

Third Sunday of Lent Year C

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ez 36:23-26

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

A reading from the book of Exodus

Ex 3:1-8. 13-15

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this,

most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk 13:1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Jn 4:13-14

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: Jos 5:9-12

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:17-21

Gospel Lk 15:1-3. 11-32



St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
Phone: 97542141
Office Hours: 10am – 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 Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am Saturday Confession 9.45 am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Third Sunday of Lent Year C - 20th March, 2022

In today's Gospel Jesus was confronted about two issues; Pilate's brutality to the Galileans and the sad fate of eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell. The people informed Jesus of these two situations thinking that they were better off. While it was true that they were suffering oppression and injustice from the Romans, for Jesus, even those whose cause is just need conversion. One who seeks justice is not exempted from being just! But the lesson is clear; just as the fig tree is given a chance to bear fruit, all of us will be given chances to repent and bear fruit. The opportunity should be seized as soon as possible.

Jesus gives a very good lesson here. He was not saying that Pilate was blameless. Pilate was known for his cruelty. The people were challenging Jesus' position with regards to what Pilate did to His fellow Galileans. But Jesus will not be provoked. Instead, He brought the situation to a higher ground. Instead of dealing with Pilate, He turned to the people and appeal for their repentance. It is now the opportune time to change and bear fruit. Thus, He told them the parable of the barren fig tree.

The same is true with those who were killed by the fallen tower of Siloam. Jesus would not want to waste time talking about why those people suffered a tragic fate. He wanted His listeners to dwell on things which will make them bear fruit. And that is through repentance.

The parable gives the main message which is God's mercy. God wants us all to be with His family in His Kingdom. He does not anyone to be lost. Just as a shepherd will search for a lost sheep, or anyone will diligently look for a lost coin, God will also be restless without us in His fold.

This was also depicted when Jesus was asked by Peter how many times must we forgive. Jesus response of "seventy times seven" means "limitless." As long as there is an opportunity to forgive, the Christian must always take it. Repentance should always have a corresponding forgiveness. With God, it is always the case. Hopefully, it is also the case with us.

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/year-c-homily-for-the-3rd-sunday-of-lent-4>

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Monbulk: Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford
Belgrave: Evert Jansen and Mia Jansen
Gembrook: Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and Samantha Willis
Emerald: John Conway & Dennis
Mt. Dandenong: Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

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

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 Principal: Michael Watt
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

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

Anniversaries: Yvonne Mitchell, Kathleen Dawson. Peter (Goff) Martin, Thea Iaquinto, Dawn Taylor, Paul Kolemvs, Joshua Whyte, John Van Bergenhenegouwen, Maria Gawronski.

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: Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen 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, Joan Munday, 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.

Station of the Cross

Thomas More Church, Belgrave

Station of the cross on every Friday at 7pm



This week, we welcome the students and staff from St. Joseph's college for the annual Parish mass at 9am at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.

Celebrant Fr. Jim Acreman

Baptism

Let us welcome **Zoe Adeline Rubio** into our faith community as she is going to be baptized this weekend at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk. May she be richly blessed throughout her life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

Prayer for Life

Saturday 26th March 2022

Day of the Unborn Child

MASS IN REPARATION

FOR ABORTION

9.00 am at St. Patrick's Cathedral

Celebrant: Fr John Dupuche

followed by a

ROSARY PROCESSION

to the edge of the 150m zone
from the abortion centre in

Wellington Parade, (opposite Jolimont Station ramp exit)

East Melbourne to *pray and witness*

Concluding with morning tea

in the Fitzroy Gardens

Parking available off Lansdowne Street

ALL WELCOME

SPONSORED BY :

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

PO Box 2108

GLADSTONE PARK 3043

Ph: 0407 090 367

Project Compassion 2022

Third Sunday of Lent 19 & 20 March

Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, who tells stories through movements handed down over generations. With your support, Janice and the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation support the community to generate income and employment, while keeping culture alive.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



The Sacrament of Confirmation on 28th May

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave at 12pm

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk at 2pm

Celebrant: Most Rev. Bishop E.V. Tony Keren.

The parent and child workshop starts on Tuesday 26th April to 17th May at Parish office meeting room at 6.30pm. To enrol, please contact the parish office during office hours.

Tel : 97542141

email : belgrave@cam.org.au

Middle Eastern Feast

The Social Justice Group, together with Casey Grandmothers 4 Refugees, invite parishioners to a Middle Eastern Feast, to raise funds for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Centre and the Dandenong Asylum Seeker Centre.

Date: Sunday, 3rd April

Time; 1:00pm

Venue: Senior Citizens Centre, 8 Church Street, Emerald.

Bookings essential by 1st April. Ring or leave a message on 0423615662.

Cost: Donation of \$25. BYO Drinks. Live Music: Josh Lichtt. Guest Speaker: David Spittler. Raffle with great prizes.

FLOOD APPEAL – SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The floods in Queensland and New South Wales are having a devastating effect on the people living in these regions of Australia. For those wishing to support the long-term recovery work to be undertaken by St Vincent de Paul Society in Queensland and New South Wales, financial donations can be made either directly to either state through:

www.vinnies.org.au - [Flood appeal - St Vincent de Paul Society - Good Works \(vinnies.org.au\)](#)

or by calling - Queensland - (07) 3010 1000 or New South Wales – (02) 9568 0262

CARITAS AUSTRALIA – UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

The people of Ukraine are living through a crisis that will impact the country for years to come. Caritas Australia has launched an appeal to support Caritas Ukraine and other partners in the region. The appeal will support the provision of clean water, hygiene and food kits to vulnerable families, as well as safe collection centres for families on the move, emergency accommodation and support for distressed children and families.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/>