

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 37:22-23

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2

I love you Lord, my strength.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 7:23-28

This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed

the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

Mark

Mark 12:28-34

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

John 6:58

Just as the living Father sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so whoever feeds on me
shall have life because of me, says the Lord.

Next Sunday Readings

First Reading	1 Kings 17:10-16
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 145:7-10. R.v.2
Second Reading	Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel	Mark 12:38-44



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

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

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B - 2nd/3rd November, 2024



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Israel was called by God. To what was Israel called? To what were the crowds who followed Jesus called? To what are we called? To a covenant relationship with the Lord who is God, the one who is Lord alone. We have been invited into an intimate personal relationship with the creator of the universe, the one who plays with black holes and white dwarfs and at the same time with infinite interest has numbered the very hairs on our head (cf. Matt 10:30). We have heard this so often that it may have become commonplace. The marvel of it may escape our attention, because it has become just a part of our religious language. It is well that once in a while we are shaken to our senses, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord is your God, the Lord alone!'

It is not marvel enough that this mysterious God has created us; we have also been redeemed. As victim-priest Jesus has offered himself on our behalf. He is the sacrifice that sealed the covenant; his blood was the expiation for our sins; he is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our shield, our stronghold. Only one thing is asked of us in return: that we open ourselves to him and cling to the covenant, that we proclaim with all our hearts 'The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!' We are to love with all our heart and all our soul and all our strength; we are to love God and to love others.

<https://liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Nov03/0/RefDiBer>

November: For Parents Who Have Lost a Child — "Let us pray that all parents mourning the death of a child find support in the community and receive heart's peace from the consoling Spirit."

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

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Anthony Cruz MC
Phone: Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au 87518112.

Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
Parish Office: 97542141
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au

Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
Monica Rayner

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:
Chairperson Evie
Monbulk: Sue Luxford
Belgrave: David Paton
Gembrook:

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
Principal: Declan McDermott
Phone: 9754-4444
Email: principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK
Principal: Nick Frederiksen
Phone: 9756 7201
Email: nfrederiksen@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

Mater Christi College - Belgrave
Principal: Ms Maria Haggett
Phone: 9754 6611 Email: mcc@materchristi.edu.au

St Joseph's College - Ferntree Gully
Principal: Ms Cathy Livingston
Phone: 9758 2000 Email: info@stjosephs.com.au

Mount Lilydale Mercy College - Lilydale
Principal: Philip Morison
Phone: (03) 9735 4022 E mail: pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Coral Bonini, the wife of late Alfred Bonini and mother of Marina and Catherine.

Many people across the world who have died due to Covid-19, wars, civil restlessness and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Heinz Huber, Marie Tirchett, Oliver Goodrich, Nicholaas Broekhof, John Boland, Walter McMahan, Arthur Griffiths, Sr. Marie Dolore DDZ.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Elisabeth Drake, Faye & Colin Brown, Patricia Grant, Kate Joy star, John Kuyper, Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper, John Barber, Dimuthu, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Cameron DiCasio, Jack Weir, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Rebecca Jane Atkinson, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, 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.**

Belgrave church reading roster 3rd November

Eileen Collins and Helen Garrick

Next week — 10th November

Mo Cromar and David Atkinson



For details relating to Baptisms, Marriages & Anointing of the Sick, please contact the parish office.

To Contribute Financially to St. Thomas Mores Parish

St Thomas Mores Parish Church Account

BSB: 083 347, Account: 67214 6192

Presbytery Account

BSB 083 347, Account : 669831148



Baptism

Let us welcome **Josephine Genevieve Connolly** into our faith community. May she be richly blessed throughout her life constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.



Prayer for the Parish

(To be prayed at the end of the mass before the recessional Hymn)

Loving God,

We ask you to pour out your spirit upon our parish

And grant us a new vision of your kingdom,

a new faithfulness to your Word,

a new consecration to your service,

that we may become a growing community of disciples,

that seeks to bring your word to the world,

through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on us.

St. Joseph, Pray for us.

St. Paul, Pray for us.

St. Claire, Pray for us.

St. Thomas more, Pray for us.



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:



Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine and world peace

Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine, plea for Peace in the Middle East and world peace Let's redouble our prayers for a resolution for the Ukraine conflict. The candlelight vigil mass is on the **first Wednesday of the Month**. Lets redouble our prayers for a resolution to this conflict and peace in the world.

7.00pm Mass
7.30pm Private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament
7.45pm Rosary
8.05pm Benediction



Parish Working Bee at St. Clare's

Mt. Dandenong

Saturday, 9th November 9am -3pm

We have been granted permission by the Archbishop of Melbourne to move forward with a commercial lease of St. Clare's Mt. Dandenong. To prepare for this a working bee has been arranged. Tasks include sweeping and raking outdoors, cleaning, cutting blackberry bushes, burning off, wiper snipping, mowing, window and gutter clearing, pruning. Morning Tea/Lunch will be provided. If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact **Tony on 0411804443** (phone/text) re your name, availability, hours and tools you are proving looking forward to seeing as many as possible on the day.

CALLING ALL MAKERS; BAKERS; SEWERS AND GROWERS !!!!!!!

(And a spoiler alert for all other parishioners to keep the date free :->)

We are hoping to hold another of our Christmas craft table event after the 9.00 am Mass at Belgrave on **Sunday November 24th**, with the aim of once again raising funds towards any project anywhere within the parish as Fr. Cruz and his financial advisers allocate.

We are once again asking for all our super generous makers etc. to get their mind and hands into gear to make donations of items which we will then aim to sell on the day.

If there are sufficient donations to go around, we are also willing to visit the other Mass centers with items for sale as we have now done a couple of times.

We again hope to also have items worthy of raffling, I'm happy to be the contact person if anyone wants to contact me to answer questions, Thanks in advance everyone,

Marianne. 0408306129



ENCYCLICAL LETTER

DILEXIT NOS

OF THE HOLY FATHER

FRANCIS

ON THE HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE

OF THE HEART OF JESUS CHRIST

1. "HE LOVED US", Saint Paul says of Christ (cf. Rom 8:37), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever "separate us" from that love (Rom 8:39). Paul could say this with certainty because Jesus himself had told his disciples, "I have loved you" (Jn 15:9, 12). Even now, the Lord says to us, "I have called you friends" (Jn 15:15). His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us his love and friendship. For "he loved us first" (cf. 1 Jn 4:10). Because of Jesus, "we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us" (1 Jn 4:16).

CHAPTER ONE

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEART

2. The symbol of the heart has often been used to express the love of Jesus Christ. Some have questioned whether this symbol is still meaningful today. Yet living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart. [1]

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "THE HEART"?

3. In classical Greek, the word *kardia* denotes the inmost part of human beings, animals and plants. For Homer, it indicates not only the centre of the body, but also the human soul and spirit. In the Iliad, thoughts and feelings proceed from the heart and are closely bound one to another. [2] The heart appears as the locus

of desire and the place where important decisions take shape. [3] In Plato, the heart serves, as it were, to unite the rational and instinctive aspects of the person, since the impulses of both the higher faculties and the passions were thought to pass through the veins that converge in the heart. [4] From ancient times, then, there has been an appreciation of the fact that human beings are not simply a sum of different skills, but a unity of body and soul with a coordinating centre that provides a backdrop of meaning and direction to all that a person experiences.

4. The Bible tells us that, "the Word of God is living and active... it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb 4:12). In this way, it speaks to us of the heart as a core that lies hidden beneath all outward appearances, even beneath the superficial thoughts that can lead us astray. The disciples of Emmaus, on their mysterious journey in the company of the risen Christ, experienced a moment of anguish, confusion, despair and disappointment. Yet, beyond and in spite of this, something was happening deep within them: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?" (Lk 24:32).

5. The heart is also the locus of sincerity, where deceit and disguise have no place. It usually indicates our true intentions, what we really think, believe and desire, the "secrets" that we tell no one: in a word, the naked truth about ourselves. It is the part of us that is neither appearance or illusion, but is instead authentic, real, entirely "who we are". That is why Samson, who kept from Delilah the secret of his strength, was asked by her, "How can you say, 'I love you', when your heart is not with me?" (Judg 16:15). Only when Samson opened his heart to her, did she realize "that he had told her his whole secret" (Judg 16:18).

6. This interior reality of each person is frequently concealed behind a great deal of "foliage", which makes it difficult for us not only to understand ourselves, but even more to know others: "The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse, who can understand it?" (Jer 17:9). We can understand, then, the advice of the Book of Proverbs: "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life; put away from you crooked speech" (4:23-24). Mere appearances, dishonesty and deception harm and pervert the heart. Despite our every attempt to appear as something we are not, our heart is the ultimate judge, not of what we show or hide from others, but of who we truly are. It is the basis for any sound life project; nothing worthwhile can be undertaken apart from the heart. False appearances and untruths ultimately leave us empty-handed.

7. As an illustration of this, I would repeat a story I have already told on another occasion. "For the carnival, when we were children, my grandmother would make a pastry using a very thin batter. When she dropped the strips of batter into the oil, they would expand, but then, when we bit into them, they were empty inside. In the dialect we spoke, those cookies were called 'lies'... My grandmother explained why: 'Like lies, they look big, but are empty inside; they are false, unreal'". [5]

8. Instead of running after superficial satisfactions and playing a role for the benefit of others, we would do better to think about the really important questions in life. Who am I, really? What am I looking for? What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to look back on my life once it ends? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God? All these questions lead us back to the heart.

To be continued for next week.

[Dilexit nos \(24 October 2024\) | Francis](#)