

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

A reading from the book of Wisdom 12:13.16-19

There is no god other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,
Your sovereignty overall makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus, you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps.85:5-6.9-10.15-16.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
You, who alone, are God.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:26-27.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit Himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what He means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:24-33. Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the

darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" but he said, "No, because, when you weed out the darnel, you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow 'til the harvest; and at harvest time, I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown, it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast the woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this, Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, He would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you I parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, He went to the house; and His disciples came to Him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send His angels and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of His wonders; He gives food to those who fear Him.

Next week's readings: Kings 3:5, 7-12; Ps. 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52.





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: **MASSES CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE ON-LINE DUE TO COVID19 RESTRICTIONS—we will keep you up-to-date.**

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

JULY 19TH, 2020 — FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A.

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings to you all in Jesus' name. At the very outset I would like to communicate to you that I have received the sad news of the demise of one of my elder brothers to Covid-19. He was 41 years old and his name is Jebamalai Raja. In my language, Tamil, *Jebamalai* means 'Rosary.' It came to me as shocking news yesterday and it is very difficult to accept as Jebamalai was a young person, and he has left behind three young children (daughters) studying in grades 7, 5 and 3. Thank you to all those who messaged me and called me over the phone to express your condolences to me and my grieving family back home in India.

Jebamalai was just two years older than me. He has had the problem of asthma from the time of his childhood, and with that problem he was weak and vulnerable to Covid-19. I believe that our good Lord will be merciful and compassionate to him in granting him eternal rest. I request all of you to continue to pray for his soul and our grieving family as well. Jebamalai was buried yesterday evening (Wednesday) Indian-time.

I especially thank Helen Surman for letting those of you who have the internet know about the death of my brother. My sincere thanks to Andrew Jans who is, out of goodwill and love, organising a zoom Rosary for the soul of my brother at 10 a.m. this coming Saturday, the 18th July.

Thank you all for your prayers for my deceased brother and your messages of condolence. I pray that you will remain home and be safe during the current lockdown.

Kind regards

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
 Principal: Caroline Quinton
 Phone: 9754-4444
 Email: cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au
www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Michael Watt
 Phone: 9756 7201
 Email: principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au
www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: The elder brother of Father Cruz, Jebamalai Raja, 41, who died of Covid-19 this week in India; Michelle Peta Dinkgreve (beloved daughter of Helen and Michael, sister of Brianna and Sam); 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.

We know that your hearts go out to Helen (who is the Business Manager at St Paul's School, Monbulk), her husband, Michael, and their other children, and that you will keep them in your prayers. If you wish to send a card to the family, please send same to Michael Watt, Principal, St Paul's School, 59 Moores Road, Monbulk 3793.

Your prayers are much appreciated for Fr. Cruz and his family, too, on the loss of their brother and uncle. Fr. Cruz and Jebamalai were very close siblings, even though continents apart. **Please join in the recitation of the Rosary via Zoom on Saturday morning if you possibly can.**

Cards for Fr. Cruz can be sent to P.O. Box 100, Belgrave 3160.

Anniversaries: Lorraine McCart and her son, James, Stan Moule, Harry Surman, Jim Collins, Ronald Hosie, Tim Shaw, Margaret Spruhan, Greg Davies, Bella Smith, Les Hill, Bernie Steele, Kit Walsh.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, 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, 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.

*“Heart of Life is offering a **“Retreat in Everyday Life – All Shall Be Well”** – over five weeks, beginning Monday, 3 August and concluding 31 August. This at-home retreat, available via Zoom, invites you to spend some time in prayer at home each day pondering your experiences of the day, and to be accompanied by a prayer-companion on how God might have been present for you. To register your interest, please call 9890 1101 or email holsc@bigpond.com, no later than Monday 27 July.”*

COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

brought in on the 9TH JULY:

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.

ST VINCENT de PAUL- Ferntree Gully



A Hand Up Not a Handout

SVDP is proud to announce the opening of their re-located Vinnies Op shop:

Unit 7/1821 Ferntree Gully Road, FTG

The opening was on: Wednesday 15th July. Due to Stage 3 restrictions, please visit during the week as numbers are limited.

Thank you to all who donated to the St Vincent de Paul Appeal recently, and to those who contribute on a weekly basis. God bless you all.

Your donations will be put to good use both locally and to assist ‘twinning’ projects overseas.

**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](https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass), or [https://
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/](https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/) or [http://bit.ly/
MassOnDemand](http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand)

AUSTRALIAN JESUITS ON FACEBOOK—
Go to:[https://
www.facebook.com/151909541627410/
posts/1577966115688405/](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](http://www.cam.org.au/coronavirus).

THANK YOU to all parishioners who have main-
tained 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.

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 com-
munities 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

**AS OF NOW ALL LITURGICAL CELEBRA-
TIONS STAND SUSPENDED**

*except marriages
and funerals with restricted numbers. Still, the
sacrament of Reconciliation is available by ap-
pointment. Please call **03 87518112** for confes-
sions. 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.*

Fr. Anthony Cruz

A STRANGE FEATURE OF OUR TIME seems to
be our capacity to operate with conflicting mind-
sets. On the one hand we demand scientific proof
for truths before we will adopt them; we want
empirical evidence to back up belief. On the other
we are willing to entertain theories that appear
fanciful and to accept marketing claims that have
no basis in fact. Is there a wise way of discerning
the truth so that we can live by it?
The parables that Jesus tells are neither scientific
nor fanciful. They are stories that bear deep truths
for those who engage with them imaginatively and
who are prepared to make the choices they call for.
Jesus invites us on a journey of discovery when he
begins "the kingdom of heaven is like . . .". No
parable offers a logical or comprehensive descrip-
tion of the kingdom, but neither are we led astray
into a world of fantasy. Jesus teases and chal-
lenges us to see the world in a different way – his
way.

Readings and Commentaries—Liturgy Brisbane.

WITH THE LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS,

it is easy to lose contact with fellow parish-
ioners—at a time when they need contact and
support the most. Fr. Cruz and the Visitation
Group will soon be phoning as many parish-
ioners as they can to make contact and offer
support and a 'listening ear.'

I thought, also, that **you** might wish to pass on
some encouragement by:

- Letting others know that if they are on the internet, yet not receiving messages from the Parish, that they only need to let us know on 0400436793 and we'll keep them in the loop.
- Letting those without the internet know that every week the notices are posted on the door of each Mass Centre to keep those parishioners informed.
- By putting a card or letter in the mail to those you know are isolated. If you don't know their address, send it to the Parish Office, Post Office Box 100, Belgrave 3160, and I'll pass it on to that person.
- Adding a positive message to your fellow-parishioners via this newsletter. If you send me a message by Thursday lunchtime each week, I can include it on your behalf. This also applies if you have some good news to share, e.g. the birth of a grandchild, a significant birthday, etc.

Helen S.