

**Entrance Antiphon      4 Esdr 2:36-37**

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts 2:42-47**

***The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.***

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1**

***Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.***

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

**1 Pt 1:3-9**

***He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.***

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation      Jn 20:29**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! **Alleluia!**

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

**Jn 20:19-31**

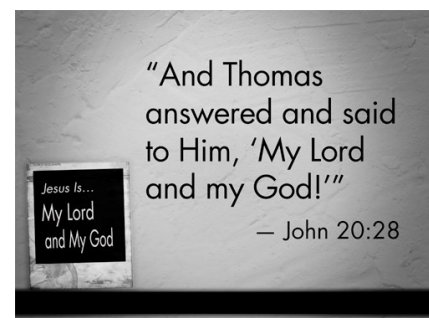
***After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.***

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon      Cf. Jn 20:27**

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



**Next week's readings**

**First Reading:** Acts 2:14, 22-33

**Responsorial Psalm:** 5:1-2,5,7-11.R.v.11

**Second Reading:** 1 Pt 1:17-21

**Gospel:** LK 24: 13-35



# 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](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.....*

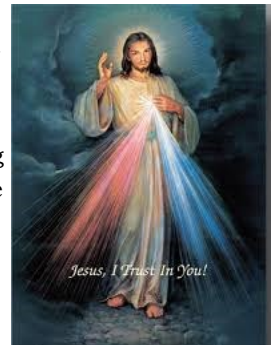
CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave 17 Terry Avenue, Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A ( Divine Mercy Sunday ) - 15th/16th April, 2023**

### **REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.



Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them.

[Second Sunday of Easter Year A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2023)

### **The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 — Month of April**

**For a culture of peace and non-violence-** We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

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

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
 Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au  
 87518112.  
**Phone:**  
**Parish Secretary:** Mirani Perera  
**Parish Office:** 97542141  
**Sacraments :** belgrave@cam.org.au  
**Child Safety Contacts:** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
 Monica Rayner  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Chairperson — Dennis  
 Monbulk: Peter van Haaster  
**Belgrave:**  
**Gembrook:** Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and  
 Samantha Willis  
**Emerald:** Dennis  
**Mt. Dandenong:**

**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](mailto:principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)  
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**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
 Principal: Michael Watt  
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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Laurence Maxwell Rolls.

Many people across the world who have died due to natural calamities ( Turkey and Syria) and ongoing War in Ukraine. May their souls rest in peace.

**Anniversaries:** Yvonne Mitchell, Kathleen Dawson. Peter (Goff ) Martin, Thea Iaquinto, Dawn Taylor, Paul Kolemvs, Joshua Whyte, John Van Bergenhenegouwen, Maria Gawronski.

## **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: Pope Francis, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, 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, 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.**

## **Need your support for St. Vincent de Paul**

### **Society Belgrave**

St. Thomas More's Vincent de Paul committee members need more food and food items to distribute for needy people in our community. The donation box is placed in the St. Thomas More's church foyer.



## **Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture:**

*Aid to the Church in Need* is launching an annual *George Cardinal Pell Luncheon & Lecture* with the inaugural event to take place in Melbourne CBD on Sunday 21 May. The keynote speaker will be Mr David Pell, brother of the late Cardinal. For information and to register, please visit [www.trybooking.com/CGUDA](http://www.trybooking.com/CGUDA).

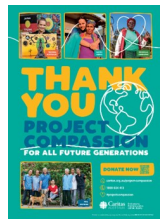
Please bring your project compassion boxes to the church on Divine Mercy Sunday.

## **Thank You!**

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne  
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

- Discipleship Specialist - Marriage and Family Accompaniment
- Executive Support Officer
- Senior Creatives Officer

## **Catholic Development Fund**

- Finance, Risk and Administration Officer

## **Parish Positions**

- Parish Secretary – St Dominic's Parish, Melton
- Pastoral Worker – St Andrew's Parish, Werribee
- Parish Secretary – Holy Family Parish, Maidstone and Braybrook
- Parish Secretary - St Joseph's Parish, Malvern
- Liturgical & Sacramental Coordinator - Nazareth Parish, Torquay

## **Other Positions**

- Maintenance Officer - Corpus Christi
- Philanthropy Lead - Carmel Impact

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at [hadmin@cam.org.au](mailto:hadmin@cam.org.au)

**Divine Mercy Sunday — 16th April at St. Thomas  
More Church, Belgrave**

Celebrant: Fr. Anthony Cruz

- 7.45 am — 8.45am —Reconciliation. ( Two Priests are available )
- Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image at 9.00 am followed by the Holy Mass
- Exposition of the blessed sacrament
- Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Holy Rosary
- Reposition of the blessed sacrament

**(When leaving the church, please venerate the Divine Mercy image).**

- **The Divine Mercy novena starts on Good Friday.**



**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend**

“Live Your Best Life in Love”

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse.

This weekend gives married couples the tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details.

Date: 28 – 30 April 2023 in Melbourne



(Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676  
or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au

All church properties windows and doors must be checked as being locked before event is concluded , as some doors have been found to be closed but not locked. This must not continue.

Thank you

Dennis ( Parish Pastoral Council Chairman)

**The promises of Divine Mercy Sunday**

Divine Mercy, via Flickr

In the 1930s, Our Lord Jesus requested through Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, that a Feast of Mercy be established and solemnly celebrated in His Church on the First Sunday after Easter, every year. The Lord said that this feast would be the “last hope of salvation.”

**Divine Mercy Sunday is perhaps God’s greatest gift for our time.** The promise of this day is nothing less than **the forgiveness of all sins and punishment due to sin** for anyone who would go to Confession and receive Jesus in Holy Communion on this very special feast. According to Divine Mercy Productions, one may receive the Sacrament of Confession, also known as Reconciliation, twenty days before or after Divine Mercy Sunday.

St. Pope John Paul II the Great officially established the Feast of Divine Mercy in the year 2000, after many years of study by the Catholic Church. The Pope was not only beatified on May 1, 2011, Divine Mercy Sunday, but he also died on the vigil day of that same feast.

Why would Jesus offer humanity such a magnanimous gift at this time in history? Jesus told St. Faustina that she was to prepare the world for His Second Coming and that He would be pouring out His Mercy in great abundance before He comes again as the Just Judge.

From the *Diary of St. Faustina*, 699, Jesus said of Divine Mercy Sunday: “On that day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine flood-gates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.”

In Saint Faustina’s *Diary*, she recorded how Jesus indicated that He, Himself, is there in the confessional: “When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I, Myself, act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity.” (1602)

Jesus knew that people would need to hear these words of reassurance today, so He went on to say, “Come with faith to the feet of My representative...and make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light.” (1725) “Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy.” (1602)

Many feel that their sins are unforgivable, but Jesus said, “Were a soul like a decaying corpse, so that from a human standpoint, there would be no hope of restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full. In the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Confession], the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated.” (1448) “Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy.” (1602)

“Oh, how miserable are those who do not take advantage of the miracle of God’s mercy! You will call out in vain, but it will be too late.” (1448) “Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.” (1074) “There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy.” (1273)

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<https://www.catholicmom.com/articles/2015/03/25/the-promises-of-divine-mercy-sunday-please-dont-miss-out>