

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 Ezekiel

Ezekiel 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Romans 13:8-10**

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Matthew 18:15-20**

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

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 week’s readings

- First Reading:** Sirach 27:30 – 28:7
- Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8
- Second Reading:** Romans 14:7-9
- Gospel:** Matthew 18:21-35





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 (From January 2024, the Vigil mass will be at 5pm)	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	10.15am (Wednesday)

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 9th/10th September, 2023

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

It is difficult for leaders to call people to accountability. Such is the unenviable responsibility of pastors in the parish, coordinators of religious education, members of the parish council, principals in the school, directors of liturgical ministry, to name but a few. Disciples must also engage in the very difficult process of reconciliation. Differences of opinion, misunderstandings, and actual offences tend to alienate people. We see this happen in families, neighbourhoods, parish communities, workplaces. It is not enough to say that we must try to forgive from our hearts. The process of reconciliation requires significant movement toward the admission of guilt as well. Both the one offended and the offender must be willing to be transformed.



Gathering two or three together in prayerful collaboration is not as easy as it sounds. If collaboration is to be effective, we have to be open and honest about our opinions and our biases, and respectful of the opinions and biases of others. We must work for the common good and not merely for what we personally think is best. We must be willing to accept and implement decisions with which we may not totally agree, and we must live with them gracefully. All of this calls for unselfish love. Love fulfils the entire law only: when we honour our personal commitments and the personal commitments of others; when we value the life, dignity and reputation of others; and when we respect their possessions. It is only because love is so demanding that it covers all of our responsibilities.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 — Month of September

For people living on the margins — We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2023>

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Anthony Cruz MC
 Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
 87518112.
Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
 97542141
 belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
 Monica Rayner
 Chairperson — Dennis
 Sue Luxford

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Monbulk:
 Belgrave: David Bhoynz
 Gembrook:
 Emerald: Evie
 and Irene Reed

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

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

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Michael Watt
 Phone: 9756 7201
 Email: principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths:

Many people across the world who have died due to natural calamities and ongoing War in Ukraine. 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: Helen Bye, Peter Lawrence, 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, Margaret Gilhooly, 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.**

Church Cleaning Roster - 10th September

Lyn Burger and Bob Fitzsimon



Dear Parents,

At last we are getting back to giving your children the opportunity for Children's Liturgy during 9am mass. Please meet me after mass (17th September) at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave. We can discuss what you want and expect for your kids. If you can't be there, please contact me on **0403 857 215** or **hgarrick@gmail.com**



Helen Garrick — Children's Liturgy Coordinator / Liturgy Teacher

Please make your Thanksgiving contributions to your church via church account or scanning the QR code.

St Thomas Mores Parish Church or
Account

BSB: 083 347

Account: 67214 6192



Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows - 15th September

The entire month of September is dedicated by the Church to the honor of Our Lady of Sorrows.



The devotion to Our Lady's sorrows remembers the Blessed Virgin Mary's spiritual martyrdom in with her perfect union with the Passion of Christ as she stood at the foot of the cross.

The seven sorrows of Mary, the novena stars on 6th September. The novena sheets are available at St. Thomas More Church foyer.

Please visit below link for more information and her promises.

<https://www.catholicnewsworld.com/2019/09/did-you-know-september-is-dedicated-to.html>

PROMISES OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Seven promises Our Lady made, through St. Bridget of Sweden, to those who are devoted to meditating on her Seven Sorrows:

1. "I will grant peace to their families."
2. "They will be enlightened about the Divine Mysteries."
3. "I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work."
4. "I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls."
5. "I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives."
6. "I will visibly help them at the moment of their death. They will see the face of their Mother."
7. "I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors, will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son and I will be their eternal consolation and joy."

PROMISES OF OUR LORD Also, St. Alphonsus de Liguori in "The Glories of Mary," Our Lord promised four graces to those devoted to the Sorrows of his Blessed Mother:

1. That those who before death invoke the divine Mother in the name of Her Sorrows will obtain true repentance of all their sins;
2. That He will protect all who have this devotion in their tribulations, and will protect them especially at the hour of death;
3. That He will impress on their minds the remembrance of His Passion;
4. That He will place such devout servants in Mother Mary's hands to do with them as She wishes and to obtain for them all the graces She desires.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross - September 14th

(<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2022-09-14>)

This feast was observed in Rome before the end of the seventh century. It commemorates the recovery of the Holy Cross, which had been placed on Mt. Calvary by St. Helena and preserved in Jerusalem, but then had fallen into the hands of Chosroas, King of the Persians. The precious relic was recovered and returned to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius in 629.

The lessons from the Breviary tell us that Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross back to Jerusalem on his shoulders. He was clothed with costly garments and with ornaments of precious stones. But at the entrance to Mt. Calvary a strange incident occurred. Try as hard as he would, he could not go forward. Zacharias, the Bishop of Jerusalem, then said to the astonished monarch: "Consider, O Emperor, that with these triumphal ornaments you are far from resembling Jesus carrying His Cross." The Emperor then put on a penitential garb and continued the journey.

Historically today is also the feast of St. Notburga, a peasant who lived in the Tyrol, Austria and St. Maternus, Bishop of Cologne.

It is also historically the feast of St. Peter of Tarentaise, the abbot at a Cistercian monastery. He replaced a very corrupt bishop when he was appointed archbishop of Tarentaise. He accepted his new position with enthusiasm and eagerness. Peter reformed his archdiocese, replaced corrupt clergy, and ministered to the poor. After around 10 years as archbishop, Peter "fell off the radar." When he was located, he was living simply as a lay brother in Switzerland. He returned to his duties as archbishop and once again began to assist the poor.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

This day is also called the Triumph of the Cross, Elevation of the Cross, Holy Cross Day, Holy Rood Day, or Roodmas. The liturgy of the Cross is a triumphant liturgy. When Moses lifted up the bronze serpent over the people, it was a foreshadowing of the salvation through Jesus when He was lifted up on the Cross. Our Mother Church sings of the triumph of the Cross, the instrument of our redemption. To follow Christ we must take up His cross, follow Him and become obedient until death, even if it means death on the cross. We identify with Christ on the Cross and become co-redeemers, sharing in His cross.

We made the Sign of the Cross before prayer which helps to fix our minds and hearts to God. After prayer we make the Sign of the Cross to keep close to God. During trials and temptations our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross. At Baptism we are sealed with the Sign of the Cross, signifying the fullness of redemption and that we belong to Christ. Let us look to the cross frequently, and realize that when we make the Sign of the Cross we give our entire self to God — mind, soul, heart, body, will, thoughts.

O cross, you are the glorious sign of victory. Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus.

Symbols and Representation: The cross of triumph is usually pictured as a globe with the cross on top, symbolic of the triumph of our Savior over the sin of the world, and world conquest of His Gospel through the means of a grace (cross and orb).

Patronage: Marataizes, Brazil; In Italy: Anghiari, Buttapietra, Carrosio, Cassano delle Murge, Cassano Spinola, Castiglione in Teverina, Cati gnano, Cortona, Luincis, Ovaro

Highlights and Things to Do:

- Study different symbols and types of crosses, history and/or significance. Then have an art project—creating one's own crosses, using different media.
- Learn and pray the prayer to Christ Crucified; pray the Stations of the Cross. Point out particularly the phrase repeated at each station:
- We adore You, O Christ, and praise You,
- Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.
- The Autumnal or September Ember Days fall on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of the third week of September following following September 14 of the Church. See Ember Days for more information.
- Folklore has that the weather on the Ember Days of this month (September 20, 22, and 23) will foretell the weather for three successive months. So Wednesday, September 20, will forecast the weather for October; Friday, September 22, for November; and Saturday, September 23, for December.
- Study the history of St. Helena and Constantine, especially St. Helena's quest for finding the relics of Jesus.
- Make sure that crucifixes are displayed prominently throughout your home. Point out the crucifix in every room even to the smallest ones. Your child's first word may be "Jesus"!
- Practice making the Sign of the Cross with your children.
- Make a dessert in the form of a cross, or decorated with a cross. Although usually made on Good Friday, Hot Cross Buns would be appropriate for this day. Make a cross cake, either using a cross form cake pan, or bake a sheet cake (recipe of choice). Once cool, cut the cake in half, lengthways. Then cut one of these sections in half width ways. This makes three sections—one long and two short. Lay the long section onto a serving plate. Set the two small sections next to the long section forming a cross. Frost and decorate as desired. See other cross ideas at Catholic Cuisine.

Tradition holds that sweet basil grew over the hill where St. Helena found the Holy Cross, so in Greece the faithful are given sprigs of basil by the priest. Cook a basil pesto, tomato basil salad (with the last of the summer tomatoes) or some other type of recipe that includes basil, and explain to the family.

