

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

A reading from the book of Nehemiah Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.)

4. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! (R.)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it. **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. **Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon Jn 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Next week’s readings:

First Reading: Jer 1:4-5. 17-19

Responsorial Psalm Ps 70:1-6. 15. 17. R. v.15

Second Reading: 1 Cor 13:4-13

Gospel Lk 4:21-30



Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

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Office Hours: 10am–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

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 Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am Saturday Confession 9.45 am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C - 23rd January, 2022

Today's Gospel reading combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. In this passage, we learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, the word Theophilus translates as "lover of God."

Today's Gospel reading then skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus' baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in his hometown of Nazareth, attending the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be his custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will continue to read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays.

As Jesus stands in the synagogue, he reads from the scroll handed to him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in his ministry, Jesus announces his mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.

Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed.

This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, he brings this salvation about in his person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did—bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed—we serve the Kingdom of God.

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/third-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection/>

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Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford

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Mia Jansen

Gembrook:

Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and

Samantha Willis

Emerald:

John Conway & Dennis

Mt. Dandenong:

Matha Billington and Stephen Billington

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

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Father Noel MacKay. INA Clark, the mother of Adele formerly of Emerald community.

Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Stephen Whyte, Mary Lord, Henk Koelewyn, Ted Shaw, Connie Pepi, Lena Addamo, Connie Occhipinti, Tony Borg, Melissa Ryan.

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, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen 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, 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 Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

#55 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDE-LINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



Information Updated: 23 December 2021, 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.

These guidelines are in accordance with Victorian pandemic orders under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act and will be in place until 12 January 2022.

We welcome the opening up of our places of worship and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious. We also look forward to the time when all people can join together in various locations, and for the many activities that truly unite us fully as communities.

All Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays.

Face Coverings— From 11:59pm Thursday 23 December 2021, face coverings will be required for gatherings indoors .

(except in the home) for people aged eight and over, or for those with medical exemptions

A reminder this will mean: For Clergy: Face coverings must be worn as you enter for Mass. They may be removed during the celebration of Mass but are to be placed back on for the distribution of Holy Communion and at the conclusion of Mass as you process out.

The Reader: may lower his/her face covering for the readings. This applies as well for the Universal Prayer.

Cantors and Singers: when a cantor is singing, the face covering may be lowered. It must be worn at all other times. Distancing between singers is recommended.

Communicants: Each communicant comes forward and removes one side of their face covering and sanitises their hands at a sanitation station provided nearby. Following reception of the Blessed Sacrament they step to the side to place the host on their tongue. The communicant replaces their face covering and returns to their seat.

Weddings: Face coverings must be worn by all participants indoors, except the Bride and Groom who do not need to wear face coverings during the ceremony. Face coverings can be removed for photos, but people must be encouraged to stay 1.5m away from others.

Numbers— There are no limits on participants at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship – including the opening for private prayer.

QR Code Check ins— QR code check in is required for all Places of Worship.

For those who do not have a device, provision must be made to assist with a check in or to capture name and contact details.

Vaccinations— There will not be any vaccination requirements nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship.

Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be fully vaccinated.

Please note that other activities outside of worship, particularly those activities that involve hospitality, will require full vaccination for participation and will entail QR code check-ins and COVID Marshals. This will apply to varying activities held within the parish-context.

People under 18 years of age will no longer be required to show proof of their vaccination status.

Cleaning of Facilities

Places of Worship will not need to be cleaned between use, but good hygiene standards should be maintained according to a parish COVIDsafe plan. This includes the continued availability of sanitiser throughout the venue.

Care Facility Visitors

Hospital Visitors

There are limits on attending high-risk settings, even when fully vaccinated. Please work with the care provider in determining what is required and permitted

May God who formed our southern land be for us a rock of strength.

May God who rules our southern seas keep us safe in every storm.

May God who made our southern skies turn our darkness into light.



Fully Vaccinated Digital Certificate for Church Volunteers

The Archdioceses of Melbourne, strongly advised us that all the volunteers provide a copy of your COVID19 fully vaccination digital certificate to the parish priest or parish office as soon as possible during parish office hours from Tuesday to Friday 10am to 2pm.

Mass Managers, Liturgy Group Members, Parish Council Members, Finance Committee members, Parish Property Manager, Social justice group, Readers, Money Collectors, Sacrament workshop Facilitators, Musicians, Choir Members, Visitation Group, Special Communion ministers, Social Committee Members, Vincent de Paul Committee members, Fundraising group, Child safety committee members, Alter decorators, Cleaners and the other volunteers

Special thanks to volunteers who have already provided the digital certificate copy to the parish office.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

Special Thanks

Dear sisters and brothers, as we have concluded the 2020/2021 year I am mindful of the the great sacrifices that we as a people have had to endure. First Delta followed by Omicron, diseases that has devastated the community, and brought so much pain and anguish to us all. Nonetheless I am encouraged by the resilience of the St Thomas More parish community, in the way it pulls together, and continues to assist each other when and where needed. We are God's people, doing good amongst His people. So I thank you for your Christian charity.

I would also like to thank all parishioners who have contributed to the St Thomas More Thanksgiving Offering over the past year, your contributions are most thankfully received, as it supports me as your priest and supports the various church maintenance funds, so necessary for our church buildings and infrastructure. As custodians of our church we need to keep all structures in good order.

And to our wonderful volunteers who do so much to keep the St Thomas More church community operating in an orderly manner, we couldn't do it without you.. Thank you for your kindness.

Fr Anthony Cruz MC

Baptism

Let us welcome **Connor James Phillip Davison and Alexander Jacob Holloway** into our faith community as they are going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave and St. Paul's Church, Gembrook. May they be richly blessed throughout their lives', constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

