

**Entrance Antiphon:** I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Is 55:6-9

***My thoughts are not your thoughts.***

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

**(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.**

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

**(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philip-  
pians**

Phil 1:20-24. 27

***For me to live is Christ.***

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Acts 16:14

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

**Alleluia!**

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

**Matthew**

Mt 20:1-16

**Why are you jealous because I am generous?**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

**The Gospel of the lord.**

**Communion Antiphon:**

Jn 10:14

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.





# Parish of Belgrave

## The Catholic Church

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160

Phone: 0400436793 Office Hours **Office is closed to**

**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 Emerald	Sacred Heart Gembrook	St. Thomas More Belgrave	St. Paul's Monbulk
		Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Main Road	Reynolds Lane	59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	<u>On Zoom</u>	<u>On Zoom</u>	<u>On Zoom</u>	<u>On Zoom</u>
	WEEKDAY			<u>On Zoom</u>	

### 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



*We proclaim a crucified Christ*  
1961-2020

16 September 2020

To the People and Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Dear friends in Christ,

As we now welcome the beginnings of easing in COVID-19 Restrictions in Victoria, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you, the Clergy and people of our Archdiocese. It is great news that regional Victoria will, from tonight, move into the Third Step of the Roadmap to reopening, which includes our parishes located outside the metropolitan zone. However, we have a long way to go.

The deprivation in sacramental life has been a profound loss for our people. As well as all the other sufferings of the Pandemic, the sense of estrangement from the Eucharist has been a particular struggle for Catholics. The Mass is our primary means of gathering together in faith; it is the source and summit of our Christian life, and its life-giving nourishment and healing is dearly missed.

In the midst of this loss, I am grateful to our Priests and Deacons for continuing to serve the faithful, for sharing a sacramental ministry even under strict conditions, and for being alongside our people and their loved ones in times of death and grief. Thank you for your faithfulness.

All of us are anxious to open church doors, but I want to emphasise our need to be creative in the ways we do so, especially with the thousands of children who have been waiting for Sacraments of Initiation. Countless Catholic families are awaiting Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for their children. Adults, too, have longed to be received into the life of the Church. We shall be exploring possibilities such as outdoor liturgies in parish and school settings to facilitate these crucial events of grace and welcome.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been advocating directly with the Government, reminding authorities continually of our respectful compliance with each stage of restrictions, and seeking a fair consideration in what is permitted. The Catholic community throughout the pandemic has been constructive and positive. We have, and continue to act in a mature way, caring for the safety and vulnerability of Victorians facing great risk. Thankfully the signs of driving down COVID numbers are looking good at this moment and Catholics join other people of faith in giving thanks for this outcome and working to ensure the steps ahead do not take us backward.

Now, it is essential that the Government does not treat faith communities as an afterthought to the opening up of other sectors. Our churches are locations for communities of care and essential service, and must be treated fairly and reasonably.

Practically speaking, I have been in discussion with the Premier to thank him for overturning the restriction on spiritual ministry to the sick and the dying, and have assured him that the Catholic Church is able to manage restrictions (including good hygiene, face coverings, social distancing and density requirements). If pubs and restaurants can open, then places of worship should be open under similar conditions and numbers.

If case numbers track well, I expect we will see larger outdoor gatherings in regional Victoria become possible over the next few weeks, and proportionate opportunities for gathering in metropolitan Melbourne. I am hopeful that this may occur sometime in October, which would be a deeply welcomed improvement on the current Roadmap indications. If we can open our churches, even for outdoor gatherings, then we should open them.

The Deputy Premier and the Multicultural Affairs Minister are conducting discussions this month through the Multifaith Leaders Forum. The Archdiocese will be contributing to these meetings. In addition I will continue to engage with the Premier and Ministers directly on the Church's need for opening doors, carefully and safely.

Be assured of my ongoing closeness in prayer and concern. I have heard your cry, and I am working to bring your voice to the authorities. The Lord has promised he will be with us always; let us place our hope in Him.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**

**Archbishop of Melbourne**

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Parish Secretary:  
**Parish Office:**  
Sacraments :  
Child Safety Contacts:  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
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Belgrave:

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**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
Principal: Michael Watt

**Prayers of the Faithful - Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Celebrant:** In the light of our Scripture readings we offer some petitions for our Church, our World and ourselves.

**Reader:** Lord, your ways are not our ways. May our Universal church lead all to thought and action which accord more and more with your ways. Lord Hear us.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Reader:** Lord, your ways are not our ways. May all employers exercise justice and humanity towards their employees. May unemployed people be justly treated. Lord hear us.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Reader:** Lord your ways are not our ways. May all health workers be recognized and strengthened. As they work with the mentally and physically ill. Lord hear us.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Reader:** Lord, your ways are not our ways. May we here in the hills know you are close to us. Inspire us to make wise and generous decisions so that our lives are worthy of a rich and forgiving God

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our special intentions...(PAUSE)...Lord, hear us.  
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Let us pray to the Lord...

Celebrant: These are our prayers we offer in the name and spirit of Christ Jesus. Amen.

'Unfortunately, a card sent to me was 'returned to sender' and I've just found out that that is the case. If you sent a card and it was returned, please be advised that my address is 4 Haig Avenue, Monbulk 3793. In these stressful times it would be lovely to hear from you. Stay safe and God bless.

**Helen x'**

**Important Date**

**21st September St. Matthew the Evangelist, Apostle**

**'Our sacramental life'** Message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

Visit the below link

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvUsrg5K-Ks](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvUsrg5K-Ks)

**Who was Saint Matthew ?**



Matthew, the Evangelist who wrote the Gospel that appears first in the New Testament, was different from the other Apostles. He was not a popular man. Many people felt that he was unworthy to be chosen as a follower of Jesus. Matthew worked for the Romans as a tax collector. The Romans ruled Palestine and the Jewish people in the time of Jesus. They forced the Jewish people to pay taxes to them. Many of the tax collectors cheated the people by charging more taxes than required and keeping the extra money for themselves. The Jews considered the tax collectors traitors.

In Chapter 9 of his Gospel, Matthew tells a story about how Jesus called him to follow him and how the Jewish people felt about tax collectors. You can read it in Matthew 9:9-13. In this story, the Pharisees, a group of Jews who strictly followed all the laws of their religion, call tax collectors "sinners." Jesus knew in his heart that Matthew was not a sinner or a cheat.

Matthew wrote his Gospel for Jewish people who had become followers of Christ. He wanted his audience to know that Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised to send to save all people. Matthew's Gospel makes clear that Jesus is the fulfillment of everything said by the prophets in the Old Testament.

Matthew is also the only Evangelist who shares the eight Beatitudes with his readers. His Gospel faithfully reports how Jesus described who will be truly blessed by God in the Kingdom and the attitudes and actions that are required for those who follow the new Law Jesus came to bring.

After Jesus' Ascension, Matthew preached the Gospel, as Jesus asked his disciples to do. It is believed that he established Christian communities in Ethiopia and other sections of the continent of Africa. Tradition tells us that he died as a martyr.

The symbol for Matthew's Gospel is a man with wings. Matthew wrote about Jesus' Incarnation and his Gospel makes clear that Jesus was true God and true man. Matthew is the patron saint of bankers, because he dealt with money as a tax collector. But anyone who reads Matthew's Gospel knows that money was not important to him. What was important was believing in and living as a follower of Christ. Matthew helps us to remember that it is our faith in Jesus that makes us truly rich!

In addition to being the patron saint of our parish, St. Matthew is the patron saint for accountants, bankers, bookkeepers and tax collectors.

Source: <http://rclweb.com>

## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Many people across the world who have died from the corona virus and calamities. *Eternal rest grant unto them, Our Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them and may their dear souls rest in peace. Amen.*

### **Anniversaries:**

Marie Alexandra Bouquet, James Kelleher, Rita Bell, Barrie Jackson, Aileen & Jack Malcomson, Dr. Tim McCarthy, Lucy Granieri, Ruby Johnson, Barrie Jackson, Mona Csipek, Raymond Cutting.

### **Prayer for the deceased**

Lord open wide the door of your compassion to those who died in this week in different parts of the world, and in your mercy receive them into your kingdom.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Damien Van der Linden, Andrew Schmidt, Bryan Cummins, Lida Ploeg and Robert Ploeg, 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, 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

### **Social Services Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September – a time to reflect and give thanks**

On 20th September 2020, we mark [Social Services Sunday](#) within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 [member organisations](#), the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, [To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today](#), and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, [Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID](#), which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance. Parishioners will

**AS OF NOW ALL LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS STAND SUSPENDED** except funerals with restricted numbers. **Please call 03 87518112 if any of you want to talk to me.** You are most welcome to call me on that number, too, if you want me to offer Mass for any of your personal intentions.

Fr. Cruz

### **Topic: Father Cruz' Holy Mass and Holy Rosary on Zoom**

**ZOOM ROSARY: Now held on Monday to Saturday immediately after the holy mass.**

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMIZOSTY0TFRRYXJGQT09)

[pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMIZOSTY0TFRRYXJGQT09](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=S0YwS3FiQndpMIZOSTY0TFRRYXJGQT09)

**Meeting ID: 750 464 5976..**

**Passcode: 7mJTWw**

### **Days and times of ZOOM live masses**

#### **St Thomas More Belgrave**

Weekdays Mondays – Saturday 9.00a.m.

#### **Sacred Heart, Gembrook & St. Joseph's - Emerald**

Sunday 9.00a.m.— 10.00a.m.

#### **St. Thomas More -Belgrave & St. Paul's - Monbulk**

Sunday 10.30a.m.—11.30a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary.

**Please join with your community if you can.**

### **Prayer for Courage and Compassion**

Compassionate God,  
Your unconditional love for all  
inspires our hearts and empowers our actions  
for those who are most vulnerable.  
May we boldly and humbly serve one another  
and be steadfast in our work for justice for all people.  
Keep our hearts open to the joys and the hopes of our world,  
and our ears ready to hear your call  
to truth, justice and reconciliation.  
Let us continue to draw inspiration and strength  
from those, like St Mary MacKillop,  
on whose shoulders we stand.  
We gather in Jesus' name  
to be nourished and to move forward together



## #16 UPDATE: GENERAL GUIDELINES

### COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: Wednesday 16 September 5.00pm

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the **latest directives announced by Government as part of the proposed Roadmaps for the reopening of the Metropolitan and Regional areas of Victoria, the following will become operational for Regional Victoria only, from 11:59pm on 16 September, 2020.** in Metropolitan Melbourne cannot travel to a wedding outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

**FIRST STEP**– Metropolitan Melbourne All Victorians over the age of 12 must wear a face covering whenever they leave their home, unless a medical exemption applies. As of 11.59pm Sunday 2 August, 2020 and until otherwise directed:

All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services. are to be closed.

**WEDDINGS:** No weddings are permitted unless an application is made to the DHHS for an exemption on compassionate grounds. If compassionate reasons permit a marriage ceremony to proceed, then only 5 people are allowed, comprising of the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant. People in Metropolitan Melbourne cannot travel to a wedding outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

**FUNERALS:** will be limited to 10 mourners (infants under 12 months of age not included in this number). You can travel to a funeral outside of metropolitan Melbourne. Restrictions apply based on the location of the funeral, and limits to numbers also apply. You should not attend a funeral if you are feeling unwell.

**BAPTISMS:** are to be postponed, unless there is an and grave pastoral need. (Can. 857; 860).

**LIVESTREAMING:** a limit of 5 in total may be present, including the celebrant.

**VISITATIONS:** Homes: Under Stage 4 restrictions, faith leaders may visit someone in their home on request to share spiritual ministry (or equivalent religious services) to provide care and support to a person who is at the end of their life. It is critical measures like face coverings and physical distancing are observed, and that the travel to the person's home and the visit are limited to what is reasonably required and necessary (e.g. only required attendees should visit and just for the service). Hospitals or Care Facilities: Under Stage 4 restrictions, faith leaders may visit someone in a hospital or care facility to share spiritual ministry (or equivalent religious services) to those who are at the end of their life, or if it would support a patient or resident with their emotional or mental wellbeing, in line with other visiting restrictions and if this support cannot be provided remotely. It is important to note that strict limits on visitors apply in these circumstances. It is critical measures like face coverings and physical distancing are observed and these visits are limited to what is reasonably required and necessary (e.g. a visit has been requested by a patient). Such services can also be provided using video or live streaming, depending on religious tradition.

**CURFEW:** A Curfew is in place from 9pm until 5am each day. You may leave home for the purposes of essential work only.

- If you can work from home, you must do so. All requirements around hygiene and distancing must be met, along with the collection of contact details. Further information around workplaces will be provided.

Stage 4 – Metropolitan Melbourne 'Metropolitan Melbourne' is made up of 31 local government areas. Stage 4 restrictions have been put in place for these areas and Parishes should check which Council area they come under. Please use the following link with your address to assist in determining your location:

<https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils> MAP: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels>

**THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE** has fantastic online resources to help you through this time of suffering: [www.cam.org.au/coronavirus](http://www.cam.org.au/coronavirus).

#### **STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS – METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE:**

'Metropolitan Melbourne' is made up of 31 local government areas. Stage 4 restrictions have been put in place for these areas, which includes this Parish in its entirety.

• **All Victorians over the age of 12 must wear a face covering whenever they leave their home, unless a medical exemption applies. As of 11.59pm Sunday 2 August, 2020 and for a period of 6 weeks unless otherwise directed.**

• All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services. are to be closed. **Fr. Cruz cannot receive visitors for confession, unfortunately.**