

## Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

### A reading from the second book of Chronicles

**2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23**

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 136. R. v.6**

*(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!*

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

**Eph 2:4-10**

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it. **The word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Jn 3:16**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! **Alleluia!**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**Jn 3:14-21**

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

**Next week's readings:**

**First Reading:** Jer 31:31-34

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

**Second Reading:** Heb 5:7-9

**Gospel:** Jn 12:20-33



# Parish of Belgrave

## The Catholic Church

**P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160**  
**Phone:** 97542141  
**Office Hours:** 10am–2pm Tuesday to Friday  
**Internet:** [pol.org.au/belgrave](http://pol.org.au/belgrave)  
**Email:** [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto: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](http://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	9.00am	9.00am	10.30am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

### Homily for the Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B — 14th March, 2021

**Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow...**” Today is Laetare Sunday. It is unique because, the church exalts us to rejoice in the hope of our salvation.

Our first reading of this Sunday presents to us what seem to be the two sides of a coin. That is, the wrath and the mercy of God. These are revealed in both, the exile and liberation of his people. Three complaints were made against Israel and their leaders. These include: **“That they were unfaithful; they defiled the temple; and, they laughed at the prophets.”**

This led to their deportation and exile. However, in his mercy, God decided to restore them at his own time. Hence, this reading is essentially a message of hope anchored on the grace of a loving, merciful and sovereign God. This is a demonstration of how God chose to save humanity through his only son Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, for some obvious reasons, only few of those granted freedom by king Cyrus took advantage of the opportunity to return home. The rest continued living in the land of exile. When God is ready to save us, we must respond positively to his offer of salvation both from physical and spiritual captivity. It is only through this that our joy will be complete.

In the second reading, Paul reminds us of our former state and how God did redeem us: **“...When we were dead through sin, He brought us to life with Christ.”** This is simply a manifestation of God’s love and mercy. Most importantly, it highlights the grace of God in action. Today, we rejoice because God has shown us mercy through his grace.

**However, Paul call our attention to a very important point and question “...Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?” (Rom 6, 1).** Of course, the answer is, no! The reason is that, we must not take anything for granted. We have a part to play. God’s grace has been poured out to save us. However, we must reach out to fetch it.

God has saved us through grace, but he expects us to nourish the new life by living a good life. So, the purpose of saving us through his grace is clear: **“To live good life, as He meant us to live it from the beginning.”** Yes, this is what grace did for us. It restored us to the life of innocence. So, we must appreciate what God has done for us through Christ.

The gospel of this Sunday contains a very popular verse: **“God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that anyone who believes in him might be saved.”** This is the core of today’s good news and should be a source of great joy for all of us. God’s offer was free and communicates the fullness of grace.

The condition of this offer is clear and simple: **“...So that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may be saved.”** This reminds us that grace is not opposed to faith. Rather, they work together. Also, it reminds us that God has made grace and salvation available this season. On our part, we must be ready to accept this offer through faith in Christ.

In conclusion, we are called to rejoice today because grace has been made available, and our salvation is close at hand (Jas 5, 8). What we simply need to do is, believe and live the good life which God created us to live from the beginning. Good life means living as faithful children of God. It means living for God day after day, and time after time. This is the only way our joy can be complete. **Amen.**

Source ; <https://frcanicenjoku.com/2018/03/05/homily-for-the-4th-laetare-sunday-of-lent-year-b>

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**Belgrave:** Marie Madden  
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**Emerald:** John Conway & Lisa McLean  
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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

**Anniversaries:** Chris Madden, Sr. Joyce White, Angela Casey, Francis Kuyper, Richard Rossa.

## **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 Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

## ***Prayer to St Joseph***

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life.  
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care:  
may your prayers assist our local Church  
to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers:  
help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity:  
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:  
may we be mindful of others,  
particularly the elderly and vulnerable,  
caring for them in these difficult  
days.

You trusted in the clear primacy  
of God  
over all history and every situa-  
tion:  
help us to grow in faith and pray  
to the Father, *Thy will be done.*  
Amen.



**BAPTISM:** To arrange a Baptism in the Parish, please phone the parish office during the office hours on 97542141.

## **PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE**



Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet, so he and his family always had to walk into the forest to an open defecation area.

His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save for toilets.

Now Arsad's family is healthier. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to 'Be More.'

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.



St Paul's Primary School, Monbulk, invites you to join us for...

# READY, SET, PREP!

Get ready for school with a 'taste' of St Paul's!

## Registrations Now Open!

Invitation to: 3yo, 4yo and 5yo pre school children

9:30am Friday 12 March: LIBRARY STORYTIME

9:30am Friday 26 March: EXPERIENCE ITALY

9:30am Friday 30 April: GARDEN TIME - BACKYARD BLITZ

9:30am Friday 14 May: SCIENCE FAIR

Spaces are limited due to density limits - so register today!

To register your place: 9756 7201 or email: [office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)



### Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

1. Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
2. People must carry a fitted face covering at all times. Fitted face coverings are no longer mandatory indoors or outdoors (except in particular circumstances, note above), but should be worn by participants (unless they have a lawful exemption or are children under 12 years of age) if a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained.
3. Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
4. Doors must remain closed to prevent public access if there is no-one available to ensure that particular number limits are maintained;
5. We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

**Belgrave - 90 people      Emerald - 40 people**  
**Monbulk - 60 people      Gembrook - 40 people**

### First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More, Belgrave

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

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**

### Lenten Program at St. Thomas More Belgrave

**Station of the Cross on Every Friday  
at 7.00pm**



**The Sacrament of Reconciliation - Tuesday  
to Saturday 9.30am —10.15am**



**Holy Hour — Tuesday to Saturday - 9.30am  
to 10.15am**

### FUNDRAISING NEWS:

We are in the process of collecting old stamps and coins. Can you please keep all used postage stamps (Australian and overseas) and overseas money, also old stamp albums.

These are for sale at the Parish fete. Please send to the parish office or call **Tony Whyte** (St Paul's Monbulk) for collection.

Thank you

### Lenten Prayer Meeting

All parishioners are invited to participate in an evening of prayer at St Joseph's, Emerald on Wednesday, 17th March, at 7:00pm.

A formal introduction will be followed by discussion and quiet prayer. Supper will be served and the evening will finish by 8:30 pm.

Enquiries: 59683218. Leave a message to receive a reply.

**Marilyn Huber**

### 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 member—Interested to join the team and teach our kids on Sundays? Please call the parish office or speak to Fr. Cruz.



### Holy Week Planning Meeting

Saturday 13th March 2021

10.30 am

at St Thomas More's, Belgrave

for everyone who would like to be involved in

Parish Holy Week Celebrations:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday Mass during the Day