

**Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 48:20**

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

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

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

*The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-4.**

*The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.*

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

**1 John 4:7-10**

**God is love.**

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the

sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation John 14:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John John 15:9-17**

*No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon John 14:15-16**

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

**Next Sunday Readings**

<b>First Reading</b>	Acts 1:1-11
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6
<b>Second Reading</b>	Ephesians 1:17-23
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 16:15-20



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

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B - 4th/5th May, 2024

### REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Jesus' command to 'love one another' is given twice in this short passage. As such, it needs to be taken seriously and become the guiding principle in our daily lives. But, as Pope Francis once said, expressing Christian love means going beyond 'words, words, words'.

'First and foremost,' the Pope points out, 'it is important to realise that Christ's love is not a superficial feeling.' In this Gospel passage Jesus was not telling his disciples to be unflappably polite or overtly nice to each other. This was not a message about social conventions. Jesus is concerned with our attitude toward others, and those actions that flow from it. 'Love,' as the Pope points out, 'is fulfilled in everyday life, in attitudes, in deeds.'

As the Pope has repeatedly stressed, loving another person often requires us to challenge our own attitudes. We are called to love everyone, with openness to, as the Pope puts it, 'however they may be and whatever their situation.'

While sometimes hard, this is our Christian duty: We are called to love in response to being loved.

Which means it is not our place to judge or put conditions on the love we receive and share. 'To love as the Lord loves us,' the Pope says, 'means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be.'

Jesus said:  
"If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love"  
John 15:10 NIV

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024May05/0/RefNickB>

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

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
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**Parish Secretary:** Mirani Perera  
**Parish Office:** 97542141  
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Monica Rayner

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Chairperson** Evie  
**Monbulk:** Sue Luxford  
**Belgrave:** David Bhoyanz  
**Gembrook:**

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
Principal: Declan McDermott  
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**Mount Lilydale Mercy College - Lilydale**  
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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:** Jean Ellen Williams, Carl Galloway, Louise Sullivan, Rosa & Guisepe Frazetto, Evelyn Fraser, Frank Carville, Silvia Schnelbrieder, Kathleen Boyle, Fr. James Kierce, 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 Campion, 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 — 5th May**

Sharon Bennett and Mary Anne

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:



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

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

**For the formation of religious and seminarians**  
We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2024>

### **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**

### **Baptism**

Let us welcome **Zayn Montanez and Remy Duiv-  
envoorden** into our faith community. May they be richly blessed throughout their lives constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.



### **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/)

### **God and Beer May**

**Topic:** The Biekie Priest

**Speaker:** Fr Geoff McIlroy

**Date:** Monday 13th May

**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](https://godandbeer.com.au)

## CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August).

CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your generous donation will help the most vulnerable members of our community – those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

**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.

### 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*

### Devotion of the five first Saturdays

#### St. Thomas More church Belgrave

**MAY will always be a special month, the month that the Church dedicates to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and our mother.**

We have been blessed at the parish of St. Thomas more to have the first Saturday devotion as requested by our Lady of Fatima.

To read more about her, there are booklets available at the church foyer.

Start with any nine days for first Saturday devotion and novena to Our Lady of Fatima.



The month is just the right time to renew the love that all of us who are baptised ought to profess for the woman whom God chose — from eternity — to be the earthly mother of his Son, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh for the redemption of the human race.

How can we not turn our gaze toward her, who looks at us with sweetness and compassion. It's no coincidence that the Son of God wanted to grow up in the warmth of a mother like Mary and receive her loving care.

Let's live this month ever close to Mary

In the plan of salvation, the Blessed Virgin Mary holds a special place.

By virtue of her role to be the mother of the Son of God by divine election, she was conceived immaculately — without the stain of original sin — and by fidelity to her son, she has been crowned queen of heaven and earth.

Everything Mary said and did leads to Christ.

Who knows a child better than a mother?

What good and noble child does not know his or her mother or love her with all his or her heart?

You would have to be a little or very foolish not to let yourself be embraced by that loving mother whom Jesus gave us.

Consequently, how could we not dedicate some time to get to know her better and improve our relationship with her, who knew and loved Jesus like no one else on earth?

And, let us not forget — she loves each of her children, human beings, with similar affection and tenderness.

The Church, in her wisdom, asks her children to be especially devoted to Mother Mary during this month and to be particularly grateful for all of her care.

#### A model for every Christian

Another aspect to consider and meditate on is that Mary, the most humble of all women, is a model for everyone, today, in the here and now.

She is a model in a particular way for each woman, as expressed by Pope Francis.

"There is only one model for you, Mary – the woman of fidelity, the one who did not understand what was happening to her but obeyed. The one who, as soon as she knew what her cousin needed took off (to help her), the Virgin of Promptness. The one who escaped as a refugee in a foreign country to save the life of her son," Pope Francis said during an April 2014 message to 20,000 young people gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a regional youth day.

#### The first disciple

Years later, during an August 24, 2021, catechesis, Pope Francis called Mary "the first disciple of Jesus" and reminded us that "Mary is there, praying for us, praying for those who do not pray. Why? Because she is our mother."

The Virgin, through Jesus, has brought heaven closer to us and her life is the best proof that it is possible to reach it.

Pope Francis said it best at the Angelus address on the solemnity of the Assumption, August 15, 2022: "She shows us that heaven is within reach, if we too do not give in to sin, we praise God with humility and we serve others with generosity".

A holy month of May for everyone to walk hand in hand with Mary.

<https://catholicleader.com.au/life/faith/may-is-the-month-dedicated-to-our-spiritual-mother-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>