

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Romans 12:1-2**

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,

that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Matthew 16:21-27**

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

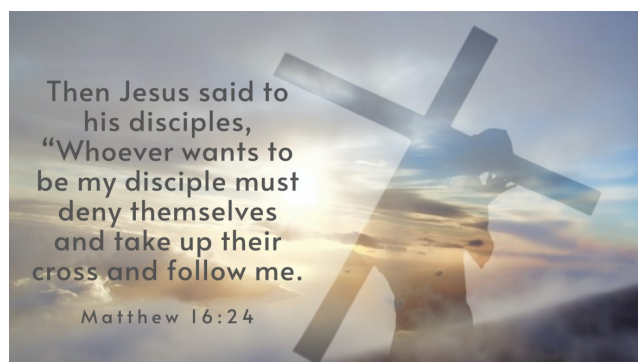
Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 5:9-10

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.



Next week's readings

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| First Reading: | Ezekiel 33:7-9 |
| Responsorial Psalm: | Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8 |
| Second Reading: | Romans 13:8-10 |
| Gospel: | Matthew 18:15-20 |



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 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 (From January 2024, the Vigil mass will be at 5pm)	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	Wednesday 10.15am

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A - 2nd/3rd September, 2023

SEASON OF CREATION by Nick Brodie

In our own times, when the threat posed by climate change is becoming increasingly obvious, this Gospel passage asks us to look and act with openness to our sharing in God's plan. There is no mandate here for doing nothing and letting catastrophe happen. Ours is not a religion of sanctified fatalism or pious denialism. Ours is a faith which demands that we face reality, however scary it sometimes seems. We are people of hope. After all, Jesus doesn't drift towards disaster. Rather, Jesus steps knowingly on the path towards salvation. His is a determined journey, aiming at redeeming the world. He has already told the disciples that good shall come of this. Peter's protestation comes from an understandable but misplaced attachment to the secure ways of the present. Peter, fearful of a change that is already underway, reflexively wants to deny it.

Like Peter before us, Jesus calls every one of us to follow him. We can do that by renouncing our selfishness and, like Peter eventually did, getting over our denialist habits.

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Sep03/0/RefNickB>

Notice:

There will be a weekday mass on Wednesdays at 10.15am at St. Paul's church Monbulk. The change of Vigil mass time at St. Joseph's church Emerald will be at 5pm, commencing in January 2024

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 — Month of September

For people living on the margins — We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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

PARISH PRIEST:

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Chairperson — Dennis
Sue Luxford

Child Safety Contacts:

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Monbulk:

Belgrave:

David Bhoynz

Gembrook:

Emerald: and Irene Reed

Evie

**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
www.smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK

Principal: Michael Watt
Phone: 9756 7201
Email: principal@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths:

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

Anniversaries:

Peter Lyons, Margot Green, Kathy Sta Maria, Helen Van Bergehengouwien, Stephanie Sephanie Separovich.

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.**

Working Bee - Take 2

Saturday, 9th September at 9.00am to 3.00pm - St Clare's Church, Mt Dandenong



Working Bee to finish off clearing and burning off from last weekend.

Please bring mowers, whipper snippers and rakes etc.

The more help the quicker we get the job done - thankyou in advance

Location: 1424 Mt Dandenong Road

{St Clare's Cnr Selwyn Lane and Mt Dandenong Road}

Lunch provided

Contact Tony Ellingworth 0411 804443

Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine 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 pm Mass**
- 7.30pm Private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament**
- 7.45pm Rosary.**
- 8.05pm Benediction.**



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 hadmin@cam.org.au

Please make your Thanksgiving contributions to your church church account or via

St Thomas Mores Parish Church or Account

BSB: 083 347

Account: 67214 6192



Father's Day

Priests Retirement Foundation

Today's collection is for the Priests Retirement Foundation who cares for our Retired Priests of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Please donate using the envelopes on the pews or electronically by logging on to:

www.melbournecatholic.org.au/foundation

and make your donation through Paypal. Thank you for your generous support of the Retired Priests.

The Holy Father is meeting with the Bishops for the Synod of Synodality in October 2023. To support this important process the Novena to St. Joseph's Holy cloak has been distributed to each mass centre. This is a powerful 30 day novena calling on St Joseph protector of the church. It was proposed to start 8/9 Birthday of Our Lady and end 7/10 Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. St Joseph's Holy Cloak novena takes about 20min in total but is broken down in a series of prayers.

Use the prayers provided or listen on You tube.

The novena sheets are available in our four mass centers.



Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows - 15th September

The entire month of September is dedicated by the Church to the honor of Our Lady of Sorrows. The devotion to Our Lady's sorrows remembers the Blessed Virgin Mary's spiritual martyrdom in with her perfect union with the Passion of Christ as she stood at the foot of the cross.

The seven sorrows of Mary, the novena stars on 6th September. The novena sheets are available at St. Thomas More Church foyer.

Please visit below link for more information and her promises.

<https://www.catholicnewsworld.com/2019/09/did-you-know-september-is-dedicated-to.html>



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Feast day: Sep 08

The Catholic Church celebrates today the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of September 8, nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of

Saints and Anne.



The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church.

These accounts, although not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about the birth of Mary.

The "Protoevangelium of James," which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Mary's father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac." Joachim and Anne began to devote themselves extensively and rigorously to prayer and fasting, initially wondering whether their inability to conceive a child might signify God's displeasure with them.

As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah, as an angel revealed to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth, and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world." After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium of James, Anne "made a sanctuary" in the infant girl's room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean" on account of the special holiness of the child. The same writing records that when she was one year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel." "And Joachim brought the child to the priests," the account continues, "and they blessed her, saying: 'O God of our fathers, bless this child, and give her an everlasting name to be named in all generations' . . . And he brought her to the chief priests, and they blessed her, saying: 'O God most high, look upon this child, and bless her with the utmost blessing, which shall be for ever.'" The protoevangelium goes on to describe how Mary's parents, along with the temple priests, subsequently decided that she would be offered to God as a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life, and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph. Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said. The fourth-century bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church's understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/the-birth-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-357>