

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

A reading from the book of Genesis Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 5:12-19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as

one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 90:4

The Lord will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will trust.

Next week's readings

- First Reading:** Gen 12:1-4
- Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22
- Second Reading:** 2 Tm 1:8-10
- Gospel:** Mt 17:1-9



St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

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

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	

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A - 25th/ 26th February, 2023

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin.

The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.



[First Sunday of Lent Year A \(liturgyhelp.com\)](http://liturgyhelp.com)

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Chairperson — Dennis

Peter van Haaster

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Monbulk:

Belgrave:

Gembrook:

Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and
Samantha Willis

Emerald:

Dennis Griffin

Mt. Dandenong:

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

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE

Principal: Declan McDermott

Phone: 9754-4444

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www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK

Principal: Michael Watt

Phone: 9756 7201

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Diane Sharpe. 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: Paul Selvanathan, Barrie Hood, Rosemary Hogan, Maria Costellano, Bill Holland, Elsie Rochford.

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: 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 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.**

World Day of Prayer



The World Day of Prayer Service for the Emerald-Cockatoo-Gembrook area will take place on Friday, 3rd March, at St Mark's Anglican Church, Emerald. Morning Tea will be served at 10:00 am. The service will begin at 10:30 am. Everyone is invited to join Christians from around the world. in prayer.

Enrolments are still open for Semester 1 at Catholic Theological College.

We have many areas of study that may be of interest such as **John Henry Newman and the Church in the Nineteenth Century, Pastoral Leadership for a Safe Church and many online options**

For more information contact: registrar@ctc.edu.au
or visit ctc.edu.au



First Sunday of Lent 25 & 26 February

Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

- You will re-ignite your professional passion as you share skills with colleagues abroad;
- You will strengthen individuals and organisational processes and procedures so that generations of people will have opportunities for growth long after you return home.
- You will Learn. It is a life changing opportunity to work with and live amongst some of the most appreciative and resilient people you will ever meet.
- You will be Supported. Since 1961, Palms Australia has supported qualified and experienced Catholics motivated to undertake this Mission.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

www.palms.org.au



The Stations of the Cross

Every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas More Church Belgrave. (**From 24th February**).



Lady of Fatima statue home visit

Our Lady is waiting to visit your home.....

Karen Whiteside the new coordinator for making the roster for Our Lady of Fatima home visit. If you would like to participate on the roster, please call her on 0419329566.



Sacrament of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist

Sacrament of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist for students attending Non-Catholic Schools. To enroll, please contact the parish office during office hours on or before 10th March.

Telephone 97542141

Email belgrave@cam.org.au

Sacrament	Preparation Dates (Classes)	Day	Time	Location
Confirmation 20 th May 12pm	27/04 04/05 11/05	Thursdays	4.30pm	St. Paul's Church Monbulk
First Reconciliation 12 th August 9.45am	11/07 18/07 25/07 01/08	Tuesdays	4.30pm	St. Thomas Mores Church Belgrave
First Eucharist 10 th September 9am at STM church Belgrave 11am at St. Paul's church Monbulk	08/08 15/08 22/08 29/08 05/09	Tuesdays	4.30pm	St. Thomas Mores Church Belgrave St. Paul's church Monbulk

BISHOP ROBERT RABBAT ' S SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

PLEASE DONATE NOW

The recent Syrian earthquake has hit people who were already displaced in a region that has been devastated by more than a decade of civil war. Yet again, we are seeing people fleeing and desperate for shelter in freezing winter conditions. We want to help provide that light in the deepest darkness, to get through this devastating disaster.

MCF DGR ACCOUNT

Ref: Syrian Appeal

BSB: 062784

Account: 100011493



All donations are Tax Deductible.

For a receipt please email

mcf@melkite.org.au

or contact on (02) 9750 5514

ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNTRY FAIR
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11AM - 4PM
59 MOORES RD, MONBULK
HEAPS OF RIDES, AMUSEMENTS, FOOD & FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY