

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

**Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 97:1-2**

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

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

**Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31**

**He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26**

***I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.***

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

**1 John 3:18-24**

***His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.***

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps

his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation John 15:4-5**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

**Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to**

**John**

**John 15:1-8**

***All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.***

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon John 15:1,5**

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

### Next Sunday Readings

**First Reading**

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

**Second Reading**

1 John 4:7-10

**Gospel**

John 15:9-17



# 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](http://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.....*

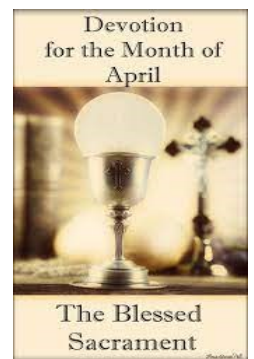
CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald- Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave 17 Terry Avenue, Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B - 27th/28th April, 2023**

**REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Today we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer.

The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, Samaria and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world. Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance.



<https://liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Apr28/0/RefDiBer>

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

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
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**87518112.**  
**Phone:** Mirani Perera  
**Parish Secretary:** 97542141  
**Parish Office:** belgrave@cam.org.au  
**Sacraments :** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
**Child Safety Contacts:** Monica Rayner

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Chairperson** Evie  
**Monbulk:** Sue Luxford

**Belgrave:** David Bhoynz  
**Gembrook:**  
**Emerald:** Evie and Irene Reed

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
 Principal: Declan McDermott  
 Phone: 9754-4444  
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**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
 Principal: Nick Frederiksen  
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**Mater Christi College—Belgrave**  
 Principal: Ms Maria Haggett  
 Phone: 9754 6611

**St Joseph's College - Ferntree Gully**  
 Principal: Ms Cathy Livingston  
 Phone: 9758 2000

## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Asuncion Langenegger, the mother of Rosamaria, Ramona and Ivan.

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

**Anniversaries:** Lee Walsh, Silvia Schnelbrieder, Frank Carville, Kathleen Boyle, Fr. James Kierce PE, Koen Goederee, Gregory Pappa, Lucia Falcone, Maria Eyssens, Martha Grainger, Bob Smart.

**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 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.**

Those who wish to visit Jane Schellenbach, please meet her at (Menarock aged care) Room no.10A Sherbrook, Upper Ferntree Gully.

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

### **Reading Rooster — 28th April**

Erica Kurek and Michael Couche

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

**For the role of women** — We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

## **Baptism**

Let us welcome **Sofia Davison, Georgia James and Matilda James** into our faith community.

May they be richly blessed throughout their lives constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.



## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

Sunday May 12 is Mother's Day and we are once again calling all makers; bakers; sewers and growers to help us have another 'craft table' day on that Sunday.

If you are in anyway able to help us stock this event with home made items for selling on that day we would be most grateful.

The need to somehow raise funds for the various needs/projects around the parish centres is never ending and this is one small way in which we can be involved.

Many thanks in advance,

**Marianne Kuyper**



CATHOLIC  
THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE



## **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/)

An advertisement for St Paul's Monbulk Prep Taster Days. It features a row of colorful crayons at the top. The text reads: 'St Paul's Monbulk TERM 2 - PREP TASTER DAYS Get ready for school with a 'taste' of St Paul's! COME ALONG!!! Invitation to: 3yo, 4yo and 5yo pre school children 9.30-10.30am Thu 2 May - BEAR HUNT Wed 15 May - MATHS MADNESS Thu 30 May - SCIENCE FAIR Wed 12 June - LET'S DANCE Please register: 9756 7201 email: office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au' The bottom of the ad features the St Paul's Catholic Primary School Monbulk logo.

**St Paul's Monbulk**  
**TERM 2 - PREP TASTER DAYS**  
Get ready for school with a 'taste' of St Paul's!  
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Please register: 9756 7201  
email: [office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)  
**St Paul's**  
Catholic Primary School  
Monbulk

## CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). As the Catholic Church's mission in action, CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Donations from our parish community help CatholicCare Victoria support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full.

**Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.** Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or call (03) 9287 5513.



## Saint of the Day for April 29

### Saint Catherine of Siena's Story

The value Catherine makes central in her short life and which sounds clearly and consistently through her experience is complete surrender to Christ. What is most impressive about her is that she learns to view her surrender to her Lord as a goal to be reached through time.

She was the 23rd child of Jacopo and Lapa Benincasa and grew up as an intelligent, cheerful, and intensely religious person. Catherine disappointed her mother by cutting off her hair as a protest against being overly encouraged to improve her appearance in order to attract a husband. Her father ordered her to be left in peace, and she was given a room of her own for prayer and meditation.

She entered the Dominican Third Order at 18 and spent the next three years in seclusion, prayer, and austerity. Gradually, a group of followers gathered around her—men and women, priests and religious. An active public apostolate grew out of her contemplative life. Her letters, mostly for spiritual instruction and encouragement of her followers, began to take more and more note of public affairs. Opposition and slander resulted from her mixing fearlessly with the world and speaking with the candor and authority of one completely committed to Christ. She was cleared of all charges at the Dominican General Chapter of 1374. Her public influence reached great heights because of her evident holiness, her membership in the Dominican Third Order, and the deep impression she made on the pope. She worked tirelessly for the crusade against the Turks and for peace between Florence and the pope.

In 1378, the Great Schism began, splitting the allegiance of Christendom between two, then three, popes and putting even saints on opposing sides. Catherine spent the last two years of her life in Rome, in prayer and pleading on behalf of the cause of Pope Urban VI and the unity of the Church. She offered herself as a victim for the Church in its agony. She died surrounded by her "children" and was canonized in 1461.

Catherine ranks high among the mystics and spiritual writers of the Church. In 1939, she and Francis of Assisi were declared co-patrons of Italy. Pope Paul VI named her and Teresa of Avila doctors of the Church in 1970. Her spiritual testament is found in The Dialogue.

### Saint Catherine of Siena is a Patron Saint of:

Europe, Fire Prevention and Italy

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-catherine-of-siena/>

### Invitation

*We the parishioners of the Catholic parish in the Dandenong Ranges are pleased to extend to you an invitation to our official blessing of the newly painted column at St. Thomas More Church on*

*Date: Sunday May 5*

*Time: 10 am*

*After the blessing morning tea will be served.*

*St. Thomas More Church*

*Terry's avenue , Belgrave*

