

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

A reading from the book of Leviticus

Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

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

1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Mark 1:40-45

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon John 3:16

God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.



Next week's readings

First reading	Genesis 9:8-15
Responsorial psalm	Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10
Second reading	1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel	Mark 1:12-15



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

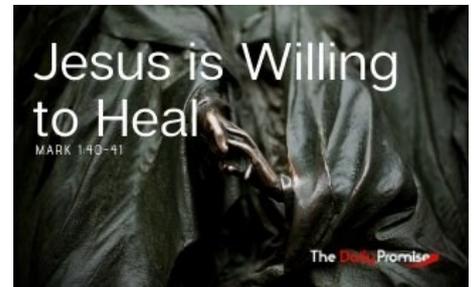
Our Parish Vision Statement:
We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....

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	

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B - 10th/11th February, 2024

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We know that we will all have to face some kind of suffering, and so we try to prepare ourselves for it. Yet when it comes, as prepared as we try to be, it can overtake us with such fury that we fall back defenceless. We look to others for support and assistance, and if we are fortunate, we find it. However, even in the most supportive of communities, suffering tends to alienate us from those who are healthy and secure. Suffering reminds us of our own finitude and the contingent nature of all of life. It threatens our sense of order.



Jesus is not deterred by human suffering. He welcomes all who approach him; his healing touch reincorporates those who have been ostracised; his loving embrace reassociates those who have been alienated. In the reign of God, there are no outsiders. All belong to Jesus, and, therefore, all belong to each other. When the one afflicted is embraced by the community, the community is an authentic manifestation of the inclusive reign of God.

In suffering we witness human vulnerability and our desperate need of each other and of God. There, at the edge of life and on the fringes of the community, we may experience the tenderness and compassion of God. The loving touch of Christ that can heal our souls, if not our bodies. It is there that we may most authentically participate in the cross of Christ. Joined to him we are anything but unproductive or worthless.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Feb11/0/RefDiBer>

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2024 — Month of February

For The Terminally Ill Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

<https://columban.org/prayerintentions>

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

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Anthony Cruz MC
Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
 87518112.
Phone:
Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
 97542141
Parish Office: belgrave@cam.org.au
Sacraments : Jeanette Wicks 97542759
Child Safety Contacts: Monica Rayner
 Chairperson — Evie
 Sue Luxford
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Monbulk: David Bhoynz
Belgrave: Evie and Irene Reed
Gembrook:
Emerald:

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
 Principal: Declan McDermott
 Phone: 9754-4444
 Email: principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au
www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Nick Frederiksen
 Phone: 9756 7201
 Email: nfrederiksen@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 natural calamities and ongoing Wars. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Ellen Regina Conway and Richard (Dick) Corrin, Stan Hilder, John Scott, John Vanderzwet, Brigitta Rovtar, Dora Klep, Katryna Hanigan, Barry Steen, Raeleen Hermann.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Vinesh Prasad, Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Stephen Billington, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper, John Barber, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Rebecca Jane Atkinson, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Pat McCarrick, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Maureen Lyons, Ingvyn Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, 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.**

Reading Roster - 11th February, 2024

Mo Comar & Marianne Kuyper

We encourage parishioners to bring Palm leaves from last year, to church on Sunday (11th February)

Ash Wednesday mass — St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave - 14th February at 9am and 7pm



Holy Week Timeline



14th February	Ash Wednesday
24th March	Palm Sunday of the passion of the Lord
28th March	Holy Thursday
29th March	Good Friday /Passion of the Lord
31st March	Easter Sunday/Resurrection
7th March	Divine Mercy Sunday

Those who would like to visit Jane Schellenbach:

Jane Schellenbach is at Martin Luther Homes in the Basin, she is in room 14 of Transition Care Program, they like people to book on-line one day in advance and to bring a current negative RAT. All details & booking info are on their website.

Fr. Cruz

God and Beer February

Topic: Catholicism at the Movies

Speaker: Jeremy Ambrose

Date: Monday 12th February

Time: 6.30pm dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk

Cost: Free (donations gratefully accepted)

Venue: Notting Hill Hotel ([Steakhouse Room](#)), 260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd, Notting Hill, VIC

Register: Godandbeer.com.au



St Thomas More Primary School

OPEN DAY

Visit us and find out more about our wonderful school!

OPEN DAYS 2024

SESSION STARTS 9.30AM TO 10.30AM

22 FEBRUARY 6 MARCH 13 MARCH
19 APRIL 8 MAY 6 AUGUST

St Thomas More Primary School Reynolds Lane, Belgrave
Ph 03 9754 4444
www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au



We are One!



SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR OPEN DAY TOUR

The Stations of the Cross

Every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave. (**From 16th February**).



For details relating to Baptisms, Marriages & Anointing of the Sick, please contact the parish office.

Baptism

Let us welcome **Ronen Joy** into our faith community. May he be richly blessed throughout his life constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.





Lent 2024

Pieta' - a Lenten resource from the diocese of Wollongong, is available now at the Parish office for individual or group use. Each book cost \$8. Only four books are left. Hurry and place your order!



Ash Wednesday - February 14th, 2024



The first day of Lent

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass. It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance.

It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening.

Recently, movements have developed that involve pastors distributing ashes to passersby in public places. This isn't considered taboo, but Catholics should know this practice is distinctly

Protestant. Catholics should still receive ashes within the context of Mass. In some cases, ashes may be delivered by a priest or a family member to those who are sick or shut-in.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Why we receive the ashes

Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told

"Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return."

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

The Ashes

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

<https://www.catholic.org/lent/ashwed.php>

St Thomas More Church Silo

All comes to those who wait! I am happy to announce after many a hurdle, false starts & setbacks the beautification of our Dandenong Ranges / St Thomas More church silo will start next week.

I would like to thank everyone for your patience and valuable donations without your support our project would never have gotten off the ground. A special thank you to our parish's family, friends and the Buddhist community. Over the next couple of weeks there will be much activity at the Belgrave Parish and I look forward to seeing the transformation!

Josie Walsh