

Third Sunday of Lent Year B

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

A reading from the book of Exodus

Ex 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R.)**

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

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

1 Cor 1:22-25

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

- **We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Next week's readings:

First Reading: 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 136. R. v.6

Second Reading: Eph 2:4-10

Gospel: Jn 3:14-21



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	6.00pm Vigil Mass	9.00am	9.00am	10.30am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Third Sunday of Lent Year B— 7th March 2021

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshippers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/third-sunday-of-lent-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Anthony Cruz anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
Phone: 87518112.
Parish Secretary: Email: belgrave@cam.org.
Parish Office: 97542141
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Maria Mc9754 5200 & 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: Lorna Giulieri, Hoe Hoang, Mary Hilder, Joe Hilder, Bill Williams, Chris Madden, Fr. Joseph Micalleg, Fr. Thomas Sheeran, Angela Casey, Mary McInley, Sr. Joyce White.

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, Lil Warner, 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, StepheLois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter 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, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Peter Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

Prayer to St Joseph

St Joseph,
You were receptive to God working in your life.
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care:
may your prayers assist our local Church
to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers:
help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity:
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:
may we be mindful of others,
particularly the elderly and vulnerable,
caring for them in these difficult
days.

You trusted in the clear primacy
of God
over all history and every situa-
tion:
help us to grow in faith and pray
to the Father, *Thy will be done.*
Amen.



BAPTISM: To arrange a Baptism in the Parish, please phone the parish office during the office hours on 97542141.



NEW! **Junior Learning Hub**
Designed with the 'Walker Learning Approach'
- a Play and Project-based Pedagogy.

SCHOOL TOURS 2021	TASTER DAYS 2021
Tuesday 2 March - 9.15am	Preschoolers with Parents Invited
Thursday 18 March - 9.15am	PUPPET PLAY - Thursday 29 April
Wednesday 21 April - 9.15am	TECHNO KIDS - Tuesday 11 May
We also welcome	MINI MASTER CHEF - Monday 17 May
tours by appointment	GARDEN GNOMES - Friday 28 May
	Sessions are 9.30am to 10.30am
	- Register via our website -

St Thomas More School
Reynolds Lane Belgrave - 9754 4444 - www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE



This week we focus on Oliva, a 22 year old from Tanzania who lives with her farmer husband, two young sons and an adopted niece and nephew.

Oliva didn't have the opportunity to go to school and was embarrassed that she couldn't read, write or count. Around 25 percent of Tanzanian girls and women over 15 years cannot read or write, with many families unable to afford school fees or uniforms. Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a classroom at home to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.

Oliva has now graduated, as have some of her students. Attendance at her classes is growing, her small business is thriving and she can help her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election. Oliva's determination and leadership truly is to be admired! A great story for us to focus on this Sunday, in the lead up to International Women's Day on March 8th.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800024413

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

1. Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
2. People must carry a fitted face covering at all times. Fitted face coverings are no longer mandatory indoors or outdoors (except in particular circumstances, note above), but should be worn by participants (unless they have a lawful exemption or are children under 12 years of age) if a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained.
3. Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
4. Doors must remain closed to prevent public access if there is no-one available to ensure that particular number limits are maintained;
5. We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave - 90 people Emerald - 40 people

Monbulk - 60 people Gembrook - 40 people

First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave

Mass at 9am. After the Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary Prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. There are twelve promises given to St Margaret 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

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

Lenten Program at St. Thomas More Belgrave

**Station of the Cross on Every Friday
at 7.00pm**

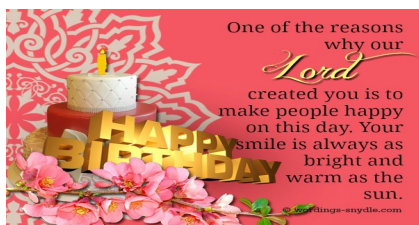
**The Sacrament of Reconciliation - Tuesday
to Saturday 9.30am —10.15am**

**Holy Hour — Tuesday to Saturday - 9.30am
to 10.15am**



Happy Birthday to Elizabeth Scott!

(6th March)



Social Justice Group New Direction

The Parish Social Justice Group will hold its first meeting of 2021 on Friday, 12th March at 2:00 pm, at St Joseph's, Emerald.

As we have discontinued our meal service at The Tin Shed in Belgrave, we are looking for a new direction.

Please join us to discuss where we will direct the parish's social justice efforts in future. If you have an idea but can't attend, please call **59683218**. Leave a message and you will receive a reply.

Dear Parishioners

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is an important part of our parish's life, and seeks to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love, values and teaching of Christ in our world. The Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, journeying with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

The PPC can be described as a body within the Church that offers leadership to the parish and a voice for parishioners. Using a model of servant leadership, the PPC embraces the example given by Jesus at the last Supper.

Membership of the PPC is for a two year term, with parishioners elected by the Parish community or co-opted by the Parish Priest. The current members have served our parish community for the past two and a half years and will be ceasing their roles at the end of this month. We are now seeking new members to replace them and provide leadership for the next two year period. Two members from each mass centre would be ideal to ensure each centre is properly represented.

Please prayerfully consider if you could serve on the PPC. The process of nomination will commence shortly. If you have any queries please feel free to contact your current PPC mass centre representative, or myself on 0419 590 155.

Andrew Jans

PPC Chairman