

**Entrance Antiphon Acts 1:11**

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

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

**Acts 1:1-11**

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?  
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6**

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Eph 1:17-23**

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him.

May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
**Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 28:16-20**

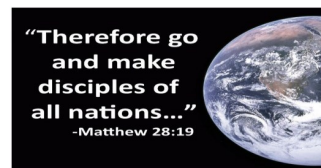
*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon Mt 28:20**

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.



**Next week's readings**

- First Reading:** Acts 2:1-11
- Responsorial Psalm:** Ps.103:1.24.29-31.34
- Second Reading:** 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13
- Gospel:** Jn 20:19-23



# 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.....*

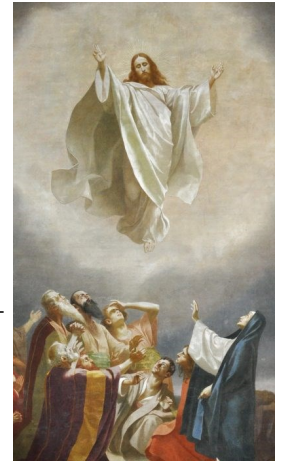
CHURCH CENTRES		St. Joseph's Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave 17 Terry Avenue,	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A - 20th/21st May, 2023

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.



[The Ascension of the Lord A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://www.liturgyhelp.com)

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

#### For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

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

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
*Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au*  
 87518112.  
**Phone:** Mirani Perera  
 97542141  
**Parish Secretary:** belgrave@cam.org.au  
**Parish Office:** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
**Sacraments :** Monica Rayner  
**Child Safety Contacts:** Chairperson — Dennis  
 Sue Luxford

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Monbulk:** David Bhoynz

**Belgrave:** Rita McPherson

**Gembrook:** Dennis G. and Irene Reed

**Emerald:**

**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  
 Phone: 9756 7201  
 Email: [principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

## REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

**Recent deaths:** 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:** Margaret Geri and Wilhelmina Kennet, Des O'Dwyer, Fr. Raymond Deal, Carmine Parente, Joseph Gawronski, Doris Peart, Bill Hitchcock, Amber Kempster, August Langenegger, Betty Smart, Anthony Kosena, Annie Banks, Noreen Ring, Evan Glen.

**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: Kaz Holt, 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 Breton, 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.**

Our Parish has a long tradition of social activities which raise much needed funds for our Parish. With increasing costs and income from Mass attendance dwindling, our Parish financial situation is dire. After three years of interruption by COVID the Parish Finance Committee would like to reestablish a fundraising/social group who would investigate and implement social activities to source funds. If you are interested in either joining or chairing such a group please contact Philip Morison on 0400202797 or [pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au)

If such a group is still operating please advise Philip of such.

Similarly if you are able to increase your Thanksgiving contribution please contact Fr Cruz at the Parish Office.

We appreciate the many active participants in our Parish and do not want to diminish good work that is currently being undertaken.

**Philip Morison**

**Principal -Mount Lilydale Mercy College**

## Church Volunteers

A very big **thank you** to our church volunteers who render your valuable service to our parish church communities in various capacities.

Please enter your details in the volunteer list placed in the church foyer. If you have not submitted a copy of your working with children check, please hand over to your mass manager or parish office.

Thank You.

Catholic Archdioceses of Melbourne job vacancies are available on <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>



For positions vacant in Catholic education, please visit the [Catholic Education Melbourne website](#).

For positions vacant in our social services provider, Catholic-Care Victoria, please visit the [CatholicCare Victoria website](#).

For positions vacant at Villa Maria Catholic Homes, please visit the website the [VMCH website](#).

## Feast of Our lady of help of Christians 24th May

### Mary Help of Christians patroness of Australia and of the Military Ordinariate

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers and under her protection, may the light of Christ shine over our land. May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.

Bless especially the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/24-may-our-lady-help-of-christians/>



# Awaken

## PENTECOST 2023

AWAKE, AWAKE, PUT ON YOUR STRENGTH!  
(ISAIAH 52:1)

A REGIONAL GATHERING OF OUR CHURCH  
DRAWING CLOSE TO THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD

WORSHIP | PRAYER | TALKS | WORKSHOPS

27TH MAY, 1PM - 4:30PM  
AVILA COLLEGE, 35 CHARLES ST, MOUNT WAVERLEY

**Schedule:**  
12:30pm: Doors open  
1pm: Rally  
2pm: Workshops & afternoon tea  
3:15pm: Closing Rally

**Four streams available:**  
Adults  
Youth (Year 7-12)  
Children (Year 3-6)  
Children (Prep-year 2)

WITH SPECIAL GUEST ROB FALZON (MEN ALIVE, BRISBANE)

Contact: [info@awakenmelbourne.com.au](mailto:info@awakenmelbourne.com.au)

Free entry, but registration is essential: [www.trybooking.com/CIBCNC](http://www.trybooking.com/CIBCNC)

REGISTER HERE:



HOSTED BY:

St Benedict's Burwood | St Scholastica's Bennettswood  
Holy Family Mt Waverley | St Christopher's Syndal  
Holy Saviour Vermont Sth | St Francis Xavier & St Clare Box Hill  
Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community



## The Sacrament of Confirmation

20th May at St. Paul's church, Monbulk

**Celebrant : Very Rev. Anthony Kerin EV PP**

**Episcopal Vicar or the Eastern Region of the  
Archdiocese of Melbourne**

Let's pray for our students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as they are preparing themselves for the same.



## Parish office notice

Fr. Cruz will not be available from 22nd May to 9th June. All the weekend masses will be taken care of by Salesian priests.

No weekday masses until 10th June.



## Propagation of the Faith Appeal

Tuberculosis, malnutrition, and maternal mortality are conditions all too familiar for the people of Timor-Leste. In two weeks' time you will learn about the work of the Salesian Sisters, including nurse, Sister Carolina, who desires to see better outcomes for her community. We will also share the story of Petrolina and her daughter's desperate need for medical attention.

**You have the opportunity to partner with this life-giving work, and your prayers and generosity are crucial in ensuring this program can continue.**

This opportunity is a great way to commit to the missionary movement, as He reminds us in Luke 24:13-35, the fire of Christ burns within us and encourages us to take action for those in most need.

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Email [melbourne.director@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:melbourne.director@catholicmission.org.au)

49 Nicholson St, Brunswick East, VIC, 3057

PO Box 8040, Brunswick East, VIC, 3057

Free call: 1800 257 296

[catholicmission.org.au](http://catholicmission.org.au)



Reach out. Give life.

## Parish Social Justice Group

Our Parish Social Justice Group was formed in 2002, under the leadership of Sister Maureen Keating, SGS. In the 20 years that followed we worked hard to represent the parish in numerous outreach and support programs, in accordance with our Mission Statement.

From 2008 until 2020, with the help of teams from within and outside the parish, we ran Tucker in the Tin Shed, which served a hot, two course meal to people experiencing hardship in the Hills area. We offered friendship and entertainment and we met many memorable personalities.

We held Sausage Sizzles, Book Fairs, Car Boot Sales and Cake Stalls to raise money for East Timor, Wellsprings for Women, Opening the Door Foundation and the Salesian Missions. We recently supported meals held in Emerald to raise money for Seekers of Asylum and Ukraine.

We supported a young Filipino Nursing student to complete her studies. She is now working in the Paediatric ICU department of a hospital in Saudi Arabia, and supporting her parents and siblings back home.

We collected and distributed clothing and blankets. We published newsletters, held film screenings and two "Hope Sunday" events to raise awareness of Social Justice issues and needs.

In all of these efforts we enjoyed the unquestioning support of all parishioners and we formed strong friendships amongst ourselves.

We have recently held our final meeting. We are all 20 years older than we were when we began, and health issues and life events have impacted us all.

We take this opportunity to thank parishioners for their loyal support and to express the hope that our example will be taken up by others, and that our parish will continue to reach out to those who need help, as Jesus taught us to do.

We have a wealth of experience in how to stage and manage events, which we can pass on, so no one needs to start a group like ours from scratch. We urge parishioners to consider starting a new group. The work, no matter how small, is needed and rewarding.

**In gratitude and service, Marilyn Huber, Group Convenor.**

Dear parishioners,

You may have heard, I am fundraising to have the tower (Silo) beside the memorial wall painted. This is a parish project not a charity, no receipt. All I am asking for 200 people from the St. Thomas Mores and Mt. Dandenong ranges church communities to donate \$50 each before the end of May. Please forward your donations to below bank account or pay by cash directly to the respective mass managers or to the volunteers below.

Belgrave Josie Walsh and Loretta Gamley

Emerald Marilyn Huber

Gembrook Christine Borg

Monbulk Mim Van Hister

Special thanks for those had already donated.

## Bendigo Bank

**St. Thomas More Parish Belgrave**

**Acct no. 153298989**

**BSB no 633000**

Thank you.

Josie Walsh

