

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

### Entrance Antiphon Psalm 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God!

And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

### A reading from the book of Deuteronomy Deuteronomy 18:15-20

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth,  
and he will tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."' **The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

*If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks,

but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord. **The word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:16

**Alleluia, alleluia!** A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. **Alleluia!**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Mark 1:21-28

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

### Communion Antiphon Matthew 5:3-4

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

### Next week's readings

First reading Job 7:1-4. 6-7

Responsorial psalm Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

Second reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

Gospel Mark 1:29-39



# 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	

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B - 27th/28th January, 2024**

### **REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Discipleship requires a change in us. We want to change because in so many ways we are being strangled to death by demons. We are caught in dysfunction and sin; we live in the midst of the battle between good and evil, the struggle of human finitude and failure. We are plunged into the throes of human suffering and pain, and there seems to be no escape.



The demonic seduces us in more ways than we can count and we are often caught in its web before we recognise what has happened. There have always been many and varied voices that claim to have the remedy for our ills. Preachers and politicians have stirred up crowds and ignited their emotions. Promises have been made and predictions advanced, yet the conflict goes on, the demons continue to hold sway. The demon recognised the authority in the voice of Jesus. Do we recognise it?

When we are released by Jesus from the demons that possess us, we are freed from the stranglehold of evil and liberated to live far less encumbered and divided lives. No Earthly reality will possess us, neither relationships nor obligations nor even religious practices. Rather, we will be possessed by Christ who liberates us for the reign of God. Therefore, whether married or unmarried, whether in the midst of the community or at its margins, we will be able to heed the voice of God in our hearts and to recognise Jesus in our midst.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Jan28/0/RefDiBer>

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

**For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church** - Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

<https://columban.org/prayerintentions>

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

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 Chairperson — Evie  
 Sue Luxford  
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**Monbulk:** David Bhoynz  
**Belgrave:** Evie and Irene Reed  
**Gembrook:**  
**Emerald:**

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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:** Robert Drake, Hella Becker, Julie Moore, Henk Koelewijn, Cees Cabret, Catherine Bernard, Frank Volta, Marie Rivalland, Anna-Maree Chia, Maria Robinson, Marinus Bissels, Rosaria Coniglione, Joseph Melia, Nella Renna, Peter Straubenmuller.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Ronald Mackrodt, Kaz Lyons, Gwenda Lyons, Frank Stoneman Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Stephen Billington, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper John Barber, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, 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 - 28th January

**Maryanne Ferraro & Michael Crouch**

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



14th February	Ash Wednesday
24th March	Palm Sunday of the passion of the Lord
28th March	Holy Thursday
29th March	Good Friday /Passion of the Lord
31st March	Easter Sunday/Resurrection
7th March	Divine Mercy Sunday

### **The Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave. **( From 16th February).**

## ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES DAY MASS - SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2024

For some years now, the Order of Malta has organised an annual Lourdes Day Mass to provide an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm particularly for those who would not otherwise have the possibility of visiting Lourdes.

The Mass will take place again on **Saturday, 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral**, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant.

### **God and Beer February**

**Topic:** Catholicism at the Movies

**Speaker:** Jeremy Ambrose

**Date:** Monday 12th February

**Time:** 6.30pm dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk

**Cost:** Free (donations gratefully accepted)

**Venue:** Notting Hill Hotel ([Steakhouse Room](#)), 260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd, Notting Hill, VIC

**Register:** [Godandbeer.com.au](http://Godandbeer.com.au)

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### **Baptism**

Let us welcome **Matteo Brooklyn Biondo** into our faith community. May he be richly blessed throughout his life constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.



**We encourage parishioners to bring Palm leaves from last year, to church on Sunday ( 4h and 11th February)**

Ash Wednesday mass — St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave - 14th February at 9am and 7pm

## **2 February: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

February: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Also known as Candlemas, this feast commemorates three distinct but related historical events in the life of the Holy Family. It marks the day when Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem, exactly 40 days after his birth. The Mosaic Law required them to consecrate their firstborn son to God (Exodus 13). Additionally, the law required Mary to submit to ritual purification forty days after childbirth (Leviticus 12:2-8). The ritual involved making a sacrificial offering in the temple. The Gospel of Luke tells us that as Mary and Joseph were poor, they took the option provided for those who could not afford a lamb, sacrificing “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons” (Luke 2:22-24). Neither Mary (perfectly pure and conceived without sin) nor Jesus (God himself) were in need of being purified and consecrated to God; however, they submitted themselves in perfect obedience to God and to the Law of Moses. Our current church calendar focuses this day on the Presentation but in previous eras the Church highlighted the Purification of Mary. (There also used to be a Church custom of “churching” or blessing women forty days after childbirth. It reintroduced the woman to society after her period of recovery at home. Today, churching has disappeared as a custom and now blessing of the mother takes place at the baby’s baptism ceremony.) Today’s feast also commemorates the encounter in the temple between the Holy Family and Saint Simeon the prophet and Saint Anna the prophetess. This is the third and final infancy epiphany of Jesus (the first was to the Hebrew shepherds; the second to the Gentile kings; this third one to the elders of the Israelites). The next epiphany in the life of Jesus will be to the public, at his Baptism in the Jordan. Today’s feast is known by the title Candlemas because of the words of Saint Simeon when he met the child Jesus in the temple: “For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:30-32). Jesus is the Light of the World, the Messiah who has come not just for the Jew but the gentile; not just the righteous, but the sinner. On this feast day, the Church blesses candles for use throughout the year (this has been a church tradition at least since the seventh century). Traditionally, families also bring their own candles to church to be blessed on this feast. The candles represent the fact that the light of the world is here; the light is coming into a dark world as the Church calendar progresses towards the brightness of Easter.

### **Ideas for celebrating this feast day:**

- Go to mass and bring a stack of candles to be blessed for use over the next year! Prince of Peace has mass and blessing of the candles at 8:30am and 7pm on 2 February.
- If you are unable to go to mass, do a family Candlemas procession and prayer at home. Instructions here.
- Candlemas is known in France as “crepe day”. Make savory crepes for dinner (use whole wheat flour and fill them with ham, cheese, etc.) and sweet crepes for dessert (use white flour and top them with fruit, chocolate, whipped cream).
- A Candlemas tradition is to spend the day without electric lights – or at least to eat dinner only by candlelight (using your blessed candles!)

Say a family rosary by candlelight; the Presentation in the Temple is one of the Joyful Mysteries.

Meditate on the constant fiat of Our Lady of Sorrows, who embraced the will of God even as Simeon predicted that a sword would pierce her heart.

If you haven’t taken down your Christmas decorations yet, today’s the day! Candlemas marks the very end of the liturgical season of Christmas.

Read this article to learn about the connection between Candlemas and Groundhog Day.

**Read Fr. Butler’s article: The Purification, Commonly called Candlemas-Day and Pope St. JP II’s article: Presentation Prefigures the Cross.**

*(Sources: catholicculture.org; Catholic All Year Compendium by K. Tierney; Catholicstraightanswers.com)*

## **Prayer for our country Australia**

Almighty Father, we thank you for this beautiful country Australia. We praise you for its diversity in people, cultures, traditions, religions, and resources. Abba Father, thank you for all the good that has happened in this great land. We ask for your forgiveness for all the sins committed in this country. Jesus Master, wash in your most Holy Precious Blood all the people living in Australia. Most Holy Spirit, enlighten us with the light of the Gospel, establish the kingdom of love and inspire vocations. Set this nation free from all forms of impurity and evil.

Mary Help of Christians, intercede for the youth and all citizens of this nation that they may strive daily to become true disciples of Jesus. St. Mary McKillop and all the Angels and Saints in heaven please join us in prayer for our beloved country Australia. All glory, honour and worship be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever Amen. ( 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

### **Anonymous**

## **Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine, plea for Peace in the Middle East and world peace**

Let’s redouble our prayers for a resolution for the Ukraine conflict and plea for Peace in the Middle East. The candlelight vigil returns next Wednesday, ( 7th February ) being the first Wednesday of the Month.

### **7 pm Mass**

### **7.30pm Private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament**

### **7.45pm Rosary.**

### **8.05pm Benediction.**

### **8.15pm Finish.**

