

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 35:4-7

***Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the
tongues of the dumb speak.***

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

Praise the Lord, my soul!

A reading from the letter of St James

James 2:1-5

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different

standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. **Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

Mark

Mark 7:31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

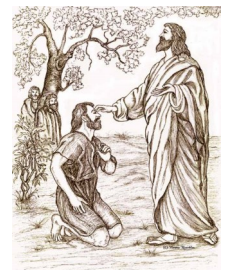
Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

John 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.



Next Sunday Readings

First Reading
-9

Isaiah 50:5

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9

Second Reading

James 2:14-18

Gospel

Mark 8:27-35



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	

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B - 7th/8th September, 2024

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis draws our attention to an interesting aspect of today's Gospel passage. 'The first thing Jesus does,' the Pope notes, 'is take the man far from the crowd.'

The Pope suggests that in doing so Jesus 'doesn't want to publicise this deed he intends to carry out.' Jesus avoids turning the incident into a self-promotion exercise. His focus remains on the man concerned.

On another occasion, the Pope says that this incident shows that Jesus 'does not want to impress people; He is not seeking popularity or success, but wishes only to do good to people. With this attitude, He teaches us that good is to be done without clamour, without ostentation.' 'The lesson we can take from this episode,' the Pope affirms, 'is that God is not closed in on himself, but instead he opens himself and places himself in communication with humanity.' With that in mind, we can reflect on what it means for us. 'Jesus revealed to us the secret of a miracle that we too can imitate,' the Pope suggests. By 'becoming protagonists of "Ephphatha"' we can be the ones who open the world to Jesus. We should always be conscious of the needs of others. In doing so, we might just open their hearts and minds to Jesus.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Sep08/0/RefNickB>



The Pope's Monthly Intention for the month of September

For the Cry of the Earth - "Let us pray that each of us hears with the heart the cry of the Earth and victims of natural disasters and climate change, personally committing to care for the world we inhabit."

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

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Anthony Cruz MC
Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
Phone: 87518112.

Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
Parish Office: 97542141
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au

Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
 Monica Rayner

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

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
 Principal: Declan McDermott
 Phone: 9754-4444
 Email: principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Nick Frederiksen
 Phone: 9756 7201
 Email: nfrederiksen@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

Mater Christi College - Belgrave
 Principal: Ms Maria Hagggett
 Phone: 9754 6611 Email: mcc@materchristi.edu.au

St Joseph's College - Ferntree Gully
 Principal: Ms Cathy Livingston
 Phone: 9758 2000 Email: info@stjosephs.com.au

Mount Lilydale Mercy College - Lilydale
 Principal: Philip Morison
 Phone: (03) 9735 4022 E mail: pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Glendon (Glen) Butler, wife of Jean and father of Michelle and Jannine.

- **The funeral mass for late Glen Butler will be on Tuesday 10th September at 10.30am at Sacred Heart Church Gembrook. Followed by burial at Springvale cemetery at 2pm.**

Many people across the world who have died due to Covid-19, wars, civil restlessness and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries:

Queen Elizabeth II, Francisca Beekman, Irene Bryan, John Kennedy, David Scamel, Carmel McDonnell, Ruth Pain, Margaret Kravacek, Peter Damen, Danni Petronelli, Thomas Williams, Fran Deering, Easter Deering, Christel Lang, Bartoli Pepi, Shaun Griffith, Mosing, Francis Lyons, Sharon Hulley.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Patricia Grant, Kate Joy star, John Kuyper, Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper, John Barber, Dimuthu, 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, 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.**

Belgrave church reading roster 8th September

Maureen Coyne and Patrick Coyne

Next week — 15 September

Helen Garrick & Robert Quirk



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](#)



To Contribute Financially to St. Thomas More Parish

Church Name: St Thomas Mores Parish Church Account
BSB: 083 347, Account: 67214 6192

Prayer for the Parish

(To be prayed at the end of the mass before the recessional Hymn)

Loving God,

We ask you to pour out your spirit upon our parish

And grant us a new vision of your kingdom,

a new faithfulness to your Word,

a new consecration to your service,

that we may become a growing community of disciples,

that seeks to bring your word to the world,

through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on us.

St. Joseph, Pray for us.

St. Paul, Pray for us.

St. Claire, Pray for us.

St. Thomas more, Pray for us.



St. Joseph's Church Emerald

Raffle winners

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1st Prize | Fr. Cruz (6 Wine Bottles) |
| 2nd Prize | Michael Apps (\$30 Emerald fruit Barn Voucher) |
| 3rd Prize | Annette Hood (\$30 Laughing Fox Cake Voucher) |
| 4th Prize | Evie Czarnecki (Rice Cooker) |
| Other prizes | Irene Reed (Chocolates) |

We raised \$302. Thanks to everyone who purchased the raffle tickets.



Have you been Encountered?

A Marriage Encounter weekend is for you

Come along to your special weekend:

Where: St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South

When: October 4 – 6th 2024

(Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday ~ 4:30pm.)

Accommodation and meals are provided)

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

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK - bringing to your kind attention to all the Leaders of Parish Group and Ministry. (Mass Managers, Parish council members, Parish Finance Committee members, Social Justice group, Lectors, Money collectors and counters, Sacramental Coordinator, Musicians, Choir members, visitation group, Special communion ministers, Working bee organizing committee members, Vincent de Paul Committee members, Garden maintain volunteers, Child Safety Committee members, Alter decorators, Cleaners, and other Volunteers...) Make sure that all your members have a Valid Working With Children Check. Please contact parish office on 97542141 or email to belgrave@cam.org.au.

Special thanks for the volunteers who have already submitted the copy of a Working With Children Card to the parish office.

The month of September is dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Why is Mary called Our Lady of Sorrows?

We celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows on September 15th. It commemorates the profound union of heart that existed between the Mother of the Redeemer and the Savior, through which she experienced many interior sorrows as a consequence of His Mission, but particularly during His Passion and Death.

To pray and learn about her, the flyers are available in the Belgrave church foyer.



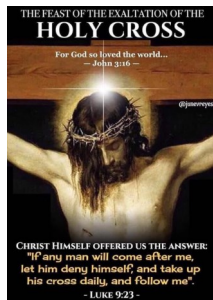
Upcoming Feasts & Solemnizes

- 12th September** The Most Holy name of Mary
- 13th September** St. John Chrysostom
- 14th September** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14th September

On 13 September 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (also called the Church of the Resurrection) was dedicated. The following day, the cross that Empress Helena had discovered on 14 September 320, was venerated in a solemn ceremony. In 614, the Persian King, Chosroes II, waged war on the Romans. After conquering Jerusalem, he confiscated many treasures, among which was the Cross of Jesus. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius initiated peace negotiations, but



was rejected. He then waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution of the Cross, which then returned to Jerusalem. Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: "Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!" (Pope Francis)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.' For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (Jn 3:13-17).

Stop turning in on ourselves

"Being Christian", Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event". The Gospel the liturgy offers us on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross suggests that God wants to enter into a relationship of love with everyone. This is offered in His Son, Jesus, lifted up on the Cross. Lifting up our gaze to God expresses a very important truth: we are invited to enter back into relationship with Him. We need to stop turning in on ourselves, uselessly nurturing a sense of guilt and forgetting that "in whatever our hearts condemn, God is greater than our hearts" (1 Jn 3:20). Let us lift up our eyes toward the stars (remember Abraham and the promise of many descendants), knowing how to cast every worry onto God.

There is no neutrality regarding the Cross

We cannot remain neutral regarding the Cross of Jesus. Either we are with Him or we are against Him. A choice is made before every action, for the actions of a Christian are none other than the testimony of how "God has love us so much that he gave His only Son, Jesus".

Prayers

*Most High glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart.
Grant me an upright faith,
secure hope and perfect charity.
Fill me with understanding and knowledge
that I may fulfill your command. Amen.*
(prayer of Saint Francis before the Crucifix of San Damiano)
*We adore you,
Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches
throughout the whole world,
and we bless you,
for by your holy cross you
have redeemed the world.*
(Saint Francis of Assisi)