

## Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time C

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 17:19-20

The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus**

Sir 27:4-7

***Do not praise someone before they have spoken.***

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

***(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.***

It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R.)**

The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.

In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** 1 Cor 15:54-58

***Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.***

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** Phil 2:15-16

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke** Lk 6:39-45

***A person speaks from what is in his heart.***

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon:** Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, says the Lord.

**Next week's readings:**

**First Reading:** Dt 26:4-10

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

**Second Reading:** Rom 10:8-13

**Gospel** Lk 4:1-13



# 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

*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 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 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time C - 27th February, 2022***

This Sunday's Gospel is addressed to Jesus' followers, whom he considers to be eventual leaders and teachers in his Church. The notion of persevering in learning "the Law of the Lord," is stressed in the Gospel today, as well as responsibility for handing on the faith and the truths we hold dear, to those who are younger, or perhaps simply strangers to the message of Jesus Christ.

One of the images used in the Gospel today is that of a tree, which needs time to produce good fruit. We all have a lifetime, however long or short, to be like trees planted near running waters, that hopefully grow over time, learn from mistakes, strengthened by pruning and setbacks. Amidst it all, we are encouraged to never give up, but persevering and responsible in our call, whatever it may be.

Perseverance and responsibility are hallmarks of any follower of Jesus Christ. Coupled with perseverance and responsibility are compassion and love. With these virtues, we can more easily walk in the ways of the Lord and encourage others along the same path as well. In order to make his points, Jesus drew on the realities of his time. For example, eye disease was widespread in ancient Israel, before the advancements in medicine that we enjoy today. In the time of Jesus, people with eye disease were often shunned and tended to band together for assisting one another and protecting themselves. As such, it would be common that blind people would be leading other blind people.

Jesus used the familiar situation of "the blind leading the blind," to explain that the best scenario is that someone who can see is best equipped to lead one who cannot see. Analogously, teachers and leaders need to be prepared, know what they are talking about, in order to be effective guides. We can only ask ourselves: am I properly formed in the faith and the Church? An excellent place to enhance our lives as Christians is to acquire and read the "Catechism of the Catholic Church." It is a goldmine for growth in the knowledge of our faith and practice.

The Gospel challenges us to have a clear vision and to bear good fruit, for the deepening our adherence to Christ and to be sound "teachers," even if in small and hidden ways. Jesus indicated that good people produce goodness, which flows from the heart. We speak from what is in our deepest self. In another place in the Gospels, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also (see Gospel According to Saint Matthew 6:21).

The words of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, the second reading for this Sunday, sum up well what we are being called to: "Be steadfast and persevering, fully engaged in the work of the Lord. You know that your toil is not in vain when it is done in the Lord." Hopefully, as the years progress, we can recognize within a progression, not in "greatness," as that would be vainglory, but in bearing wholesome fruit, by growth in patience, compassion, forgiveness, commitment, honesty, letting go and letting God, sharing what we have with the less fortunate, giving of time and talents to worthwhile causes, generosity in assisting others, responding rather than reacting in difficult circumstances, choosing life, asking forgiveness, listening more and speaking less.

We can also say that good teaching comes more from actions than words. It has been said that at our passing, people may not remember any of the words we spoke to them, but they will remember how we made them feel: accepted or rejected. True and lasting teaching flows from a good and loving heart, acting in accordance with Christ's teaching and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Source: <https://www.catholicforlife.com/homily-for-the-8th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c-1/>

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:**

**Fr. Anthony Cruz MC**  
*Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au*  
**87518112.**

**Phone:**  
**Parish Secretary:**  
**Parish Office:**  
**Sacraments :**  
**Child Safety Contacts:**  
**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**  
**Monbulk:**

**Mirani Perera**  
**97542141**  
*belgrave@cam.org.au*  
**Jeanette Wicks 97542759**  
**Chairperson — Dennis**  
**Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford**

**Belgrave:**

**Evert Jansen and 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.**

**ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE**

Principal: Caroline Quinton  
 Phone: 9754-4444  
 Email: [cquinton@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cquinton@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:** Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities. 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: 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.



### **Project Compassion 2022**

#### **Project Compassion Sunday 26 & 27 February**

Please take home a Project Compassion box and a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and For All Future Generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

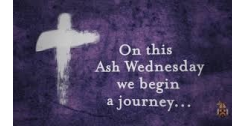
Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.



## Baptism

Let us welcome **Laurance Clark Bard** into our faith community as he is going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. May he be richly blessed throughout his life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.



### 2nd March

### Ash Wednesday

Could you please bring the last year Palms Sunday leaves to the church when you come for this weekend masses. (Saturday and Sunday)

**Ash Wednesday Masses at St. Thomas More church Belgrave.**

**9.00 am and 7.30pm**

**Fr. Anthony Cruz**

## Needed

The parish is seeking volunteers at each Mass Centre to act as **First Aid Officers**, who would assist persons in the need of basic first aid. Applicants will be given basic first aid training at no cost to them. Please consider.

The parish council is seeking volunteers at each Mass Centre to act as a commander who would, in the event of an incident, access the situation and take initial control at their respective centre. Reporting to the parish council and to Fr Cruz.

We need to support Father as he administers our large parish. It is our parish, it is our responsibility to assist in the well-being of all.

All applications to Fr Cruz

**Dennis - Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson**

FOOD, LIVE MUSIC & STALLS - ART SHOWCASE by Mt Dandenong PS



Rotary 9810

## STORM RECOVERY festival

27 FEB 2022 - 10am - 2pm

St George's Anglican Church Paddock  
Main Street, Monbulk

LIVE READING of "The Story of the Big Storm" by Julia Hall

a time to heal - a time to thank - a time to help

GOLD COIN DONATION ENTRY to GFA & SES

### Voluntary Pastoral workers needed for our mass centres

Who would assist Fr. Cruz in providing information about our own parishioners who are sick and not able to come to church for weekend mass. It's an important ministry in the parish like the ministry done by the visitation group.

Belgrave	3
Gembrook	1 (one person needed)
Emerald	2
Monbulk	1

Please contact the parish office on working office hours.

Fr. Anthony Cruz



### #56 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

#### COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: 24 February 2022, 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 which have been extended from 11:59pm Wednesday 12 January for three months. The declaration was made under section 165AE of the *Public Health and Well Being Act 2008*.

**Face Covering :** From 11:59pm Friday 25 February 2022, face coverings are not mandatory within Places of Worship or workplaces and will only be required in the following circumstances listed below.

- People on public transport, in taxis and rideshare, on planes, and indoors at an airport
- People working in or visiting hospitals, and indoor areas at care facilities,
- Workers in hospitality, retail and the court system
- Workers at justice and correctional facilities
- Students in Year 3 or above at primary schools, and workers at early childhood centres and primary schools (face coverings can be removed in secondary schools)
- People working indoors at an event with more than 30,000 people attending. In special circumstances, such as if you have COVID-19 or are a close contact and you're leaving home
- Face coverings are recommended for other workers serving or facing members of the public, such as if you are at reception, meeting guests or serving customers.

Please note, health officials have emphasised that face coverings are recommended for workers who "serve or face" members of the public. As always, our priority is care for others and especially those most vulnerable. In our circumstances, there are particular times when Clergy, ministerial leaders and parish

staff and volunteers are in close contact with a broad range of our people, many of whom are still feeling anxious or who experience other health challenges which makes them vulnerable. We ask you to keep this in mind at all times and use face coverings in those situations as appropriate.

It is still recommended to wear a face covering outside if you cannot physically distance, if you have any symptoms, or if you are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.

**COVID Safe Plan:** All workplaces and Places of Worship must still have a COVIDSafe Plan that supports a community to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and should be regularly reviewed to ensure it is current. Signage in public spaces reminding attendees about sanitising.

The current changes provide a good opportunity to review what is in place. For guidance please visit: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-plan>.

#### QR Code Check in requirements:

As of 6:00pm Friday 18 February 2022, QR code check-in to Places of Worship and Parish Offices is no longer required. We understand this to also include when the faithful are using other facilities within the Parish (for example, hospitality to visitors following Mass or the celebration of a Baptism, Children's liturgy etc).

However, for facilities in the parish community such as Parish Offices or Halls hired out to other non-Church community groups, vaccination status may still be required and should be managed through the COVIDsafe plan they provide to run their event or booking.

Please also note below in regard to vaccination requirements for staff and volunteers.

**Vaccinations:** There will not be any vaccination requirements nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status for attendees at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, or general Worship. **Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be up-to-date with their vaccination status and are required to show evidence of their vaccination status to their employer in order to continue working outside their home.** This includes members of a choir or servers over the age of 18 years as they are regarded as volunteers. Please note that attendees to other Church-related activities outside of worship which involve the worshipping community (gatherings after Mass or following Funerals, Baptisms; Children's liturgy; youth groups; prayer groups, etc.) do not require full vaccination status. However, staff and volunteers at such gatherings do (as per above). Vaccination requirements also do not apply in limited circumstances such as a facility that hosts essential public support groups or support services, or under guidelines from particular sporting bodies. Information regarding exemptions or rulings should be provided to the Parish in the COVIDsafe plan of the organisation or group hiring the premises. Note: Vaccination requirements will apply from the age of 18 years for those attending parish halls and facilities, and 12 years and two months for workers, unless a medical exemption applies.