

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

Entrance Antiphon: As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 55:10-11.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the grower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me, empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps.64: 10-14.

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness, it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows are covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat,
they shout for joy, yes, they sing.

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:18-23.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal His sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now, the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit. We too

groan inwardly, as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to Him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:1-9.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round Him, that He got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and He told them many things in parables.

He said. 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up, they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Next week's readings: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43.



The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to Him will live forever.



Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church
in the Dandenong Ranges

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160

Phone: 0400436793 Office Hours 9am-4pm (not Tues).

Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave Email: belgrave@cam.org.au

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 Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>
	WEEKDAY				

Mass changes: **MASSSES CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE ON-LINE DUE TO COVID19 RESTRICTIONS—FOR THE NEXT 6 WEEKS.**

Reconciliation: Marriages & Baptisms by appointment. **RECONCILIATION:** Email Fr. Cruz—anthony.cruz@cam.org.au or phone 0400436793 to book.

JULY 12TH, 2020 — FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A.

Dear Parishioners,

Good morning to you all. I hope and pray that all of you stay home and be safe. I assure you all of my prayers for your good health and happiness.

May our good Lord continue to protect and keep us safe from Covid-19. It is indeed disheartening and disappointing to go back to stage 3 restrictions again, but I feel that these restrictions are in place at the moment for our safety and wellbeing. It was really more satisfying, pastorally, when we began to have weekend Masses in all of our Mass centres and weekday Masses at St Thomas More's Church in Belgrave until yesterday (8th of July). I sincerely extend my gratitude to all the Mass managers and volunteers who rendered their selfless service in sanitising pews and chairs in all of our churches. It could not have been possible for me to celebrate Masses without their whole-hearted voluntary service. May our Good Lord reward you for your generosity. I also sincerely thank you all for your generous financial contribution through direct- debit and thanksgiving envelopes. May God be on your side always and bless you abundantly.

We are really in the toughest and most challenging time of our lives. It is really quite hard to live our lives in the way we have had to from the time Covid-19 started spreading world-wide. Let us not lose our hope in the Lord, rather it is time to increase our prayers as we stay home. We certainly need deliverance from the pandemic. Let us continue to seek the intercession of Mary our Mother for the well-being of all humanity and be united with one another in prayer.

As of now all liturgical celebrations stand suspended except marriages and funerals with restricted numbers. Still, the sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment. Please call **03 87518112** for confessions. If any of you want to talk to me, you are most welcome to call me on that number also. I am celebrating private Mass everyday. If you want me to offer Mass for any of your personal intentions, kindly let me know and I will do so.

Fraternally,
Fr. Anthony Cruz

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Anthony Cruz anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
Email: belgrave@cam.org.au Phone 0400436793
Parish Office hours 9 am –4 pm Mon/Wed/Thurs/Friday.
PARISH SECRETARY : Helen Surman 0400436793 belgrave@cam.org.au
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Maria 9754 5200 & Jeanette 97542759
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Chairperson — Andrew Jans 0419590155
Monbulk: Rin Van Raay
Belgrave: Daryn Corish & Marie Madden
Gembrook: Pam Giulieri & Matthew Thomas
Emerald: John Conway & Lisa McLean
Mt. Dandenong: Virginia Schneiders & Stephen Billington.

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: John Ryan (formerly of Belgrave); we continue to pray also for the many thousands of people across the world who have died from the corona virus. May their dear souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: John Tyrell, Glade D'Sousa, Bob Irving, John Philbey, Alan Newman, Alex Webb, Jos Mertens, Heather Dickinson, Gerrit Donker, Patricia Keena, Van Tho Le.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Irene, Lida and Robert Ploeg, Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, Stephen, Lois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, Alida Cabret, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Kevin Ryan, Geoff Henwood, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Helen Hermann, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Peter Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

THOSE LOOKING IN THE SCRIPTURES for a clear exposition of doctrine or a systematic moral code are doomed to be disappointed. Such an enterprise is bound to be continually subverted by the variety of traditions, points of view, and forms of literature in the Bible.

Subversion in fact is the name of the game when Jesus teaches in parables. These are short stories whose aim is to surprise. They appear to be a favourite teaching tool of Jesus. He engages his listeners' attention with a story that is generally about familiar things such as farming practice or managing a household. But there is a twist along the way, usually at the end. Jesus uses this unexpected turn to undermine his hearers' conventional views about "the way things are". They are meant to provoke insight into another reality – the kingdom of heaven.

Today we begin a series of three readings from the Parable Sermon in Matthew's gospel. First we are reminded by the prophet Isaiah of the sure power of God's word to effect its purpose. Then Paul invites us to accept that we are caught up in an unfinished process of cosmic rebirth, but we and the whole of creation will ultimately be set free.

Readings and commentaries—Liturgy Brisbane

COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS AS AT 9TH JULY, 2020:

Except for the exemptions noted below, all public Masses, Liturgies and communal devotions (whether indoors or outdoors) are temporarily suspended until further notice.

- **BAPTISMS:** All guidelines must be followed regarding: limited numbers (no more than 5 persons, including celebrant); physical distancing measures;- hygiene precautions (with particular attention to the use of water and cotton buds or swabs for anointing as per previous correspondence); doors must remain closed to prevent public access.
- **WEDDINGS:** As above.
- **FUNERALS:** 10 mourners permitted, plus those required to conduct the service. Safety measures as above.

RECONCILIATION:

By appointment—email Fr. Cruz on anthony.cruz@cam.org.au or phone 0400436793 during office hours/03 875 18112 after hours and on Tuesdays.

ADORATION—is not available at present.

Almighty and all-merciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds, in whom there is no shadow of death, save us in this time of crisis; grant wisdom and courage to our leaders; watch over all medical people as they tend the sick and work for a cure; stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation; if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open. By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear, that hope may never die and the light of Easter, the triumph of life, may shine upon us and the whole world. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

*Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.*

(Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane)

**TV, RADIO, ONLINE—FOR THESE TIMES
WHEN WE CANNOT ATTEND MASS:**

Mass is available on the following:

**TV - Channel 10, Mass for you at home,
Sunday mornings at 6.00 a.m.**

RADIO - 89.9 Light FM, -A traditional Roman Catholic Mass, Sunday mornings at 7am.

ONLINE - Mass online - <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>, or <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/> or <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

**AUSTRALIAN JESUITS ON FACEBOOK—
Go to:<https://www.facebook.com/151909541627410/posts/1577966115688405/>**

The **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne** has additional online resources to help you through this time of suffering: www.cam.org.au/coronavirus.

THANK YOU to all parishioners who have maintained their Parish Thanksgiving contributions during the current restrictions. Anyone who currently does not contribute to the Parish finances this way (by envelope, direct debit or credit card) can phone Helen on 0400436793 during working hours to make arrangements for this to happen. To contribute to the presbytery account (usually the 1st collection) you can also do so by direct debit or credit card. Again, just request arrangements to be made.

'EMOTIONS AS GUARDIANS OF OUR SOUL' - REFLECTION EVENT VIA ZOOM, Saturday 18 July 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Rev Dr Peter Bentley, this event offers participants the opportunity to explore which emotions are inviting us to pay attention to our authentic self. We will focus on some of the core emotions that regularly arise in everyday life and see how they contribute to alerting us to key areas of transformation. Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BKJOS>. For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or tel. 9890 1101.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Mary MacKillop Today supports thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and here in Australia, bringing hope to communities for generations to come. **Please pray for Mary MacKillop Today especially during the challenging times we all face, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vitals works carrying on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop.** If you'd like to learn about Mary MacKillop Today please contact us via Phone: (02) 8912 2777. Email: hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au or visit: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au

**7 JULY 2020—FROM THE ARCHBISHOP:
DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,**

Today's decision to place metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire areas back into Stage 3 lockdown for the next six weeks from 11.59pm Wednesday 8 July is sobering news. It is truly disheartening, and will bring renewed distress to so many families and individuals.

These words from Psalm 22 have come immediately to my mind (words that were on the lips of Jesus as he was crucified): *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.* (Ps 22.1-2) Yet, I want to encourage you in grace, trusting in the abiding closeness of our loving Lord, who promised to be with us always.

In returning to Stage 3 restrictions in those specific areas, sadly the public celebration of Mass, which we have only just re-commenced, will need to go back to live-streaming; churches will need to be closed again to any private prayer; and the numbers allowed for funerals and weddings will be severely limited.

We expect specific details around the restrictions will be released by the civil authorities over the next 24 hours, and will be communicated to you as soon as possible. I ask for your patience in the meantime.

Now is a time for attentiveness to the care of one another. In the face of our own despondency and fears, our fatigue and anxieties, may we learn to hold firm in faith and hope, and experience sustaining moments of love. As the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews encouraged: *Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works.* (Heb 24.10)

Friends, while the Psalmist knew struggle and pain, there were also words of confidence that came from the heart: *In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.* (Ps 22.4-5)

May our Lord Jesus be with you, and may His Blessed Mother accompany us all.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,
Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne