

# Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church in the  
Dandenong Ranges

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave - 3160 Victoria

Phone: 9754-2141

Internet: [pol.org.au/belgrave](http://pol.org.au/belgrave) Email: [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)



## 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	Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m.	Sunday 9.00 a.m.	Sunday 9.00 a.m. Children's Liturgy most Sundays.	Sunday 11.00 a.m. Children's Liturgy every Sunday.
	WEEKDAY	Advent Mass 11 am on Wed. 5/12/18; reconciliation; lunch.		9 am Thursday/Friday (1st Friday)/Saturday.	9.00 a.m. Wednesday

Mass changes this week: **No Tuesday morning Mass at Belgrave.**

Reconciliation: 9.30-10.30 a.m. Saturdays (see note regarding 2nd Rite in newsletter); Marriages & Baptisms by appointment.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR C—2ND DECEMBER 2018

### YEAR C – INTRODUCING LUKE



## Have you thought?

### Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

*I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when it comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.*

The Gospel focuses upon the second coming of the Lord. It is full of the kind of apocalyptic descriptions and portents that have always excited the fundamentalist religious imagination and create difficulties for preachers today. The important thing, I think, is to focus upon the basic intent of such discourse, which is to address the sense of dismay and challenge to hope that calamities of various kinds present. While God may appear to be silent or absent, somehow all these things are held within the divine purpose, which will ultimately win through. While the basic message, then, is one of comfort, the second part of the gospel adopts a more admonitory tone. Believers must be like people expecting visitors but unsure as to when exactly they will arrive. The time of waiting requires attentiveness and a sharp spiritual sense. Anything that dulls the spirit (debauchery and drunkenness) or causes it to be distracted (absorption in the cares of life) must be avoided.

Advent is a time for examination in such areas. It is also a time for exploring our deepest longings and desires and allowing them to surface. They can ride up, so to speak, on the scripture texts that the Church puts before us at this time.

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Rev. Fr. Geoffrey McIlroy

Email: [Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au](mailto:Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au) 9754 2141

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Helen Surman 9754-2141 [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

**SACRAMENTS:** [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

**Chairperson** Andrew Jans  
**Monbulk:** Jenny Glennon & Rin Van Ray  
**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](mailto:cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

[www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

### ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK

Principal: Michael Watt

Phone: 9756 7201

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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Anniversaries:** Edith Bramwell, Gerry Ruigrok, John Van Graas (Snr.), Rose Smyth, John McLaughlan, Kevin Hogan, Hannah McKenzie, Mark Casey.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Alida Cabret, Fr. Geoff McIlroy, Kathleen Brodrick, Linda Brown, Ann Hosking, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Nick Spykens, Peter R., Nancy Donovan, James Perry, Fr. Michael MacLaifearlaigh OCA (Prior), Dave Scott, Paul Granieri, Martin Fergus, Kevin Ryan, Abbey O' Rourke, Margaret Gilhooly, Sophie Ann Larosa, Patricia Gilchrist, Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Kate O'Dwyer, Hella Becker, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Helen Hermann, Terry Garrick, Geoff Fitzpatrick, Steven, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, Alissa Westphall, John Reid, Dominic Beirne, Dieter Farmer, George Hilder, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Peter Campion, Joshua McQuade, Jim and Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sylvie Atkinson, Nick Keena, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Terry McDermott, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

**BAPTISMS:** To arrange a Baptism please phone the Parish office on 9754 2141 for an application form.

## **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES—advance notice:**

### **Christmas Eve:**

**6.00 p.m.—St. Thomas More's, Belgrave (Children's Mass).**

**6.30 p.m. St. Joseph's, Emerald.**

**7.00 p.m. St. Paul's, Monbulk**

**11.30 p.m. St. Thomas More's, Belgrave. Carols from 11.00 p.m.**

### **Christmas Day:**

**9.00 a.m. St. Thomas More's, Belgrave.**

**9.00 a.m. Sacred Heart, Gembrook.**

**11.00 a.m. St. Paul's, Monbulk.**



## **THE SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

will be celebrated in the Parish on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 11th December, 7.00 p.m., at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave**
- **Tuesday 18th December, 7.00 p.m., at Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook.**

## **THE DECEMBER FIRST FRIDAY MASS**

will be offered on **Friday 7th December, 9.00 a.m. at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.**

**Recitation of the Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow until Benediction at 4.30 p.m.**

## **ST JOSEPH'S, EMERALD, ADVENT:**

Parishioners are warmly invited to attend an **Advent Mass followed by Reconciliation and a lovely lunch**, at St Joseph's, Emerald, **this coming Wednesday, 5th December, at 11.00 a.m.** All are welcome to attend. Please consider bringing a friend, who might normally be housebound, to join in the Mass and the fellowship to follow.

## **UPCOMING PERFORMANCE OF HANDEL'S**

**"MESSIAH":** This 'sing-a-long' version will be held at **Saint Thomas More Church, Belgrave, at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 16th December. The Nicholas Chamber Orchestra, along with the Singularity Choir will perform under the guidance of conductor, Robert Dora.** Tickets are \$20/concession \$10, 15 & under: free. <http://www.trybooking.com/YZZT> **Proceeds to the STM Social Justice Group projects.**

**FATHER GEOFF**, although still recovering from his surgery, will be 'back on board' this coming Wednesday with TWO Masses...9.00 a.m. at St. Paul's, Monbulk, and then the 11.00 a.m. Advent Mass at Emerald. Welcome back, Fr. Geoff...just don't overdo things!

(Fr. Geoff celebrated (as best he could) his birthday on Friday November 30th. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**)

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT:**

Dear parishioners,

The newly formed Parish Pastoral Council held its first meeting on 13 November. The intention of the meeting was to understand the current environment and the issues surrounding the parish generally as well as the individual Mass centres, and understand the best way to support Father Geoff.

Overall weekly mass attendance is around 350 people, with declines in parishioner numbers being observed for several years now. This decline is also being felt in the parish schools. The low attendance rate (~ 5%) of Catholics in the Dandenongs however means an opportunity exists to connect with our broader community and reignite their interest in the Church.

Our intention is to explore ways to grow our parish by increasing the value of community and enlivening this community in a joyful way. Initial thoughts are to make the current range of social and social welfare current activities of the parish more visible; using programs to assist parishioners in their faith journey; providing peripheral support to allow a journey back to church, and addressing issues such as loneliness and isolation. We will further develop these ideas and initiatives in the coming months and believe they will also have a positive impact on our parish schools.

Communication is a critical element in delivering any outcome, and the use of electronic communications, social media and the parish website is seen as necessary to connect with people in the current environment. Please feel free to discuss any issues with your centre representatives or myself, and please pray for us in this important time of formation. Sincerely,

Andrew Jans, PPC Chairman.

### **WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS,**

quietly going about their chosen tasks within the Parish, we could not function effectively as a faith community. **To express thanks for all you do, Fr. Geoff is having 'open house' at the Belgrave presbytery on Saturday 15th December from 12 noon.** He will be the BBQ chef (has loads of experience) and staff members will make sure you have plenty to eat and drink.

**Please come along...you are all very much appreciated.**

### **CHILD SAFETY IN OUR PARISH:**

**The Parish of St. Thomas More Belgrave holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our Church.** Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and sanctity of all human persons at the heart of the gospel.

**From Appendix 1 of the Parish Child Safety Policy:**

**Our Parish ....** (vii) makes available reporting of abuse contact information on our website, noticeboards and newsletters, to facilitate assisting anyone who believes a child is in risk of abuse and if the risk is immediate, contact is to be made to 000.

Our Child Safety Policy can be accessed at [pol.org.au/Belgrave/Home.aspx](http://pol.org.au/Belgrave/Home.aspx)

### **AUSTRALIAN PLENARY COUNCIL 2020:**

All Australians are invited to engage in an open and inclusive process of listening, dialogue and discernment about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Your voice is needed – join in! Speak boldly and with passion, listen with an open and humble heart. With faith and guided by God's Holy Spirit, we journey together, toward the future.

If you wish to submit your thoughts in preparation for the upcoming Plenary Council go to the website **Plenary Council 2020.**

**WE CELEBRATE ADVENT** each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

### **THE MOUNTAIN DOO CHRISTMAS WONDERLANDFETE IS OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR.**

**A huge 'thank you' to all who contributed to the success of the day.** We will have a report for you next week on the finer details.

A special thanks to the **St Thomas More School Parents and Friends, Jo Gaynor—fete co-ordinator, our parishioners, entertainers, sponsors and stall holders, and our Fundraising Committee members.** WELL DONE EVERYONE!!

The **next meeting** for the Parish Fundraising Committee will be held on **Wednesday December 12, 7 p.m. at Belgrave Parish House.** Please come along—you will be made very welcome—we have plans already for next year.

Thank you to the **Bendigo Bank** for their support of the Mountain Doo Christmas Wonderland Fete 2018, along with others such as **Big4 Caravan parks, Officeworks, FTG, and the Cameo, Belgrave.**

The Mountain Doo raffle was well-supported **this year**—book returns were up on last year, and as mentioned previously, our raffle ticket sellers did a wonderful job on street corners and at events. We didn't have many volunteers, but those we had worked so hard towards the raffle's success. **THANK YOU ALL!**

**A report will be issued next week on who our winners were (they've been notified), along with profit results.**

### **THE NEXT BIG FUNDRAISING EVENT IS THE ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNTRY FAIR**

**AT 59 MOORES ROAD MONBULK ON SATURDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2019 12 NOON TO 6 P.M.**

**MARK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY— AN EVENT TOO GOOD TO BE MISSED!!**

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S SCHOOL PARENTS AND FRIENDS,** and the **Mountain Doo Committee,** are now taking pre-orders through the following website for **Christmas trees.**

Don't miss out!

**https://engphotographyanddesign.bigcartel.com/product/st-thomas-more-mountain-doo-christmas-tree-preorder**



## **THE MOUNTAIN DOO CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND FETE**

Proudly supported by

**Belgrave Community Bank® Branch**



**Bendigo Bank**

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 33:14-16.**

See, the days are coming—it is the Lord who speaks—when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,  
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,  
who shall practice honesty and integrity in the land.  
In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence.  
And this is the name the city will be called:  
The Lord-our-integrity.’

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps. 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14.**

**R. To you, O lord, I lift my soul.**

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 3:12-4:2.**

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love, and make you love one another and the whole human race, as much as we love you. And may He so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all His saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live; the life that God wants, that you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.**

Jesus said to His disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.’

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon:**

The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**Next week’s readings:**

Burach 5:1-9; Ps. 125; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6.

