

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf Psalm 85:1-3**

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**Isaiah 22:19-23**

***I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.***

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8**

***Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.***

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

**Romans 11:33-36**

***From him, through him, and in him are all things.***

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

***You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.***

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Cf John 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:** Jeremiah 20:7-9

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

**Second Reading:** Romans 12:1-2

**Gospel:** Matthew 16:21-27



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

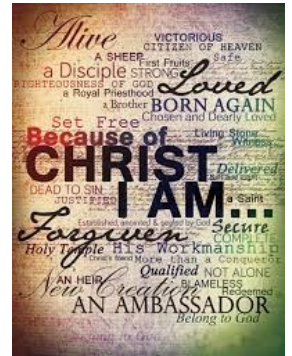
## **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 26th/27th August, 2023**

### **REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The readings highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.

When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable.



<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Aug27/0/RefDiBer>

### **The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 — Month of August**

**August - For World Youth Day** - We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popess-monthly-intentions-2023>

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Anthony Cruz MC  
*Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au*  
87518112.  
**Parish Secretary:** Mirani Perera  
97542141  
**Sacraments :** *belgrave@cam.org.au*  
**Child Safety Contacts:** Jeanette Wicks 97542759  
Monica Rayner  
Chairperson — Dennis  
Sue Luxford

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Monbulk:**

**Belgrave:** David Bhoynz

**Gembrook:** Rita McPherson

**Emerald:** Evie Phillip and Irene Reed

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

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**  
Principal: Declan McDermott  
Phone: 9754-4444  
Email: [principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

**ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**  
Principal: Michael Watt  
Phone: 9756 7201  
Email: [principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Geraldine Woodhouse.

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

## **Anniversaries:**

Connie Williams, Dr. Greg Keogh, Edward Clifford Hodapp, Irene Bryne, Elizabeth Mullan, Lorraine Furness, Dale Furnace, Michael Mulcahy, Howard Banks, Thomas (Frank) Blunden, Jack Maher, Gerrit Donker, Alan Newman, Bartelo Pepi, Anne Baruday, Maureen Sale, Josephine Miller, Hannah Bedford-Lee.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Peter Lawrence, Stephen Billington, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper John Barber, Dimuthu, Glen Butler, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, 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, 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.**

Catholic Theological College is running an **Online Information Session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation** on Monday 4 September at 7.30pm (AEST) that might be of interest to you, your lay ministers, or interested parishioners. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

For anyone interested in attending our information session, **registration is essential**. [Click here](#) to register.

Follow us on [Facebook](#).

278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002

PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002

T: (+61) 03 9412 3333

E: [ctc@ctc.edu.au](mailto:ctc@ctc.edu.au) web: [www.ctc.edu.au](http://www.ctc.edu.au)



## ***Mary MacKillop Australian Pilgrimage 17/10 - 28/10/2023***

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry.

Contact on

[national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or on 89124818.



Please see below an update to current vacant roles listed on our Melbourne Catholic website.

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: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>*

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at [hrad-min@cam.org.au](mailto:hrad-min@cam.org.au)

## **Mindfulness & Meditation – Saturday, 28 August 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm (in-person)**

When we are present to the 'now', centredness and relaxation become a natural part of life, and we know how to act from a heart of love. Facilitated by Paola Cheng who is a Spiritual Director, mental health social worker and meditation teacher, this is a day of prayer in the practice of Mindfulness and Meditation. We invite you to bring an open mind and heart to journey with others and within oneself. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/mindfulness-meditation/?> or email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne). Cost: \$60 (BYO Lunch)

## **Enneagram Day – Saturday, 9 September 2023, 9 am – 4.30 pm (in-person event)**

This one-day practical workshop offers a transformational experience where you will gain invaluable insight into the unique way in which we relate and respond to the people with whom we share our lives, and the world around us. Facilitated by our Program Director Dr Lynn Moresi, she will dwell into topics of discovering your Enneagram Type; identifying your pathways of strength and challenge; understanding/interacting with other Types; handling conflict; and effective communication. Join this small group setting for a day of fun, laughter, challenge and insight. Places limited. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/enneagram-day/> or email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne). Cost: \$80 including notes (BYO lunch)

In the spirit of reconciliation, Heart of Life acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia, and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

**Heart of Life**

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern, Victoria 3144, Australia

Tel: (03) 9890 1101 Email: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) Web: [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)



## ACBC Social Justice Sunday 2023

Social justice Sunday is observed every year on the final Sunday of August. This year's commemoration falls on August 27. The Catholic Church in Australia has a long tradition of commemorating Social Justice Sunday. The Catholic Bishops have issued an annual Social Justice Statement practically every year since 1940. The social justice remarks are made on behalf of the entire bishops' conference in time for Social Justice Sunday. These declarations are issued with the hopes of provoking thought and action throughout the year.



### HISTORY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Social Justice Sunday observance by the Catholic Church in Australia has a long tradition. Since 1940, catholic bishops have teamed up practically every year to issue major social justice pronouncements. The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (A.C.S.J.C.) was created in 1987 by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (A.C.B.C.), as the Catholic Church's national justice, peace, and human rights institution. The Bishops Commission for Justice and Development holds the A.C.S.J.C. accountable to the A.C.B.C.

The A.C.S.J.C.'s activities are divided into three categories: diocesan awareness and networking, education and formation, research, advocacy, and public policy. The Social Justice Statement's media rollout calls on the entire Catholic Church to act with greater urgency and to be guided by Laudato Si's integrated social and ecological vision. On this day, dedicated individuals, religious institutes, schools, and organizations that have long worked on environmental issues are affirmed, praised, and utilized as a model for the Catholic community to follow.

The Australian Church's commitment to inspiring engagement and effective responses among the Catholic community is exemplified through the Social Justice Statement. The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council works with and supports a nationwide network of contacts appointed by each diocese, as well as keeping in touch with the Holy See's Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development. The Office for Justice, Ecology, and Peace's responsibilities include implementing initiatives and programs on behalf of the Bishops, assisting the Bishops in their advocacy on social justice issues, raising awareness of issues, and collaborating with others working to promote social, economic, and ecological justice.

<https://nationaltoday.com/social-justice-sunday/>

### The Combined Societies of Mary Our Lady of Vailankanni 2023



Please accept this as your personal invitation to take part in a very powerful Novena and Feast in honour of Our Lady of Vailankanni who is Our Lady of Health. She is so powerful and always grants so many healings and graces through this Novena and Feast. In making this unique Novena we are inviting the saints of the Church to pray for us each night.

The Relics of the following Saints will be available for veneration.

Most are associated with healing, many are associated with India.



St Bernadette  
30th August



St Euphrasia  
31st August



St Alphonsa  
1st September



St Maria Goretti  
2nd September



St Francis Xavier  
3rd September



St Anthony of Padua  
4th September



St Therese  
5th September



St Peregriac  
6th September



St Pirkkosa  
7th September

**Powerful Novena:  
Wednesday 30th August to  
Thursday 7th Sept**

7.00 pm Each Evening Adoration,  
Novena Payers, Holy Mass

**The Wonderful Feast:  
Friday 8th September  
On Our Lady's Birthday  
7 pm Adoration, Prayers  
Benediction, Procession & Mass**

**Holy Cross Church Caulfield**

707 Glenhuntly Road South Caulfield Special India Priests over 9 nights  
Enquiries Joy Hunt 9509 2207, website: [www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com](http://www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com)

### Parish Office notice

The Parish priest and the staff will not be available on 30th August, due to attending the Parish Administration Forum.



**Please make your Thanksgiving contributions to your church**

St Thomas Mores Parish Church  
Account

BSB: 083 347

Account: 67214 6192

Or by online thank  
giving payments

