

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon

4 Esdras 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 of the Apostles 4:32-35

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

A reading from the first letter of St John

1 John 5:1-6

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

John

John 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 John 20:27

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

Next Sunday Readings

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

Second Reading

1 John 2:1-5

Gospel

Luke 24:35-48



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

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	

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B - 6TH/7TH APRIL, 2024

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'In reality,' Pope Francis points out, 'Thomas is not the only one who struggles to believe. In fact,' the Pope adds, 'he represents all of us a little bit.'

But Thomas does not only represent us with his explicitly articulated doubt. Rather, Thomas highlights our tendency to walk away. Thomas had absented himself from the community. Returning, he seems a touch transactional: Show me the proof, then I'll commit! As Pope Francis highlights, Jesus answers Thomas' doubt 'in front of everyone, in the community.' It was, the Pope suggests, as if Jesus was telling Thomas that 'if you want to meet me, do not search far away; remain in our community, with the others, and don't go away. Pray with them. Break bread with them.' Be open to encounter, not closed to possibilities. This, evidently, is a lesson for us too. Every Christian generation is called to find the Risen Christ together. We belong with each other, with Christ forming a mystical unity out of our diversity. In this, the story of Thomas has another lesson for the Church. We Christians are called to be a welcoming people. 'Let us ask ourselves,' the Pope suggests, 'if in the name of Jesus' wounds, we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy but welcoming everyone.' After all, despite his attitude Thomas was still included and welcomed by the community whose testimony he doubted. Even more pointedly, Our Lord opens his exchange with the doubter with some clearly welcoming words: 'Peace be with you.'



MONTH OF APRIL
A month dedicated to the Holy Spirit & the Blessed Sacrament

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.

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

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

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Sue Luxford

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Monbulk:

Belgrave:
Gembrook:

Emerald:
David Bhoynz

Evie and Irene Reed

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Kristina Clark.

Lynette Burger, the wife of Jack Burger and the mother of Maree, Damien, Leon and Sofie.

- **Funeral mass for late Lynette Burger will be held on Tuesday, 9th April at St. Thomas More church Belgrave at 12 noon.**

Irene Rosemary Ryan, the wife of late Kevin Thomas, the mother of Louise (dec), Gwendolyn, Mary, Helen, Philip, Stephen, Nichola, Thomas and Vincent.

- **Funeral mass for late Irene Ryan will be on Wednesday, 10th April at Sacred Heart church Gembrook at 10.30am.**

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

Anniversaries:

Laurie Webber, Betty Cuttriss, Margaret Meerabach, Arie de Wit, Frank Collins, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Jim McCart, Abraham Schellenbach, Toos Kuyper, Rosemary Fidge, Zdena Simek, Nick Thomas, Aida Parente, Joanne Sauer, Lee Walsh, Jim Aitken, Joe & Giuseppina Lamendola.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Vinesh Prasad, 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, Ingyn 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.**

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

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

Thank You!

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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 caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours

Have you been considering whether an overseas professional placement with Palms is for you? Wanting to share your skills with communities in the Pacific, Asia or Africa to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty?

Come to Palms' [Discovery information session](#) at Sacred Heart Oakleigh on 22 April . Meet our director Soraya and former Palms participants to find out more about [Assignments Aboard](#).

Venue: Sacred Heart PRIMARY School
Address: 2 Mora Ave, Oakleigh
Date: Monday 22nd April 2024
Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

02 9560 5333
palms@palms.org.au



Divine Mercy Sunday - 7th April

14 Amazing Promises Jesus Made to Those who Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet: How often do you pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet? It's very powerful! The Divine Mercy Chaplet was presented to Saint Faustina in 1935 during a private revelation. Jesus asks that we meditate upon His Passion at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is an especially powerful way to do so.



Reasons to Pray

Our Lord also made promises to those who pray his Divine Mercy Chaplet. How amazing! Here are the 14 promises Jesus made to those who pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet:

- (1) "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image (of Divine Mercy) will not perish. I also promise victory over one's enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 48)
- (2) "The two rays denote Blood and Water... These two rays issued from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father... I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy... whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 299-300)
- (3) "I desire that the Feast of Mercy... be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter... The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion (in a state of grace on this day) shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 699)
- (4) "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 687)
- (5) "Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy... I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 687)
- (6) "The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 754)
- (7) "Souls who spread the honor of My mercy... at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 1075)
- (8) "The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion for sinners. Know, my daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 1397)
- (9) "My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 1485)
- (10) "To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 1521)
- (11) "Through this chaplet, you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 1731)
- (12) "When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 1541)
- (13) "When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as a just Judge but as a merciful Savior." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 1541)
- (14) "At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony... I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion." (Diary of Saint Faustina, 1320)

<https://msf-america.org/blog/364-14-promises>

God and Beer April

Topic: Divine and Human Fatherhood

Speaker: Brendan Triffet

Date: Monday 15th April

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