

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

A reading from the book of Leviticus

Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Palm Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 10:31 - 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything

offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 1:40-45

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord

- **We proclaim your Death Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Communion Antiphon: Jn 3:16

God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.

Next week's readings:

First Reading: Gen 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

Second Reading: 1 Pt 3:18-22

Gospel: Mk 1:12-15





Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
Phone: 97542141
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Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave
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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 Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	6.00pm Vigil Mass on Zoom	9.00am on Zoom	9.00am on Zoom	9.00am on Zoom
	WEEKDAY			9.00am on Zoom	

Homily for the 6th Sunday – 14th February 2021

A young man figured in a car accident, and he woke up at the hospital with his left arm gone. He was so depressed that he decided to commit suicide. He went up the rooftop of the hospital. He was about to jump to his death when he saw on the ground a man dancing wildly. He noticed that the man had no arms. This sight brought him back to his right senses. He went down the building and talked to the man. "I am ashamed of myself," he said. "I lost one arm, and I was already thinking of committing suicide. But here you are. You have lost both arms, and you are still happy." The man replied, "What made you think I am happy?" "Well," the first guy said, "I saw you dancing." "But I was not dancing," the armless man said. "My back is itchy and I have no way of scratching it."

Leprosy is not only itchy. It is a dreaded disease, which, at the time of Jesus had no known cure. The leper was the most miserable outcast in Jewish society. He had to live away from the community. He had to wear a bell and cry out, "Unclean, unclean!" Worse still, he was also cut off from the worshipping community. Anyone who touched him would also be unclean. Hence, still alive, he was practically considered dead. This socio-religious custom, though, was based in Sacred Scriptures. The first reading this Sunday, from the Book of Leviticus, spelled out the prescriptions on how to deal with leprosy.

In the Gospel today, Jesus once again showed his compassion and power as the Divine Healer. He said to the leper, "I do will it. Be made clean." And he was healed. But before saying those words, Jesus did something unusual and even unthinkable: "Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand (and) touched him" (Mk 1:41). In the sight of the Jewish leaders, it was such a horrible thing to do. Jesus could be declared unclean, and more importantly, he could be accused of violating the Law. But he did not mind. He was more concerned with obedience to the true spirit of the law.

His action imparts several important lessons for us. First, this was an expression of his overwhelming desire to reach out to people, especially those who are in need, the sick, the sinners and the outcasts. "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." (Mk 2:17). That has always been his mission in accordance with the Mystery of the Incarnation. God became man so that He can touch us and be one with us, especially in our miseries and sufferings. With this touch of Jesus, the leper was healed and can now go back to his family and community – not anymore an outcast, a living dead. The healing touch of Jesus gave him new life.

Second, Jesus touched the leper to impart healing in a personal way. God deals with each of us on a person-to-person basis. There is nothing impersonal with God. That is why Jesus taught us to call God "Abba", Father. By touching the leper, Jesus risked being contaminated, "to fulfill what had been said by Isaiah the prophet: "He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases." (Mt. 8:17). Jesus did this because, behind the horrible disfigurement of leprosy, he saw the priceless value of every human person.

Third, Jesus wanted to correct the common belief that sickness is a divine punishment for sins. The story of Miriam, sister of Moses, who was struck with leprosy as a result of her misconduct (Num 12:9-10) as well as that of Job who was afflicted with a leprosy-like skin disease (Jb 30:30) were instances in the Bible that made the Jews view sickness as God's punishment for sins. By touching the leper, Jesus has shown that God is not a vengeful despot, but a loving and merciful Father. Sickness, no matter how contagious and horrible, is not God's punishment. It is just the result of the frailty and limitations of the human body. And in fact, in Jesus, God has always shown genuine compassion for the sick and afflicted.

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/homily-sixth-sunday>

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Father Cruz' Holy Mass on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQT09)

[pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQT09](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQT09)

Meeting ID: 750 464 5976..

Passcode: 7mJTww

Days and times of ZOOM live masses

St Thomas More Belgrave

Weekdays Monday – Wednesday 9.00am

St. Joseph's church, Emerald — **Saturday 6pm on Zoom**

Sunday 9.00am mass on Zoom

- St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave
- Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook
- St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

#26 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES



COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: Thursday 4 February, Midday

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the directives announced by Government as part of its Roadmap for the re-opening of the State of Victoria, the following is operational from 11.59pm Sunday 6 December 2020.

Due to recent activity and precautionary measures required, further changes to restrictions take effect from 11.59pm Wednesday 3 February 2021.

Information is now to be understood as Statewide and we are in a "COVIDSafe Summer" phase.

The restrictions in place are compulsory as issued under lawful direction of the Chief Health Officer of Victoria, where a State of Emergency remains in place.

As of 11:59pm Wednesday 3 February 2021:

Fitted face coverings will be mandatory in public indoor spaces. If you are visiting a private home, it is strongly recommended that fitted face coverings are worn during the visit.

In addition to indoor public spaces, fitted face coverings continue to be mandatory in the following locations:

on public transport

when riding in a ride share or taxi

on domestic flights to and from Victoria

at airports

in hospitals

when working in or visiting hospitals and care facilities.

The limit on the number of people gathering in a household will be reduced from 30 to 15, meaning the household

members plus 15 visitors (excluding children under 12 months of age). It is strongly recommended that fitted face coverings be worn.

The 75 per cent 'return to work' cap in both public and private sectors scheduled for Monday 8 February will be paused and the current cap of 50% will remain in place.

There are no other changes to restrictions at this stage. The main impact on places of worship is the return to the wearing of fitted face coverings indoors in all circumstances. Our COVIDsafe plans for density quotients, record keeping and sanitising remain in place, and the latest updated Liturgical Guidelines are attached (and on the Archdiocesan website) for your information.

As we have all come to learn, it is important to recognise that situations can alter very quickly and we may need to be prepared for further changes over coming days. If you are working with families around Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals please keep this in the conversation and be mindful of the worries that they will be carrying.

Please note :

• **Wear a fitted mask**

• **Maintain 1.5m social distance during the event.**

CELEBRATING THE MEMORIAL OF OUR YOUNGEST SAINTS FRANCISCO AND JACINTA MARTO OF FATIMA

Saturday 20 February, 2021 at 10:30am

Monbulk RSL Building Lawn
48 Main Road, Monbulk, Victoria
Bus 663 from Lilydale or Belgrave
Stop ID 14669: Emerald-Monbulk Rd/Main Rd
(Only 1 minute walk from Bus Stop)
Celebrated by Fr. Anthony Cruz

Come and be a part of our special celebration!

IMPORTANT! We need flowers for Our Lady's statue carrier. Please bring some roses or other flowers to help decorate the carrier which we will use in the procession.
Things to bring: Flowers, a plate to share and a fold-up chair in the car in case we run out.

Enquiries: Don Kempster - 9756 6946

What's Happening on the Day

Ten-year-old Francisco Marto and his sister, nine-year-old Jacinta Marto became the Catholic Church's youngest Saints on 13 May, 1917. They and their close friend Lucia dos Santos were visited by Our Lady of the Rosary in 1917 to give special and gravely important messages and warnings to the world. It was a great turning point for millions of people for the last one hundred years.

On Saturday 20 February, 2021 on the lawn of the Monbulk RSL Building, we will honour Our Lady of the Rosary and the three children, especially St. Francisco and St. Jacinta.

Fr. Cruz will bless the statue of the Virgin Mary and two children will place a crown on her head. The carrier will be decorated by the roses and flowers you bring on the day. There will be a 15-20 minute procession which will be led by girls dressed in white and boys dressed in blue or colourful costume. They will be waving their flags and singing in between prayers of the Holy Rosary.

Fr. Cruz will also consecrate the Belgrave Parish and the Dandenong Ranges to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A special cake will be presented and cut by one of the children (mindful to the adults that it's Lent!).

It will be a great day of celebration for St. Francisco and St. Jacinta!

We look forward to seeing you all!

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Ellen Regina Conway and Richard (Dick) Corrin (Colleague of Kerry Lyons). Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

Anniversaries: Stan Hilder, John Scott, John Vanderzwet, Brigitta Rovtar, Dora Klep, Katryna Hanigan, Barry Steen, Raeleen Hermann.

Prayer for the deceased:

Lord open wide the doors of your Mercy to all those who have passed away in the parish of St. Thomas More, Belgrave. In your compassion grant eternal bliss to all of them.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo and Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, StepheLois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, 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 Campion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

Volunteers Needed

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave, needs more volunteers to manage the Mass Registration Table. If you can come 15 minutes before the Sunday Mass and register attendees' details (Name, Phone Number and Number of Attendees), that will be much appreciated.

Children's Liturgy team members for all mass centres—Interested to join the team and teach our kids on Sundays? Please call the parish office or speak to Fr. Cruz.

First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave

Beginning with Mass at 9am. After the Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary Prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. There are twelve promises given to St Margarat Alacoque about the First Friday. We need to do 9 consecutive first Fridays. There are flyers in the foyer

First Saturday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave

Beginning with Mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary is prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. During the holy hour of Adoration, Priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Lady of Fatima asked for 5 consecutive Saturdays. To learn more about this request from Our Lady we need to learn more about Fatima flyers in the foyer.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

Ash Wednesday Mass Times - 17th February

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave - 9.00am and 7.00pm

Dear Parishioners

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is an important part of our parish's life, and seeks to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love, values and teaching of Christ in our world. The Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, journeying with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

The PPC can be described as a body within the Church that offers leadership to the parish and a voice for parishioners. Using a model of servant leadership, the PPC embraces the example given by Jesus at the last Supper.

Membership of the PPC is for a two year term, with parishioners elected by the Parish community or co-opted by the Parish Priest. The current members have served our parish community for the past two and a half years and will be ceasing their roles at the end of this month. We are now seeking new members to replace them and provide leadership for our parish leadership over the next two year period. Two members from each mass centre ensures each centre is properly represented.

Please prayerfully consider if you could serve on the PPC. The process of nomination will commence shortly. If you have any queries please feel free to contact your current PPC mass centre representative, or myself on 0419 590 155.

Andrew Jans

PPC Chairman

"Comfort" Lenten program 2021 books are ready at the parish office. Those who have already ordered, please call the parish office for collection during office hours.

World Day of Prayer 2021

All parishioners are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer 2021 service for Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook, which will be held on Friday, 5th March at St Joseph's Emerald. Please join Christians of all denominations in this beautiful Liturgy of prayer and song, prepared this year by women of Vanuatu. The theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation." We begin with Morning Tea at 10:00am. The service starts at 10:30.

Any enquiries: Marilyn Huber:59683218.