

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

A reading from the book of Joshua Jos 24:1-2. 15-18

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-3 16-23 R. v.9

***(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
The word of the Lord.***

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Eph 5:21-32

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 6:63. 68

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia !

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 6:60-69

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Jn 6:54

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Next week's readings:

First Reading: Dt 4:1-2. 6-8

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

Second Reading: Jas 1-17-18, 21-22, 27

Gospel : Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23





Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
Phone: 97542141
Office Hours: 10am–2pm Tuesday to Friday
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 Church Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk &	Sacred Heart Church Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Church Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am (on zoom)
	WEEKDAY	(on zoom)	(on zoom)	(on zoom)	

Homily for the first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B — 22nd August, 2021

On this twenty first Sunday of ordinary time, the Church encourages us to always remain with Christ, the Holy One of God. At times, when we come to the cross road of life, we are confused about which way to go. These are moments when we must make the right decisions, and the decisions and choice we make at such moments shape our future.

At a certain moment in my own life, I came to one of such cross roads of choosing between responding to God's call and abandoning it. Thank God, the Holy Spirit gave me the illumination I needed to make the right choice.

In our first reading, having almost come to the end of his mission, Joshua reminded Israel of how faithful and good the Lord has been to them. Finally, he challenged them: "If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve..." Their response was quite rapid and positive: "We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God..."

Of course, as most of us do, they spoke well. Unfortunately, they did not keep their promise. As soon as Joshua was gone (Judges 1-12), they ran to other gods. The psalmist says: "Those who run to other gods multiply their sorrows" (Ps 16, 4). Indeed, they multiplied their sorrows through their own decision and choice.

In our second reading, Paul employs the analogy of marriage, to explain and to remind us of the type of relationship that should exist between Christ and us, His disciples. Paul describes this relationship as a mystery with many implications. It is a relationship based on mutual love for one another.

Such a relationship is devoid of deceit. Rather, it is based on trust and faith. It is a relationship that endures the test of the time. It is different from what we see today in our society today. Where, we are married in the morning, and are divorced by the evening. Just as one cannot abandon oneself so, one must not abandon Christ his Lord.

In today's gospel, after the bread of life discourse, some followers of Christ were disappointed. What they heard was not what they expected to hear from Christ. This teaching is too difficult for us! You are complicating our lives! They could not take it anymore. For this reason, many of them abandoned Him.

So, turning to his own disciples, Christ asked: "What about you, do you want to go away too?" This question from Christ is like Joshua's. It leaves one with an option to remain with or, to abandon Christ at difficult moments in life. It is like saying, if you too are not convinced and comfortable with this truth, you may also leave.

There are lots of lessons for us today. Many of us come to Christ thinking that everything must be easy. Some come with a very shallow faith. Yet, some of us come with fixed expectations and just to hear only what we wish to hear. So, if our expectations are not met, we quit, and bid Christ farewell. So, we must ask ourselves today. How many times have we abandoned God and his church especially, at difficult moments in life?

Finally, there are inevitable moments in life when the authenticity of our faith and fidelity to God must be tested by the fire of afflictions (1 Pt 1:7). Then, only true disciples will stand with Christ to say: "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the word of eternal life... You are the Holy One of God." Or, like Joshua say: "As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord." So, our song must always be: "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no going back."

Source: <https://frcanicenjoku.com> homily-for-21st-sunday-of-ordinary-time-year-b

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:
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Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford
Therese Meliageary , Evert Jansen
Mia Jansen
Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and
Samantha Willis
John Conway & Dennis Griffin

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

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
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ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
 Principal: Michael Watt
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Joy Goodie (89), the mother of Louise Jans and mother in law of Andrew Jans. Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

Anniversaries:

Henri Donker, Hilary Gill, Jack Durrant, Ray Kiker, Noelene Nardi, Brother Patrick Henigan OFM, Fr. Joseph Dargan PE, Fr. Tom Brophy PE.

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: Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, 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, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, 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, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

As of now all the Liturgical Celebrations stand suspended until we receive further information from Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Parish office is closed. Weekdays and weekend masses available on zoom only. Monday to Saturday 9.00am

Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm and Sunday 9.00am

Topic: Father Cruz' Holy Mass on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQT09)

[pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQT09](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQT09)

Meeting ID: 750 464 5976..

Passcode: 7mJTww

FR. CRUZ WILL BE CELEBRATING MASS VIA ZOOM every day.

Fr. Anthony Cruz



#42 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: 5 August 2021, 5.00pm

As of 8.00pm, Thursday 5 August 2021, the following 'snap lockdown' measures will be applied across Victoria, and will extend for seven days or until otherwise notified.

Face masks must be worn inside and outdoors: everywhere except your own home.

• There will be 5 Reasons to leave home:

- shopping for necessary goods and services (one person per household, once per day, a support person can accompany if required; within 5km);
- caregiving or compassionate reasons;
- authorised work or permitted education, or work interstate (if you can work from home, you must work from home);
- exercise (up to two hour two hours, with one other person or members of your household; within 5km);
- receive a vaccination.

• Private and public gatherings will not be permitted: Single person bubbles will be allowed.

• PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES: No in-person gatherings permitted. Livestreaming and Broadcast is permitted with a total of 5 people present including technicians.

• **FUNERALS:** (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 10 people (and those necessary to conduct the funeral). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.

• **WEDDINGS:** (indoor and outdoor): Not permitted unless end of life or for deportation reasons. Involves only 5 persons (including the two persons being married, celebrant, two witnesses).

• **AGED CARE:** No visitors are permitted into aged care or other residential facility settings, except for end-of-life reasons.

• **HOSPITALS:** No visitors are permitted into health care settings, except for end-of-life reasons, as a support partner for birth, or a parent to accompany a child.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL: 21st Sunday of ordinary time, Year B, 2021

- Priest:** God, you are the truth that gives life, and lasts forever. Confident that you hear all prayers, we bring these petitions before you. **We pray.....**
- Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** May your church be enriched by your grace, compassionate and welcoming to all. **We pray..... Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** May world leaders honour the promises they make, and may they always respect the dignity of life. We especially pray for Afghanistan, and its people, during its present upheaval. **We pray..... Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** May family members show respect for each other, and seek to resolve any issues that may arise. **We pray Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** May faith and belief underpin the choices we, your children, make. May love for the other guide our actions. **We prayLord, hear our prayer.**
- Reader:** May all those who are lost in despair, find care, understanding and healing. **We pray..... Lord, hear our prayer.**
- Lord,** **For our own concerns: PAUSE hear our prayer.**
- Priest:** God, may Christ be our guide and in times of stress and doubt. May we be of his peace and love. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.

This experience gives you the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living.

The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details. We have two options: An on-line/virtual weekend: **10 -12 September 2021** or a non-residential weekend: **16 - 17 October 2021** in west Gippsland. (Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au

Major earthquake hits Haiti



Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a **7.2 magnitude earthquake**.

Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that **more than 30,000 families have been left homeless**.

The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence.

There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.

To provide support, you can donate to **Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal**.

Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

Gathering of Catholics - Outcomes and actions for the Plenary Council

Gathering of Catholics - Outcomes and actions for the Plenary Council

Thursday 26 August 2021 7:30pm-9:00pm (AEST)

THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA

FORUM 2: Outcomes and Actions for the Plenary Council

This forum will bring together diverse but complementary perspectives on the current state and future prospects for our church in Australia.

The Convocation will be opened by **Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann**

The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform invites Australian Catholics to the second in a series of convocations via Zoom. As we look forward to the first assembly of the Plenary Council, 3-10 October 2021, we focus more closely on the outcomes to be expected. Pope Francis has stressed the engagement of all Catholics, beginning with local communities, as integral to plenary councils and to the universal Synod on Synodality in 2023.

The aim of this convocation is to emphasise the importance of a successful Plenary Council for all Catholics in Australia. We will be highlighting the matters that Catholics want addressed and resolved. The voices of the people, the sense of the faith of the faithful, must be heard in free and open discussion, particularly on matters such as the Church's governance, and the inclusion and engagement of all Catholics.

Eleanor Flynn & Peter Johnstone
Co-Convener
Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform