

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

### 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 book of Wisdom

**Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

*Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.*

The godless say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6

*The Lord upholds my life.*

### A reading from the letter of St James

**James 3:16 – 4:3**

*Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you

have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

**The word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation 2 Thessalonians 2:14

**Alleluia,** alleluia God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Alleluia.**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. Mark 9:30-37

*The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

### Communion Antiphon John 10:14

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

### Next Sunday Readings

First Reading	Numbers 11:25-29
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. R. v.9
Second Reading	James 5:1-6
Gospel	Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48



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

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B - 21st/22nd September, 2024

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Who are the righteous? This is a question that holds little interest today. We are more concerned with the successful and the famous. We want people to be honest, at least in their dealings with us, but we are more apt to applaud those who are clever. We commend people for making a good deal, for knowing how to get ahead or striking it rich. We extol the beautiful, the strong, the self-assured, those who have made a name for themselves, those who entertain us. We encourage people to be ambitious. Seldom is popularity based on righteousness. Yet righteousness is a pillar of the reign of God. Those who would enter that reign must be gentle and merciful, faithful and sincere, lovers of peace. They must be willing to take the last place, to be the servant of all. The righteous are not often held in high regard. They are often ridiculed and even persecuted. When they are considered a reproach to the standards of society, they may even be put to death. There are times when we might be inclined to envy and resentment, not wanting to feel morally inferior, and we might relish the opportunity of putting the virtue of others to the test. We may say that we want to draw forth their strengths, when we really hope their weaknesses will be revealed and they will prove to be no better than we are. Sometimes the righteous have nowhere else to turn but to Jesus, whose life they are following and into whose death they have been plunged.



<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Sep22/0/RefDiBer>

### The Pope's Monthly Intention for the month of September

**For the Cry of the Earth** - "Let us pray that each of us hears with the heart the cry of the Earth and victims of natural disasters and climate change, personally committing to care for the world we inhabit."

## WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
**Phone:** [Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au](mailto:Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au)  
 87518112.

**Parish Secretary:** Mirani Perera  
**Parish Office:** 97542141  
**Sacraments :** [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

**Child Safety Contacts:** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
 Monica Rayner

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

**Chairperson** Evie  
**Monbulk:** Sue Luxford  
**Belgrave:** David Paton  
**Gembrook:**

**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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 Principal: Nick Frederiksen  
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**Mater Christi College - Belgrave**  
 Principal: Ms Maria Haggett  
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**St Joseph's College - Ferntree Gully**  
 Principal: Ms Cathy Livingston  
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**Mount Lilydale Mercy College - Lilydale**  
 Principal: Philip Morison  
 Phone: (03) 9735 4022 E mail: [pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au)

## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Glen Rawlins.

Many people across the world who have died due to Covid-19, wars, civil restlessness and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

**Anniversaries:** Hugh Ilyine, Ray Talintyre, Lilian Onley, Ruby Johnson, Fr. Anthony Guelen.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Patricia Grant, Kate Joy star, John Kuyper, Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper, John Barber, Dimuthu, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Rebecca Jane Atkinson, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Pat McCarrick, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, 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.**

### **Belgrave church reading roster 22nd September**

David Atkinson & David Paton

**Next week — 29th September**

**Mary—Anne Ferraro & Mo Cromar**



For details relating to Baptisms, Marriages & Anointing of the Sick, please contact the parish office.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of: Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

[Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic](#)



### **To Contribute Financially to St. Thomas More Parish**

**St Thomas Mores Parish Church Account**

BSB: 083 347, Account: 67214 6192

**Presbytery Account**

BSB 083 347, Account : 669831148

## **Prayer for the Parish**

**( To be prayed at the end of the mass before the recessional Hymn)**

**Loving God,**

**We ask you to pour out your spirit upon our parish**

**And grant us a new vision of your kingdom,**

**a new faithfulness to your Word,**

**a new consecration to your service,**

**that we may become a growing community of disciples,**

**that seeks to bring your word to the world,**

**through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on us.*

*St. Joseph, Pray for us.*

*St. Paul, Pray for us.*

*St. Claire, Pray for us.*

*St. Thomas more, Pray for us.*



## **Advent 2024 - Hope Reigns**

A 25-day reflection resource for Advent for 2024.

This year's Advent resource, "Hope Reigns" invites us to explore more deeply what it means to have eyes to see and ears to hear Emmanuel, God with us. It will clarify our vision, so that we can welcome anew the wonder of the Christ child who brings heaven to earth and opens the door to the extraordinary gift of life everlasting.

"Hope Reigns" is an inspiring Advent resource that will also help us to welcome a new Jubilee year, beginning on 24 December, where Pope Francis has invited us to become "Pilgrims of Hope".

This Advent resource has been developed for both individual prayer and small groups. Advent small groups are an opportunity to gather with together to share life, faith and to pray with one another.

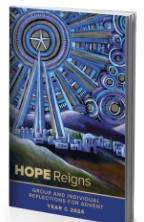
The beautiful uplifting and inspiring artwork used on the front cover, and provided throughout the book, is titled "Bethlehem Star 1" and comes to us from the artist Virginia Wieringa.

Please place your order by contacting the parish office on 97542141 or e mail us on [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au) on or before 4th October.

Cost of the book \$7

Or visit the below link.

<https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/adventplus/>





## St. Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

### A poor brother who prays

Born into a poor Italian farm family, from a young age Francesco Forgione desired to be a friar. When he was sixteen, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Order, and took the name Brother Pius (Fra Pio). He was ordained to the priesthood in 1910; six years later, joined the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in San Giovanni Rotondo. He spent many hours every day hearing Confessions. The height of his apostolic commitment was the celebration of the Holy Mass. He described himself as "a poor brother who prays." "Prayer is the greatest weapon we have," he said. It is "a key to open the heart of God."



### An extraordinary meeting

In 1948, Padre Pio heard the Confession of a young Polish priest, Father Karol Wojtyła, who thirty years later would ascend the throne of Peter, taking the name John Paul II. It was during John Paul's pontificate that Padre Pio was declared blessed. During the rite of beatification, the Pope said that in the humble friar, we see the image of Christ suffering and risen. "His body," he said, "marked by the 'stigmata,' showed the intimate connection between death and resurrection... Not less sorrowful, and humanly much more scorching, were the trials he had to suffer as a consequence, one could say, of his singular charisms." For Padre Pio, "suffering with Christ" was a gift: "In contemplating the Cross on Jesus' shoulders," he said, "I always feel strengthened and I exult with holy joy... All that Jesus suffered in His Passion, I too have suffered, insofar as it is possible for a human creature."

### "Relief from suffering"

The life of Padre Pio also shows an intense commitment to alleviate the sufferings of families. In 1956 he inaugurated the "Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza" (the House of Relief from Suffering), a new state of the art hospita. "It is the apple of my eye," the friar said when the hospital opened. "This is the creation that Providence, with your help, has created. Gaze at it in wonder, and with me bless the Lord God. He has placed upon the earth a seed that He will warm with the His rays of love."

### Death

Padre Pio died during the night of 23 September 1968, at the age of 81. On 16 June 2002, he was proclaimed a saint by Pope John Paul II. In his homily, the Pope said, "The life and mission of Padre Pio prove that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted out of love, are transformed into a privileged way of holiness, which opens onto the horizons of a greater good, known only to the Lord."

## Upcoming Feasts & Solemnizes

23rd September St. Pius of Pietrelcina

27th September St. Vincent de Paul

## St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul was born to a poor peasant family in the French village of Pouy on April 24, 1581. His first formal education was provided by the Franciscans. He did so well, he was hired to tutor the children of a nearby wealthy family. He used the monies he earned teaching to continue his formal studies at the University of Toulouse where he studied theology.

He was ordained in 1600 and remained in Toulouse for a time. In 1605, while on a ship traveling from Marseilles to Narbonne, he was captured, brought to Tunis and sold as a slave. Two years later he and his master managed to escape and both returned to France. St. Vincent went to Avignon and later to Rome to continue his studies. While there he became a chaplain to the Count of Goigny and was placed in charge of distributing money to the deserving poor. He became pastor of a small parish in Clichy for a short period of time, while also serving as a tutor and spiritual director.

From that point forward he spent his life preaching missions to and providing relief to the poor. He even established hospitals for them. This work became his passion. He later extended his concern and ministry to convicts. The need to evangelize and assist these souls was so great and the demands beyond his own ability to meet that he founded the Ladies of Charity, a lay institute of women, to help, as well as a religious institute of priests - the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, commonly referred to now as the Vincentians. This was at a time when there were not many priests in France and what priests there were, were neither well-formed nor faithful to their way of life. Vincent helped reform the clergy and the manner in which they were instructed and prepared for the priesthood. He did this first through the presentation of retreats and later by helping develop a precursor to our modern day seminaries. At one point his community was directing 53 upper level seminaries. His retreats, open to priests and laymen, were so well attended that it is said he infused a "Christian spirit among more than 20,000 persons in his last 23 years."

The Vincentians remain with us today with nearly 4,000 members in 86 countries. In addition to his order of Vincentian priests, St. Vincent cofounded the Daughters of Charity along with St. Louise de Marillac. There are more than 18,000 Daughters today serving the needs of the poor in 94 countries. He was eighty years old when he died in Paris on September 27, 1660. He had "become the symbol of the successful reform of the French Church". St. Vincent is sometimes referred to as "The Apostle of Charity" and "The Father of the Poor". His incorrupt heart can be found in the Convent of the Sisters of Charity and his bones have been embedded in a wax effigy of the Saint located at the Church of the Lazarist Mission. Both sites are located in Paris, France. Two miracles have been attributed to St Vincent - a nun cured of ulcers and a laywoman cured of paralysis. As a result of the first, Pope Benedict XIII beatified him on August 13, 1729. Less than 8 years later (on June 16, 1737) he was canonized by Pope Clement XIII. The Bull of Canonization recognized Vincent for his charity and reform of the clergy, as well as for his early role in opposing Jansenism. It has been reported that St. Vincent wrote more than 30,000 letters in his lifetime and that nearly 7,000 had been collected in the 18th century. There are at least five collections of his letters in existence today. The feast day for St. Vincent, the patron of all charitable societies, is September 27.



[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=326](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=326)