

**Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 97:1-2**

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts 6:1-7**

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 32:1-2,4-5. 18-19. R.v. 22**

*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

**1 Pt 2:4-9**

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a

royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:6**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn 14:1-12**

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

**A The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn 15:1,5**

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.



# St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

The Catholic Church in the Dandenong Ranges

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](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.....*

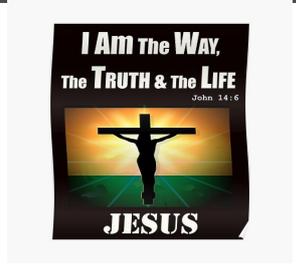
CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave 17 Terry Avenue, Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A - 6th / 7th May, 2023

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The gospel readings for the Sundays just before the feast of Pentecost are all taken from Jesus' last discourse in the Gospel of John. In them, Jesus prepares his followers for his death and resurrection and his ultimate exaltation.

This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him. Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers.



[Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://www.liturgyhelp.com)

### *The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 — Month of May*

#### For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2023>

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
 Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au  
 87518112.  
**Phone:**  
**Parish Secretary:** Mirani Perera  
**Parish Office:** 97542141  
**Sacraments :** belgrave@cam.org.au  
**Child Safety Contacts:** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
 Monica Rayner  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Chairperson — Dennis  
 Monbulk: Peter van Haaster

**Belgrave:**  
**Gembrook:** Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and Samantha Willis  
**Emerald:** Dennis  
**Mt. Dandenong:**

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

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
 Principal: Declan McDermott  
 Phone: 9754-4444  
 Email: [principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@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)

### **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Many people across the world who have died due to natural calamities ( Turkey and Syria) and ongoing War in Ukraine. May their souls rest in peace.

**Anniversaries:** Jean Ellen Williams, Carl Galloway, Louise Sullivan, Rosa & Guiseppa Frazetto, Evelyn Fraser, Frank Carville, Silvia Schnelbrieder, Kathleen Boyle, Fr. James Kierce, Koen Goederee, Gregory Pappa, Lucia Falcone, Maria Eyssens, Martha Grainger, Bob Smart.

### **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: Kaz Holt, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Aliyah Lawless, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, 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, 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, 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 Breerton, 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.**

All church properties windows and doors must be checked as being locked before event is concluded , as some doors have been found to be closed but not locked. This must not continue.

Thank you

Dennis ( Parish Pastoral Council Chairman)

### **Need your support for St. Vincent de Paul**

#### **Society Belgrave**

St. Thomas More's Vincent de Paul committee members need more food and food items to distribute for needy people in our community. The donation box is placed in the St. Thomas More's church foyer.



### **Church Volunteers**

A very big **thank you** to our church volunteers who render your valuable service to our parish church communities in various capacities.

Please enter your details in the volunteer list placed in the church foyer. If you have not submitted a copy of your working with children check, please hand over to your mass manager or parish office.

Thank You.

### **CHURCH CLEANING:**

The Parish is looking for some volunteers to vacuum the church, sacristy and entrance to the Church on a regular basis.

Ideally, if the cleaning is shared between a number of groups of volunteers, then it is not too demanding on anyone. E.G. 3 teams of 2 or 3. As the church only needs vacuuming every two weeks then each team will be rostered on every 6 weeks. If we create a roster then people can swap with someone if they are unavailable.

Job is open to all ages and everyone. E.G. A whole family is welcome to volunteer. If you think you would like to contribute to this task please call Marie Madden on 0478 434587 or Maureen Coyne on 0431 483963



### **THURSDAY MORNING TEAS:**

All parishioners are invited to join Father Cruz for morning tea on any Thursday after the 9 am Mass. Come and meet some new people.

**Maureen Coyne**



Catholic Archdioceses of Melbourne job vacancies are available on <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>



For positions vacant in Catholic education, please visit the [Catholic Education Melbourne website](#).

For positions vacant in our social services provider, CatholicCare Victoria, please visit the [CatholicCare Victoria website](#).

For positions vacant at Villa Maria Catholic Homes, please visit the website the [VMCH website](#).

### Next week's readings

**First Reading:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps.65:1-7. 16.20

**Second Reading:** 1Pt 4:13-16

**Gospel:** Jn 17:1-11

### Parish office notice

The parish office will be closed Thursday, 11th May due to parish priest and the staff will be attending for the Parish Administration Forum.

### DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers.

COME & SEE!

An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on **Saturday 3 June 2023**, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne.

For more information:

Vocations website for the Archdiocese is now available. The links below (copy, then paste) are a source of additional information.

**Watch:** Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbtTSO>

**Watch:** Pope Francis' 2020 Prayer Intention for Deacons and video

<https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY>

**Visit:** Archdiocese of Melbourne permanent diaconate webpage

<https://vocations.melbournecatholic.org/about/what-is-a-vocation/permanent-diaconate>

**Read More:** Brochure <https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate>

**Contact:** Office of the Permanent Diaconate Ph. 03 9412 3357 / Email [diaconate@cam.org.au](mailto:diaconate@cam.org.au)

**Catholic Vocations** Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia Telephone: (03) 9926 5733 Email: [vocations@cam.org.au](mailto:vocations@cam.org.au) [www.vocationmelbourne.org](http://www.vocationmelbourne.org)

*The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*



Our Parish has a long tradition of social activities which raise much needed funds for our Parish. With increasing costs and income from Mass attendance dwindling, our Parish financial situation is dire. After three years of interruption by COVID the Parish Finance Committee would like to reestablish a fundraising/social group who would investigate and implement social activities to source funds. If you are interested in either joining or chairing such a group please contact Philip Morison on 0400202797 or [pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au)

If such a group is still operating please advise Philip of such.

Similarly if you are able to increase your Thanksgiving contribution please contact Fr Cruz at the Parish Office.

We appreciate the many active participants in our Parish and do not want to diminish good work that is currently being undertaken.

**Philip Morison**

**Principal -Mount Lilydale Mercy College**

Dear parishioners,

You may have heard, I am fundraising to have the tower (Silo) beside the memorial wall painted. This is a parish project not a charity, no receipt. All I am asking for 200 people from the St. Thomas Mores and Mt. Dandenong ranges church communities to donate \$50 each before the end of May. I have communicated to Belgrave and Emerald church communities last week. I will be communicating to Gembrook church community on Sunday and Monbulk Church community next Sunday. Please forward your donations to below bank account or pay by cash directly to the respective mass managers or to the volunteers below.

Belgrave Josie Walsh and Loretta Gamley

Emerald Marilyn Huber

Gembrook Christine Borg

Monbulk Mim Van Hister

### Bendigo Bank

#### St. Thomas More Parish Belgrave

**Acct no. 153298989**

**BSB no 633000**

Thank you.

Josie Walsh

