

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 26:7,9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel 17:22-24

I have made the small tree great.

The Lord says this: 'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

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

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mark 4:26-34

The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.' He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.' Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

John 17:11

Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me, that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.

Next Sunday Readings

First Reading	Job 38:1. 8-11
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 106:23-26. 28-31.
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Gospel	Mark 4:35-41



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	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	

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B - 15th/16th June, 2024

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

In today's Gospel, Pope Francis reminds us, Jesus 'teaches us that even everyday things ... are inhabited by God's hidden presence.'

This should encourage us. As the Pope suggests, 'with this parable Jesus wants to instil us with confidence.' We can trust that God is still mysteriously at work building His Kingdom.

After all, the Kingdom of God is already growing – even if we do not readily see it. 'At times,' the Pope says, 'the din of the world, along with the many activities that fill our days, prevent us from stopping and seeing how the Lord is conducting history.' 'The Gospel asks us to take a fresh look at ourselves and at reality,' the Pope says. He adds that 'it asks us to have bigger eyes, that are able to see further, especially beyond appearances, in order to discover the presence of God who as humble love is always at work in the soil of our life and that of history.'

We should, therefore, be open to seeing God at work in the smallest of places. But we are also called to be more than passive spectators. Jesus wants us to become cultivators of the Kingdom. While the mysterious growth of the Kingdom is the work of God, we all have a part to play in God's plan. 'It is up to us to sow,' the Pope points out, 'and to sow with love, with dedication and with patience.'



<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Jun16/0/RefNickB>

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

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Evie
Monbulk: Sue Luxford
Belgrave: David Bhoyanz
Gembrook:

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE

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Mount Lilydale Mercy College - Lilydale

Principal: Philip Morison
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Father Brendan Michael Dillon PE.

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

Anniversaries:

Jim Puls, Daniel Templer, Carol Quinn, Terry Garrick.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: John Kuyper , Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper John Barber, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Champion, 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, 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 — 16th June

Mary Anne Ferraro and Helen Garrick

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

"The Casey/Deakin Grandmothers for Refugees invite you to Lunch to enjoy fabulous food, live music raffles and fun, raising funds for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project.

Where: Emerald Senior Citizens Centre, 8 Church St. Emerald.

When: 12 noon 16th June.

Entry: By donation. Cash preferred.

Bookings: Erica 0423615662, Marilyn at mm.huber34@gmail.com

Do come along, BYO.

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2024

Month of June

For migrants fleeing their homes

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

2024 Propagation of the Faith Appeal

In Mongolia, Chuluunbaatar suffered a life-altering injury while trying to rescue a submerged vehicle, leaving him unable to work and reliant on scarce support services for basic needs. Without shelter and food, Chuluunbaatar faces the real risk of freezing to death.

Resources are limited, but the Church in Mongolia is working hard to provide essential services to people in need. We invite you to extend your generosity to help enhance these vital services. Your support can make a significant difference to the lives of many, offering hope and tangible assistance to individuals like Chuluunbaatar.

Donations can be made by online or envelopes are available in your local church.



Mission: Transform Lives theirs...and yours



Have you been considering whether an overseas professional placement with Palms is for you? Wanting to share your skills to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions while living authentically in another culture?

If you're happy for the trip, come to Palms' [Discovery information session](#) at Altona on 11 July. Meet Soraya and returned Palms participants to discover more about [Assignments Aboard](#). Alternately, please enquire at palms.org.au

Venue: Mary Help of Christians Church Hall
Address: 97 Railway St N, Altona VIC 3018
Date: Thursday 11th July 2024
Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm
0422 472 567
palms@palms.org.au



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](#)



Make Hunger History

Your compassion can help farmers like Chiquito feed their families and make hunger history.

Donate online at www.caritas.org.au/make-hunger-history



VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN

**Saturday 6 July, 10am-4pm
Carmelite Monastery, Kew**

The Vocations Office invites all men discerning a vocation to a day retreat. The day will include talks on the Priesthood and discernment as well as time for prayerful reflection.

RSVP by Wed 3 July at:
vocations@cam.org.au



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



On June 22, the Catholic Church honors the life and martyrdom of St. Thomas More, the lawyer, author and statesman who lost his life opposing King Henry VIII's plan to subordinate the Church to the English monarchy.

Thomas More was born in 1478, son of the lawyer and judge John More and his wife Agnes. He received a classical education from the age of six, and at age 13 became the protege of Archbishop John Morton, who also served an important civic role as the Lord Chancellor. Although Thomas never joined the clergy, he would eventually come to assume the position of Lord Chancellor himself.

More received a well-rounded college education at Oxford, becoming a "renaissance man" who knew several ancient and modern languages and was well-versed in mathematics, music and literature. His father, however, determined that Thomas should become a lawyer, so he withdrew his son from Oxford after two years to focus him on that career. Despite his legal and political orientation, Thomas was confused in regard joining either the Carthusian monastic order or the

Franciscans, and followed a number of ascetic and spiritual practices throughout his life – such as fasting, corporal mortification, and a regular rule of prayer – as means of growing in holiness. In 1504, however, More was elected to Parliament. He gave up his monastic ambitions, though not his disciplined spiritual life, and married Jane Colt of Essex.

They were happily married for several years and had four children together, though Jane tragically died in childbirth in 1511. Shortly after her death, More married a widow named Alice Middleton, who proved to be a devoted wife and mother. Two years earlier, in 1509, King Henry VIII had acceded to the throne. For years, the king showed fondness for Thomas, working to further his career as a public servant. He became a part of the king's inner circle, eventually overseeing the English court system as Lord Chancellor. More even authored a book published in Henry's name, defending Catholic doctrine against Martin Luther. More's eventual martyrdom would come as a consequence of Henry VIII's own tragic downfall. The king wanted an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, a marriage that Pope Clement VII declared to be valid and indissoluble. By 1532, More had resigned as Lord Chancellor, refusing to support the king's efforts to defy the Pope and control the Church.

In 1534, Henry VIII declared that every subject of the British crown would have to swear an oath affirming the validity of his new marriage to Anne Boleyn. Refusal of these demands would be regarded as treason against the state. In April of that year, a royal commission summoned Thomas to force him to take the oath affirming the King's new marriage as valid. While accepting certain portions of the act which pertained to Henry's royal line of succession, he could not accept the king's defiance of papal authority on the marriage question. More was taken from his wife and children, and imprisoned in the Tower of London. For 15 months, More's wife and several friends tried to convince him to take the oath and save his life, but he refused. In 1535, while More was imprisoned, an act of Parliament came into effect declaring Henry VIII to be "the only supreme head on earth of the Church in England," once again under penalty of treason. Members of the clergy who would not take the oath began to be executed. In June of 1535, More was finally indicted and formally tried for the crime of treason in Westminster Hall.

He was charged with opposing the king's "Act of Supremacy" in private conversations which he insisted had never occurred. But after his defense failed, and he was sentenced to death, he finally spoke out in open opposition to what he had previously opposed through silence and refusal. More explained that Henry's Act of Supremacy, was contrary "to the laws of God and his holy Church." He explained that "no temporal prince" could take away the prerogatives that belonged to St. Peter and his successors according to the words of Christ. When he was told that most of the English bishops had accepted the king's order, More replied that the saints in heaven did not accept it. On July 6, 1535, the 57-year-old More came before the executioner to be beheaded. "I die the king's good servant," he told the onlookers, "but God's first." His head was displayed on London Bridge, but later returned to his daughter Margaret who preserved it as a holy relic of her father. St. Thomas More was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1886 and canonized in 1935 by Pope Pius XI. The Academy Award-winning film "A Man For All Seasons" portrayed the events that led to his martyrdom.