

## Second Sunday of Easter Year C

**Entrance Antiphon:** 4 Esdr 2:36-37

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

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

**Acts 5:12-16**

*The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1

*(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.*

**A reading from the book of the Apocalypse**

**Rv 1:9-13, 17-19**

*I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the

underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 20:29

**Alleluia, alleluia!** You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**  
**Jn 20:19-31**

*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Communion Antiphon :** Cf. Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



**Next week's readings:**

**First Reading:** Acts 5:27-32. 40-41

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2

**Second Reading:** Rv 5:11-14

**Gospel** Jn 21:1-14



# 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](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 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	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

### ***Homily for the Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday - 24th April, 2022***

“The Great Russian writer Dostoyevsky tells the story of a woman who found herself in hell and she felt she did not belong there. She could not bear the suffering and cried out in agony for the mercy of God. God listened and was moved with pity. “If you can remember one good deed that you did in your lifetime, I will help you.” said God. Wracking her brain, she remembered that once she had given a starving neighbour an onion. God produced the onion complete with stem. The woman grabbed the onion, and God began to pull her up and out of hell. But others, damned (condemned) with her, began to grab hold of the woman's skirts to be lifted out, too. The stem of the 'onion held and would have saved them all, but the woman began to kick and scream for them to let go. Thrashing about trying to dislodge her friends was too much for the onion and the stem snapped, plunging them all back into the depths of hell. So with us, holding on to our onion stems, our denarii of good works, we lash out jealously at those who have not done as much as we have for God” (cf. John Williams III).

The story above tells us how much we long to obtain mercy from God and how less we think about offering mercy to other people. The second Sunday of Easter is a day the Church sets aside to celebrate Divine Mercy. The Bible speaks extensively about the mercy of God and presents God as one who is merciful (Luke 3:36) and whose mercy endures forever. In the Old Testament, mercy is referred to as **Hesed**, which is “loving kindness.” In New Testament Greek the word mercy is **Eleos** and in Latin it is called **Misericordia**. In fact, mercy is a central attribute of God. Theology itself is an attempt to understand God who is love and mercy. This explains why Pope Francis declared an extraordinary jubilee year of mercy from December 8 2015 to November 20 2016 to remind the world about the importance of mercy. In his message entitled **Misericordiae Vultus** (The Face of Mercy), Pope Francis reminds everyone “Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's (God's) mercy.” Indeed, it is through mercy that God accepts us despite our sinfulness and unworthiness. We can read more about Divine Mercy from the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska which is published as a book titled, Diary: Divine Mercy in my Soul and the encyclical written by Pope John Paul II in 1980 “**Dives in Misericordia**” (Rich in Mercy).

During this season of Easter we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. But how do you reconcile resurrection and the mercy of God? If resurrection is about coming back to life, then it is closely related to mercy because the mercy of God revives us. The mission of the Church is to proclaim the mercy of God. Jesus transmitted the power of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive others' sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound” (John 20:22-23). By these words Jesus institutes the sacrament of reconciliation, giving ordained ministers the power to forgive sins and restore peace to troubled hearts in the name of Jesus, through the ministry of the Church. Peace is what we lose when we go far away from God and the same peace is what is regained when we return to him with a humble and contrite heart

We all have a special vocation to be missionaries and witnesses of the mercy of God. In the beatitudes Jesus says, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Mt 5:7), and St. James the Apostle adds, but “judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy” (Jas 2:13). We need to believe and trust in God's mercy. There are people who believe their sins are so plentiful and grievous and beyond the forgiveness of God. In his revelation to Saint Faustina Jesus says, “I have opened My Heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it. Let them approach this sea of mercy with trust” (1520).

We can approach God's throne of mercy using the words of the Psalmist in the famous Psalm 51. In the Book of Isaiah God speaks to his people saying, “Come now, let's settle this,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool” (Isaiah 1:18). Amen

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/year-c-homily-for-divine-mercy-sunday-4/>

#### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

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#### Phone:

#### Parish Secretary:

Mirani Perera

#### Parish Office:

97542141

#### Sacraments :

[belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

#### Child Safety Contacts:

Jeanette Wicks 97542759

#### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Chairperson — Dennis

#### 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.**

#### ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE

Principal: Caroline Quinton

Phone: 9754-4444

Email: [cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

[www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

#### ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK

Principal: Michael Watt

Phone: 9756 7201

Email: [principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

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

**Anniversaries:** Carl Galloway, Louise Sullivan, Rosa & Guiseppe Frazetto, Evelyn( Lauris) Fraser, Frank Carville.

**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: Jack Weir, 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.

### **Online training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

The ACU Centre for Liturgy is offering a new online training program for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Classes start April 27. For further information see our website <http://www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training> or contact the Centre on (02)9701 4751 or [CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au](mailto:CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au).

Australian Catholic University



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**W:** [www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy](http://www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy) | [www.acu.edu.au](http://www.acu.edu.au)



## **Positions Vacant**

### **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne – East Melbourne**

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

**Property Administrator** – 12 Month Parental Leave Contract

**Senior Content Producer** – (East Melbourne/ Flexible Working Arrangements)

**Creatives Officer** – (East Melbourne/ Flexible Working Arrangements)

**Digital Communications Officer** – (East Melbourne/ Flexible Working Arrangements)

**Retail Shop Assistant, St Patrick's Cathedral** – (East Melbourne/ Part time)

**Administration Assistant, St Patrick's Cathedral** – (East Melbourne/ Part time)

### **Catholic Development Fund – East Melbourne**

**Continuous Improvement Specialist** – Client Services Group

**Executive Manager, Client Experience**

### **Parish Positions**

**Pastoral Youth Worker, Parish of St Macartan's - Mornington**

**Parish Secretary, St Luke's Parish – Lalor**

**Parish Administration Coordinator, St Albans**

**Personal Secretary – Supporting the communities of St Kilda East and Balaclava**

**Funeral Coordinator, St Paul's Church – Bentleigh**

**Administration Assistant, St Ignatius & St James, Richmond**

**Pastoral Worker/ Sacrament Co-ordinator, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish - Narre Warren**

**Administration Assistant - St Ignatius and St James – Richmond**

**Parish Secretary – St Christopher Parish, Syndal**

### **Catholic Archdiocese of Sandhurst – Bendigo**

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/>

**Youth Ministry Officer, Bendigo**

### **Other roles within our Archdiocese**

**Health Care Assistant, Brigidine Sisters, Community & Residential Centers**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at [hrrad-min@cam.org.au](mailto:hrrad-min@cam.org.au)

**Divine Mercy Sunday — 24th April at St.  
Thomas More Church, Belgrave**

Celebrant: Fr. Anthony  
Cruz



- 7.45 am — 8.45am — Reconciliation. ( Two Priests are available )
- Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image at 9.00 am followed by the Holy Mass
- Exposition of the blessed sacrament
- Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Holy Rosary
- Reposition of the blessed sacrament

**(When leaving the church, please venerate the Divine Mercy image).**

*The Divine Mercy novena starts on Good Friday.*



**The Sacrament of Confirmation on 28th May**

**St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave at 12pm**

**St. Paul's Church, Monbulk at 2pm**

**Celebrant: Rev. Fr. E.V. Tony Kerin**

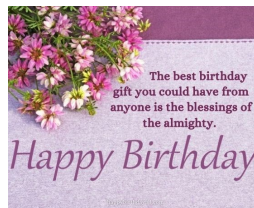
The parent and child workshop starts on Tuesday 26th April to 17th May at Parish office meeting room at 6.30pm. To enrol, please contact the parish office during office hours.

Tel : 97542141

email : [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

**Happy Birthday to**

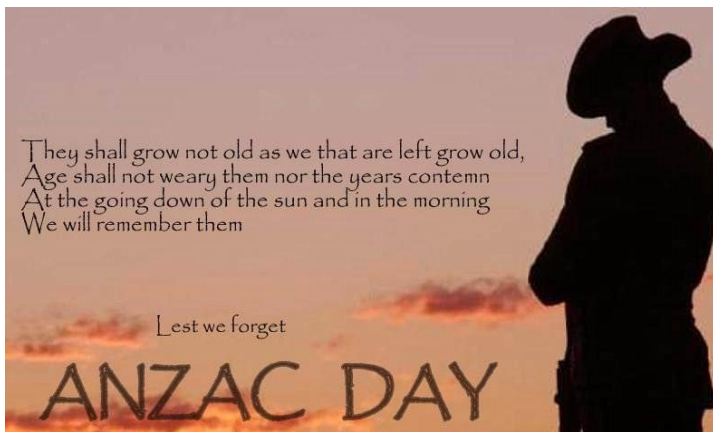
**Fay Ryan**



**Baptism**

Let us welcome **Kya Nara Schellebeck** into our faith community as she is going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. May she be richly blessed throughout her life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

**Please bring your project compassion envelopes and boxes to church this weekend mass.**



**Sacrament of First Reconciliation**

Tuesday, 14 June at 3:30-4:30pm at **St. Paul's Church, Monbulk**

**Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist**

Sunday, 14 August at 11am at **St. Paul's Church, Monbulk**

**Meditation on Jesus**

**For Healing and Wellbeing**

**Of Body & Soul**

**(Through gentle postures and breathing exercises)**

**John 15:4; "Abide in me and I in you".**

**One Day Retreat: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

**From 11am – 4pm.**

**Guided by Fr. Gilbert Carlo SVD**

**At: Janssen Spirituality Centre,**

**22 Woodvale Road, Boronia, Victoria 3155.**

**RSVP Tel: 03 9762 6625 or**

**Email: [enquiries@janssencentre.org](mailto:enquiries@janssencentre.org)**

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