

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR B

**Entrance Antiphon Acts of the Apostles 1:11**

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

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

**Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11**

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?  
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6**

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Ephesians 1:17-23**

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has

exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19. 20**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Mark 16:15-20**

*The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon Matthew 28:20**

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

**Next Sunday Readings**

<b>First Reading</b>	Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30
<b>Second Reading</b>	Galatians 5:16-25
<b>Gospel</b>	John 15:26-27; 16:12-15



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

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR B - 11th /12th May, 2024**

**A Mother's Day Prayer**

Loving God, You have loved us with an everlasting love (Jer 31:3) You have loved us even more as a mother loved her child. Today, we give you thanks and praise for the gift of mothers. We pray for the mothers-to-be, who are just beginning to be the bearers of new life in them, may they welcome their forthcoming child with loving anticipation and joy. We pray for the young mothers, may they cherish their child with tender care and unconditional love. We pray for the mothers who are separated from their children especially because of the COVID-19 Pandemic and because of war, poverty, conflict, violence and for any other reasons Comfort them, strengthen their hope, and let them feel your loving embrace that wipes every tear away. We pray for all Mother-figures, those who have loved, surrounded and shaped us with motherly care and compassion. We especially pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us, Their sacrifices and care gave us a glimpse of the extent of your love for us. Thank you for them. Grant health, blessings, and well-being for those our mothers who are still alive. We also remember those mothers who are no longer with us. While they live forever in our hearts and memory grant them eternal rest and reward of their labours. Amen.



**A Mother's Day Prayer – Catholic Outlook**

Today, many countries are celebrating Mothers Day. I wish to remember all mothers with gratitude and affection, entrusting them to the protection of Mary, our heavenly Mother. Let us also remember those mothers who accompany us from Heaven.

**Pope Francis**

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

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
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**Parish Office:** 97542141  
**Sacraments :** *belgrave@cam.org.au*

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 Monica Rayner

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Chairperson** Evie  
**Monbulk:** Sue Luxford  
**Belgrave:** David Bhoyzn  
**Gembrook:**

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Yvonne Hodgson and Hazel Lithgow.

Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

**Anniversaries:** Gerard Kruyer, Ross Smith, John Connor, Norman Jones, Mary Rose Cannon, Alex Steel Koen Goederee, Gregory Papa, Stephen Surman, Willem Rath.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, 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, Ingyin 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, Philis 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.**

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

### **Reading Roster — 12th May**

Elizabeth Drake and Mo Cromar

### **Church Cleaning Roster**

Chris Hadden and Sue Fitzgerald

### **Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria**

CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

Because of the generosity of our parish community, CatholicCare Victoria can continue the mission; to create transformational personal impact, and empower every individual to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Thank you for helping those in need!

## **Parish office notice**

The parish office will be closed on Thursday, 16th May due to parish priest and the staff will be attending for the Parish Administration Forum..

## ***Devotion of the five first Saturdays***

### ***St. Thomas More church Belgrave***

**MAY will always be a special month, the month that the Church dedicates to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and our mother.**

We have been blessed at the parish of St. Thomas mores to have the first Saturday devotion as requested by our Lady of Fatima.

To read more about her, there are booklets available at the church foyer.

Start with any nine days for first Saturday devotion and novena to Our Lady of Fatima.



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

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

[Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic](#)



## **Catholic Theological College**

*Sign up for one of 9 short, online sessions.*

### **Engaging Your Faith: May 2024**

*Theology, Scripture, Meditation,  
Spirituality, Science & Faith.*

Choose what interests you from \$25 per session.

For more information and to register:

[ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/](https://ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/)

## **The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2024 — Month of May**

### **For the formation of religious and seminarians**

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2024>



***Wishing all the mothers in the world a day full of happiness and joy. I pray that God will make my dearest mom happy and keep her healthy all the time. Have a very happy Mother's Day!***

Awaken gathers Catholics from around Melbourne for a dynamic and inspiring afternoon including contemporary worship, talks, workshop and hospitality.

With special guests Sam Clear & Kym Keady.

Five streams available: Adults, Youth (Year 9-12), Youth (Year 6-8), Children (Year 3-5), Children (Prep-Year 2)

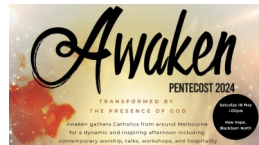
**WHEN:** Saturday 18 May 2024 1:00 PM - 5:30 PM

12:30pm: Doors open

1:00pm: Worship and opening talk

2:00pm: Workshops & afternoon tea

3:45pm: Closing talk and worship



**LOCATION:** New Hope, 3 Springfield Rd, Blackburn North VIC 3130

For more information, please visit <https://awakenmelbourne.com.au/>

Click here to register: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1212188>

**For more information of Marriage Enrichment Course, please contact Maureen Coyne on 0431483963 .**

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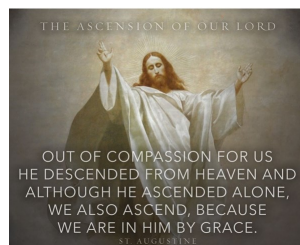
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**SCAN ME**

**CLOSING 24TH MAY!**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

The Ascension is a liturgical Solemnity celebrated by all the Christian Churches. It falls on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Augustine make reference to it, but it was



probably Saint Gregory of Nyssa who influenced the propagation of the feast.

Since it falls on Thursday, in many countries, this Solemnity is transferred to the following Sunday. With his Ascension into heaven, the presence of the “historical Christ” comes to an end, and the presence of the Body of Christ, the Church, is inaugurated. The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Mt 28: 16 -20)

**The Eleven**

The Community of disciples, who gathered the “testimonies” about the proclamation of the Gospel, was a Community that was wounded due to the absence of one of their companions, Judas. Even though it was imperfect, it was to this specific and real Community that Jesus entrusted the task of becoming witnesses of his Gospel, of his proposal of love.

**Galilee**

The text precisely states that the mission the disciples received brought them back to the beginning of their experience with Jesus: “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? (Acts 1:11, today’s First Reading). Galilee is where everything had begun. It was the place where they listened to Jesus, where the Community was formed, of daily life.

**A new way of being**

The text from Acts offers us some theological-spiritual coordinates to understand the mystery we are celebrating. The text says in Acts 1:11 that Jesus “was taken up”. It places emphasis that it was an action of God. A cloud “took him from their sight” (v. 9) recalls the image of the cloud on Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:15), the cloud above the ark of the covenant (Ex. 33:9), and lastly, the cloud on the Mount of the Transfiguration (Mk. 9:7). Jesus’s Ascension into heaven, therefore, is not a “separation” but a different way of being. He explains why the disciples were “filled with joy” (see Lk. 24:52). Because Jesus died, rose, and now ascended, the gates of Heaven are open, the gates of eternal life. The “cloud of faith” that envelops our lives today is not an obstacle, but a way through which we can have a living and true experience of Jesus, since we have the certainty that if he has risen and ascended into heaven, the same destiny awaits us, since he is the first fruit (see 1 Cor. 15:20).

**Church on the move**

We do not await the last day idly, nor do we close ourselves in our own homes. But, as Jesus reminds us, we await the last day dedicated to a mission that reaches the ends of the earth. “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:7ff). We are fortified by Jesus’s promise: “And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Mt. 28:19), where Jesus is our God, God-with-us (see Ex 3:12), Emmanuel (see Mt. 1:23; Is. 7:14). And even if the disciples’ faithfulness failed at times, God’s faithfulness towards us never fails. This is why the journey of the community and of every disciple of the Risen Jesus is always open to new perspectives and possibilities, for nothing is impossible for God.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/liturgical-holidays/solemnity-of-the-ascension-of-the-lord.html>