:00pm

As of 1:00pm Saturday 21 August 2021, the following measures will apply Statewide across Victoria until 11:59pm Thursday 2 September, or otherwise advised.

Face masks must be worn inside and outdoors: everywhere except your own home.

• There will be 5 Reasons to leave home:

- shopping for necessary goods and services (one person per household, once per day, a support person can accompany if required; within 5km);
- caregiving or compassionate reasons;
- authorised work or permitted education, or work interstate (if you can work from home, you must work from home);
- exercise (up to two hour two hours, with one other person or members of your household; within 5km);
- receive a vaccination.

• Private and public gatherings will not be permitted: Single person bubbles will be allowed.

• **PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES:** No in-person gatherings permitted. Livestreaming and Broadcast is permitted with a total of 5 people present including technicians.

• **FUNERALS:** (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 10 people (and those necessary to conduct the funeral). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.

• **WEDDINGS:** (indoor and outdoor): Not permitted unless end of life or for deportation reasons. Involves only 5 persons (including the two persons being married, celebrant, two witnesses).

• **AGED CARE:** No visitors are permitted into aged care or other residential facility settings, except for end-of-life reasons.

• **HOSPITALS:** No visitors are permitted into health care settings, except for end-of-life reasons, as a support partner for birth, or a parent to accompany a child.

Positions Vacant

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

- **Parish Secretary, Catholic Parish of Castle maine**
- **Cook, Bayside Catholic Mission, Brighton**
- **Parish Seniors Advocate, St Xavier's Parish, Boxhill**
- **Finance Officer, Catholic Development Fund (CDF) - Part Time**

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 hrad-min@cam.org.au

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Prayers of the Faithful Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Priest: All of us are poor in the things that matter in the sight of God.

With faith in God's goodness, let us turn to him in our many needs.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For Christians: that they will strive to break down divisions between people, and so help to build a just and peaceful society. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For people of different ethnic, social or religious backgrounds in Australia: that they may feel heard and appreciated, and they will speak words of peace to one another. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all Australians: that they will not become inward looking and ignore the needs of countries close to us who are suffering more than ourselves from the pandemic. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the people of Afghanistan: that our politicians and charitable organizations will not forget them in their suffering. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in our disconnected Parish at this time: that we will listen patiently, speak kindly, see truly and act rightly towards all whom we meet. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For our own needs.....
We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. Touch our ears to receive your word and touch our mouths to proclaim our faith to the praise and glory of God the Father. Amen.

Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.



In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

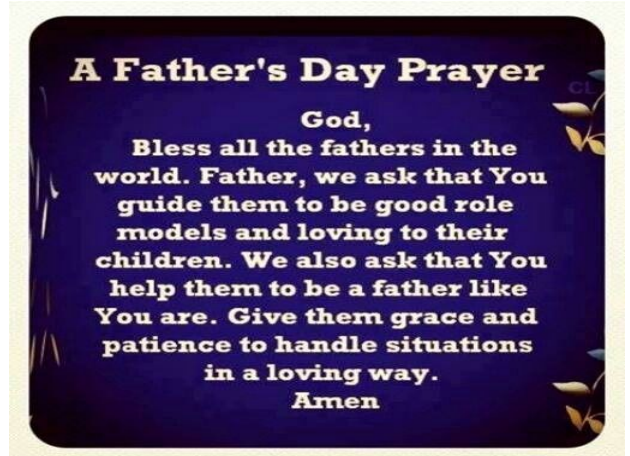
Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

Father's day Appeal

Due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions and Masses not being able to be said at Parishes, donations to the Father's Day appeal can be made through the Priests Retirement Foundation website.

Donations can be made by your Parishioners through the Priests Retirement Foundation website via debit, credit card or Paypal where the donor's details are loaded and receipts can be issued.

The site is www.cam.org.au/foundation.



ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.

This experience gives you the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living.

The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details.

We have two options: An on-line/virtual weekend: **10 -12 September 2021** or a non-residential weekend: **16 - 17 October 2021** in west Gippsland.

(Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au