

Entrance Antiphon: 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 prophet Jonah Jon 3:1-5. 10

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Palm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 7:29-31

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Mk 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Mk 1:14-20

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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: Dt 18:15-20

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35

Gospel :Mk 1:21-28



Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church

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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	6.00pm Vigil Mass	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

Homily for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B - 24th January, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Repent! Here we are in Ordinary Time and it sounds like Lent! The beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ begins with Jesus calling His followers to repent. Repent in this context means to change the direction of one's life. And we see with clarity where Jesus is pointing us: Believe in the Gospel!

The first reading today is the story of Jonah preaching repentance in the city of Nineveh. The preaching of Jonah was completely successful and the whole city repented including the rulers. Although Jonah did not want the city to repent but rather wanted it destroyed, we see that the people respond to Jonah's preaching and God "repented" of the evil which He had planned.

We need to hold this in our hearts: the people repented and God also repented. Both were willing to change the direction of their intentions. We don't normally think of God repenting but surely the repentance of God is part of the Gospel that Jesus is proclaiming. God's only intention is our salvation and our good. Whenever God is presented as angry in the Scriptures, it is because God loves us and the hope is that God's anger will bring us to repentance and then God Himself will repent. This probably is not the way that we think of God but we need to listen to God's Scriptures and discover again God's love for us.

The second reading is from the First Letter to the Corinthians. We are told in this small section that the world is passing away and that our actions must change. We must put all of our energy into seeking God and the ways of God.

Then we come to the Gospel of Saint Mark again. Jesus preaching the Gospel! So often we only think of the Gospel as the preaching about Jesus Christ. Even in the Old Testament we find the word "gospel" in the Greek translation and is usually translated as "good news." What is the good news that Jesus preaches? It is this: believe that God loves us and sends His Son for our salvation! As always, if we won't accept this Good News, nevertheless it is true. Our challenge is always to accept the Gospel given to us in Christ Jesus and to be so moved by it that we ourselves draw others to know the love and mercy of God.

Source <https://christdesert.org>

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Gembrook: Pam Giulieri
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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

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: Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, 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, StepheLois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, Alida Cabret, 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, Peter Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

- Record Keeping is still required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit – and must include: First Name, Last name, Contact Number, Date and Time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- Please wear a face covering at all times as we may not be able to maintain 1.5m social distance. (Children under 12 years of age are excepted from wearing masks.)
- Those who can't wear masks for lawful reason must maintain 1.5m social distance.
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave - 120 people

Emerald - 40 people

Monbulk - 60 people

Gembrook - 40 people

Please sign in before you enter the Church with your *name and your contact number.*

FUNDRAISING NEWS:

We are in the process of collecting old stamps and old coins

Can you please keep all used postage stamps (Australian and overseas) and overseas money, also old stamp albums.

These are for sale at the next parish fete. Send to the parish office or call Tony Whyte (St Paul's Monbulk) for collection.

BAPTISM: To arrange a Baptism in the Parish, please phone the parish office during the office hours on 97542141.

Need a Wheel Chair ?

A generous lady wants to donate a wheel chair for another needy person. If you need, please call Kerry Lyons on 0433-501-763

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.



Dear parishioners,

On December 5th Our Archbishop A. Peter Comensoli has written a pastoral letter to the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, expressing his concerns over the Bill (Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020) quietly tabled last week by the State Government of Victoria. The Archbishop has asked us to make the parishioners aware of the Bill and its Implications, and encourage the parishioners to phone our local Member of Parliament to express our view.

Because, the bill has not been widely publicised, many parents and families, clergy and people of faith are currently unaware of the contents of this proposed legislation, which might have a chilling effect on the ability of Victorian people of faith to express a view, share their faith, or talk about biblical teaching without fear of state interference. In fact, the ultimate outcome of this bill may not actually be to protect anyone who is vulnerable, but to silence people of faith from expressing their view.

<https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/bills/591143exi1.pdf>

<https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/bills/591143bi1.pdf>

Let us not forget to express our views to our Local Member of Parliament.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

#25 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: Monday 18 January, Midday

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.

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services may open for permitted religious ceremonies.

- Religious gatherings can be held indoors or outdoors. Venues must apply the 1 person per two square metre rule to ensure people have enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance between them. There are no group limits;
- The two square metre rule can be used only if electronic record keeping is used, otherwise, the four square metre rule must apply. The square metre rule doesn't include babies under 12 months of age;
- Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit – and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- People must carry a face covering at all times;
- It is not mandatory to wear a fitted face covering during worship and prayer, but if the required distance of 1.5m between persons cannot be maintained, fitted face coverings should be worn (indoors or outdoors) unless there is a lawful exemption not to do so, or for children under 12 years of age.
- Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
- Doors must remain closed to prevent public access if there is no-one available to ensure that particular number limits are maintained;
- A place of worship can have indoor or outdoor religious gatherings at the same time. Ceremonial participants other than faith leaders are included in the two square metre rule only if electronic record keeping is used. Otherwise, the four square metre rule applies;
- Places of worship can continue to be open for essential public support services. Essential public support services include food banks, help for people experiencing homelessness or other essential activities. A distance of at least 1.5 metres must be kept between people.

OUTDOOR RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS

- Places of worship may hold religious ceremonies outdoors; The two square metre rule must be applied to ensure everyone has enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance from each other;
- It is recommended that fitted face coverings be worn outdoors if a distance of 1.5m between persons cannot be maintained;
- Outdoor religious gatherings must be held in an outdoor space that is near to the place of worship hosting the service. This means: - a service could be held on the grounds of a place of worship or in the car park; - a public outdoor space, like a park, close to the place of worship. You may need a permit from your local council. You can find your local council using Know Your Council; - schools that want to host an outdoor religious ceremony should do so near their place of worship. For many schools this could be the school's oval or sports grounds (if, for example the school assembly hall is used for religious activities and is therefore a place of worship). Schools can find further information on advice for schools and through Catholic Education Melbourne;