

**Entrance Antiphon Ps 65:4**

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**Is 49:3. 5-6**

*I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.**

**Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 1:1-3**

*The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Jn 1:14. 12**

**Alleluia, alleluia** The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn 1:29-34**

*This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*

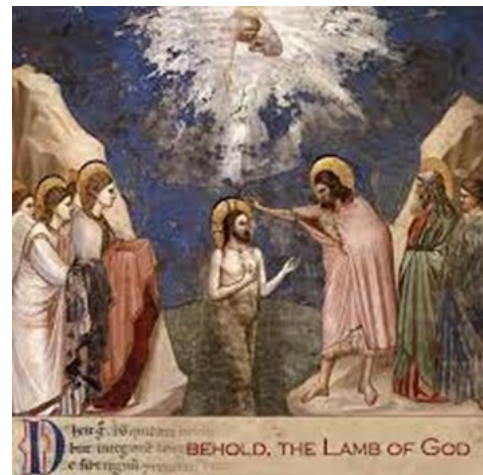
Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 22:5**

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



**Next week's readings**

**First Reading:** Is 8:23 – 9:3

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

**Gospel:** Mt 4:12-23



# St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

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](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 &	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church 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 (from 23rd January)	

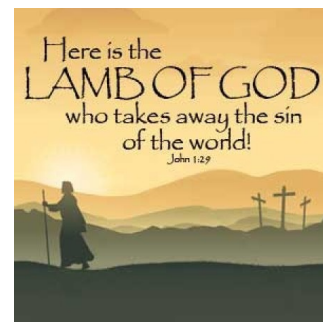
## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 14th / 15th January, 2023

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Ours is an historical religion. It not only unfolds within the joys and disappointments of time and place, but it is rooted in actual events that took place in the lives of real people. The Christ to whom we commit ourselves is not a mythic character, a figment of communal religious imagination. He is someone who was born into history, at a specific period of time, in a particular place. He was known by real people like John the Baptist; he submitted himself to historical rituals like baptism. He had followers who testified to the truth of both his existence and his life. Jesus was a man of history.

Like Paul, we too have been called to be apostles. We received this call when we were baptised. The beginning of the year, with its custom of making new resolutions, is a wonderful time to remember to what we have committed ourselves. At times it seems that our own apostleship is no less daunting than was Paul's. However, it is no less immediate either. Whether the period of history is the first half of the first century, as was the time of Jesus, or the second half, as was the time of Paul, or the twenty-first century, as is our time, salvation unfolds within the events of time. Furthermore, the followers of Jesus always return to the events of his life in order to discover the meaning of the events in their lives. These past events are reinterpreted in the ongoing present. Discipleship is never other-worldly.

[Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://liturgyhelp.com)



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 Monica Rayner  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Chairperson — Dennis  
 Monbulk: Peter van Haaster  
**Belgrave:**  
**Gembrook:** Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and  
 Samantha Willis  
**Emerald:** John Conway & Dennis  
**Mt. Dandenong:** Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

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

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**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Cardinal George Pell , Hristos Tsirkas. Diane Beryl Kamoen the daughter of Beryl Kenneth.

Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities and ongoing War in Ukraine. May their souls rest in peace.

- The funeral mass for late Diane Beryl Kamoen will be held on 16th January at 2.30pm in St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. Attendees please wear a touch of blue in memory of Diane. The family would appreciate donations to below link instead of flowers. <https://www.mndaustralia.org.au/donate/donate-to-mnd-research-australia>

**Anniversaries:** Ray Blanchfield, Nicholas Keena, John Healy, Norm Newbold, Maria Egan, Fr. Guida Taddeo Gumbo.

**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: Aliyah Lawless, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, 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, Robert Drake, Joan Munday, 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.**

## **Statement from Archbishop Comensoli on the death of Cardinal George Pell**

It is with great sadness that I have learned that Cardinal George Pell, the seventh Archbishop of Melbourne, has died overnight from heart complications following hip surgery in Rome, Italy.

Cardinal Pell was a very significant and influential Church leader, both in Australia and internationally, deeply committed to Christian discipleship. Cardinal Pell led the local Church of Melbourne from 1996 to 2001 with strong leadership in the Catholic faith and with good governance, before being transferred to Sydney and then to Rome.

At this immediate moment, let our prayers go out to the God of Jesus Christ, whom Cardinal Pell wholeheartedly believed in and followed, that he may be welcomed into eternal life. Our prayers of comfort and condolence are also with his family, especially his only surviving sibling David Pell.

May eternal light shine upon him, and may he now rest in peace and rise to glory in the Lord.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news>

## **NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE?**

Disposal of a car from a deceased estate, or when a family member has had to relinquish their licence or go into residential care, can be a challenging process - getting a roadworthy, taking photos to advertise on the internet, cleaning and polishing, taking calls (if they come), even garaging it until a prospective buyer turns up (if indeed they do!).

If you need to dispose of a vehicle either from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, please consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Geelong Foundation", a registered charity with tax deductible status which for nine years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims / survivors of church-related sexual abuse.

Many of these suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and have limited or no employment. A donated vehicle could vastly improve their quality of life.

If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", please contact Fr. Kevin Dillon (0421 777 360, or frkdillon@outlook.com.au) or Adam Kaali (0411 486 605, or adam-kaali@hotmail.com).

## **Thank You**

We just want to say a very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who had donated for Aliyah Isabelle Lawless by a special collection, which was on 1st January. We raised \$850.

Wishing her a speedy recovery.

*Thank you* 

**The following homily was given by Pope Francis at the Solemn Requiem Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in St Peter's Square on Thursday 5 January 2023.**

'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit' (Luke 23:46). These were the final words spoken by the Lord on the cross; his last breath, as it were, which summed up what had been his entire life: a ceaseless self-entrustment into the hands of his Father. His were hands of forgiveness and compassion, healing and mercy, anointing and blessing, which led him also to entrust himself into the hands of his brothers and sisters. The Lord, open to the individuals and their stories that he encountered along the way, allowed himself to be shaped by the Father's will. He shouldered all the consequences and hardships entailed by the Gospel, even to seeing his hands pierced for love. 'See my hands,' he says to Thomas (John 20:27), and to each of us: 'See my hands.' Pierced hands that constantly reach out to us, inviting us to recognise the love that God has for us and to believe in it (cf 1 John 4:16).<sup>1</sup>

'Father into your hands I commend my spirit.' This is the invitation and the programme of life that he quietly inspires in us. Like a potter (cf. Isaiah 29:16), he wishes to shape the heart of every pastor, until it is attuned to the heart of Christ Jesus (cf. Philippians 2:5). Attuned in grateful devotion, in service to the Lord and to his people, a service born of thanksgiving for a completely gracious gift: 'You belong to me ... you belong to them,' the Lord whispers, 'you are under the protection of my hands. You are under the protection of my heart. Stay in my hands and give me yours.'<sup>2</sup> Here we see the 'condescension' and closeness of God, who is ready to entrust himself to the frail hands of his disciples, so that they can feed his people and say with him: Take and eat, take and drink, for this is my body which is given up for you (cf. Luke 22:19). The total synkatabasis of God.

Attuned in prayerful devotion, a devotion silently shaped and refined amid the challenges and resistance that every pastor must face (cf. 1 Peter 1:6-7) in trusting obedience to the Lord's command to feed his flock (cf. John 21:17). Like the Master, a shepherd bears the burden of interceding and the strain of anointing his people, especially in situations where goodness must struggle to prevail and the dignity of our brothers and sisters is threatened (cf. Hebrews 5:7-9). In the course of this intercession, the Lord quietly bestows the spirit of meekness that is ready to understand, accept, hope and risk, notwithstanding any misunderstandings that might result. It is the source of an unseen and elusive fruitfulness, born of his knowing the One in whom he has placed

His trust (cf. 2 Timothy 1:12). A trust itself born of prayer and adoration, capable of discerning what is expected of a pastor and shaping his heart and his decisions in accord with God's good time (cf. John 21:18): 'Feeding means loving, and loving also means being ready to suffer. Loving means giving the sheep what is truly good, the nourishment of God's truth, of God's word, the nourishment of his presence.'<sup>3</sup>

Attuned also in devotion sustained by the consolation of the Spirit, who always precedes the pastor in his mission. In his passionate effort to communicate the beauty and the joy of the Gospel (cf. Gaudete et Exsultate, 57). In the fruitful witness of all those who, like Mary, in so many ways stand at the foot of the cross. In the painful yet steadfast serenity that neither attacks nor coerces. In the stubborn but patient hope that the Lord will be faithful to his promise, the promise he made to our fathers and to their descendants forever (cf. Luke 1:54-55).

Holding fast to the Lord's last words and to the witness of his entire life, we too, as an ecclesial community, want to follow in his steps and to commend our brother into the hands of the Father. May those merciful hands find his lamp alight with the oil of the Gospel that he spread and testified to for his entire life (cf. Matthew 25:6-7).

At the end of his Pastoral Rule, Saint Gregory the Great urged a friend to offer him this spiritual accompaniment: 'Amid the shipwreck of the present life, sustain me, I beseech you, by the plank of your prayer, that, since my own weight sinks me down, the hand of your merit will raise me up.'<sup>4</sup> Here we see the awareness of a pastor who cannot carry alone what in truth he could never carry alone, and can thus commend himself to the prayers and the care of the people entrusted to him.<sup>4</sup> God's faithful people, gathered here, now accompanies and entrusts to him the life of the one who was their pastor. Like the women at the tomb, we too have come with the fragrance of gratitude and the balm of hope, in order to show him once more the love that is undying. We want to do this with the same wisdom, tenderness and devotion that he bestowed upon us over the years. Together, we want to say: 'Father, into your hands we commend his spirit.'

Benedict, faithful friend of the Bridegroom, may your joy be complete as you hear his voice, now and forever!

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-francis-homily-for-pope-emeritus-benedict-xvi>