

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

My soul rejoices in my God.

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

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

John

John 1:6-8. 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

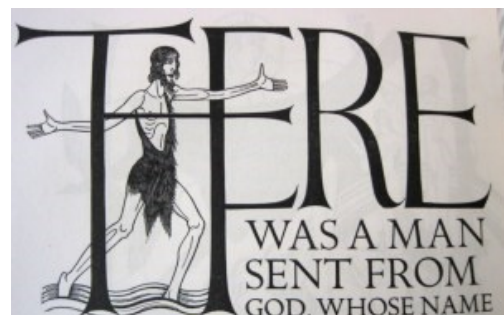
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Next week's readings

First Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

Second Reading:

Romans 16:25-27

Gospel:

Luke 1:26-38



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	

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 16th/17th December, 2023

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

This week we rejoice! This is the key theme of Gaudete Sunday, where the pink candle on the Advent wreath reminds us to find joy in Jesus. Even amid difficult times, the light of Christ will overcome the darkness.

Responding to this week's readings, Pope Francis suggests that 'joy must be the characteristic of our out faith'. Who will be drawn to follow Jesus with us if we seem to be constantly miserable? If we are a people of faith, hope, and love, then let us be faithful, hopeful, and loving – all joyful attributes!

In the opening line of his apostolic exhortation about proclaiming the Gospel, *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Pope says this: 'The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.' Like the shepherds responding to the birth of our Saviour, or the Apostles reacting to the Resurrection, the Pope reminds us that we Christians must start our journey of proclamation from a place of awe-filled, awesome joy!

Which is exactly what John the Baptist was doing. He saw himself as a voice proclaiming the Lord's approach, which was obviously good news! And now, as then, such good news is best delivered joyfully.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Dec17/0/RefNickB>



The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 —December

For persons with disabilities — *We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

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

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

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Anthony Cruz MC
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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
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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:

Father Joseph Patrick Hynan PE, John Sale, Joyce Lester, John Horton –Crundall, Brett Schmidt, Steve Tupper, Sylvia Schmuki Mueller, Evelyn Kiker.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Peter Lawrence, Stephen Billington, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper John Barber, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Champion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne 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 - 17th December

Sharon Bennett & Michael Crouch

Church cleaning

Marie Madden & David Atkinson

Please make your Thanksgiving contributions to your church via church account or scanning the QR code.

St Thomas Mores Parish Church Account

BSB: 083 347

Account: 67214 6192



Confession for Advent Season

Belgrave - Friday and Saturday after mass (9.45am – 10.30am)

23rd December 11.30am - 1.30 pm

Gembrook - 17th December - After mass (10am—11am)

Monbulk - 17th December - 10.30am—11am

Emerald — 16th December —5pm—5.50pm

St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal.

There will be a third collection this weekend to assist St. Vincent de Paul Society do their work in the community.



Christmas Crib will be on display at St. Thomas More church, from this Sunday with some additions from new parishioners. A basket for nonperishable goods for St Vincent de Paul will be available as well as a box for gift cards you may wish to purchase. This will be under the Christmas tree. These will be distributed to those families in greatest need and can be used for them to purchase items for their own families.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Today we light the third candle of advent. The candle represents **joy**. It reminds us of the joy the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.



Please see below an update to current vacant roles listed on our Melbourne Catholic website.

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: [Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic](#)

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at hadmin@cam.org.au



Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve Mass (Sunday 24th December)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

5.30pm Carols

6.00pm Children Mass (**Salesian Priest**)

11.00pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Joseph's Church Emerald

6.30pm (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

7.30pm Carols

8.00pm Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)

Christmas Day Mass (Monday 25th December)

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

9.00am (Fr. Cruz)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

Dear Members of the Belgrave Parish Community

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE relating to the PARISH

The Mass centre at the top of Mount Dandenong, St Clare's Catholic Church, has not been used as a Mass centre for quite a number of years. It was closed because the number of people attending each week was minimal and simply put, it was not practical to continue to have Masses said there. The church and surrounding grounds, however, still remain an asset of the Parish, which must be maintained, insured and kept to a building standard.

In a time when parish funds continue to dwindle and the maintenance costs of our other four Mass centres continue to rise, the Parish finance committee has taken advice and would like to proceed with the realisation of this asset so that it can generate **future funds for the benefit of the Parish**. At the moment three options are under consideration.

Option one is to enter into a long-term business (property) lease for St Clares, use the rental income to then take out a loan to build houses /flats on existing parish land in Emerald for renting to parishioners, which in turn would return a long-term income for the parish.

Option two is to use the income from the Clare's Church to help maintain our Parish.

Option three would be to sell St Clare's outright and invest the money realised to provide a future income for the Parish.

Before these options can be considered, however, the Archbishop must relegate the Church for profane use (say it can be used for non -religious purposes). The first step in seeking such a process is to demonstrate that the Parish as a whole supports the relegation.

The Parish finance committee is therefore seeking your support to undertake a process. We ask you to complete a simple survey which contains three questions:

Q1. Are you in favour of having St Clares Church **being** relegated for profane (ordinary) use

Q2. Are you in favour of a long-term lease to provide a future income for the Parish

Q3. Are you in favour of selling St Clares Church to provide an income for the Parish? This will be a longer process. You can respond to these questions via one of several ways.

Filling in the form overleaf and leave this in the collection plant during the next three sundays

OR You can complete a simple survey via a google form, [St Clares Catholic Church Parish Survey](#)

OR You can email your responses to Philip Morison at pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au

(Do you have enough time to take calls on this. - that is why have added the first option ??) You can text or ring Philip Morison on 0400202797 should you wish to give a verbal response.

We intend closing this process by **4pm on Monday 18 December 2023** and we would appreciate your support.

Thank You

Philip A Morison

On behalf of Fr. Cruz and Anthony Tesselaar (Chair of the finance committee.)