

Second Sunday of Advent C

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

A reading from the prophet Baruch Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad. (R.)

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Next week's readings:

First Reading: Zep 3:14-18

Responsorial Psalm: Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7

Gospel Lk 3:10-18



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

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.am and 5.30pm	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am + mass on Zoom	

Homily for the Second Sunday of Advent C - 5th December, 2021

On this second week of Advent, we continue our Journey of hope and waiting for the coming of Christ. Today, the church invites us to celebrate the marvels that God is about to work for us in a couple of weeks from now. This season, we wait in joyful hope for that “Day of the Lord” when his work will be complete in us.

All the readings of this Sunday are wake up calls for us to prepare for the great encounter with the Lord who is to come soon. So, while our first reading announces that God means to show the splendor of Christ to all nations, the second reading reminds us of “*The Lord’s Day*” which obviously will initiate our salvation. This wakeup call is summed up, and reflected in the prophecy of John the Baptist in today’s gospel.

This season, Christ comes in his glory, but His coming will be of no use to us unless we encounter him, and share in the joy that he will bring at Christmas. If we truly prepare for Him this season, our hearts will overflow with joy as a river over flows its bank when it is filled. Hence, the first reading of today tells us: “...*take off your dress of sorrow and distress and put on the beauty of the glory of God forever...*” (Bar 5, 1-9). This is rightly so because soon and very soon, we shall joyfully welcome the Lord.

Paul on his part encourages us to remain steadfast in good works and to continue improving our ways of life until the “Day of the Lord” comes. It is important to note that for us to encounter Jesus Christ, and share in the joy that he brings, we must be ready to make some sacrifices. This entails preparing and purifying ourselves through prayer, charity, love, and reconciliation. Hence, Paul says: “...*This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the day of Christ...*” (Phil 1, 8).

Furthermore, whatever will constitute an obstacle to encountering Jesus Christ this season must be completely removed as the voice of John the Baptist re-echoes clearly to us “...*Prepare a way for the Lord, make his path straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill be laid low...*” (Luke 3, 5-6). This means that something must be sacrificed this season for Christ to have his place in us, and for us to experience the joy of Christ when he finally comes in glory and splendor.

Therefore, this season of Advent, let us humbly join the psalmist in to implore the Lord: “*Restore unto me the joy of my salvation, O Lord my God* (Ps. 51, 12). However, it is only when we have successfully and sincerely prepared that we can share and radiate in the joy of the Lord. Then and only then, can we exclaim: “*What marvels the Lord worked for us, indeed we are glad*” (Ps.125.).

Finally, as we wait and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ this season, may the Almighty God fill us with the strength and the patience we need to persevere without fainting. May our encounter with Christ this season restore the joy of our salvation. Amen!

Source:

<https://frcanicenjoku.com/homily-for-2nd-sunday-of-advent-year-c-2/>



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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Chairperson — Dennis

Monbulk:

Tony Whyte and Sue Luxford

Belgrave:

Therese Melia Geary , Evert Jansen

Mia Jansen

Rita McPherson , Louise Jans and

Samantha Willis

Gembrook:

John Conway & Dennis

Emerald:

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

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ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Rosemary Pickthall (83), the mother of Melisa Henley and mother in law of Richard Henley.

Arogya Mary (89) Fr. Cruz' Aunty who was in India. Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

- Funeral mass of Rosemary Pickthall will be held on 10th December at 11am at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. Make sure you display your fully vaccinated digital certificate. There will be a funeral officer to assist you.

Anniversaries: Tony Grieve, Rose Smyth, John McLaughlan, Kevin Hogan, Mark Broomhead, Teresa Findlay, Marie Russie, Georia Smith, La Croix, John Hinsburgen, David Makanani, Gerry Kogelman, Gavin Hare, Helen Gillick, Shaun Fitzmaurice. Sr. Gertrude Maria

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, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Tom Fergus, Leo and Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, 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.

First Friday Devotions at St Thomas More Church, Belgrave —

Beginning of mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary Prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. There are twelve promises given to St Margarat Alacoque about the First Friday. We need to do 9 consecutive first Fridays. There are flyers in the foyer.

First Saturday Devotions at St Thomas More Church, Belgrave —

Beginning of mass at 9am. After the Mass, Rosary is prayed with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. During the holy hour of Adoration, Priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Lady of Fatima asked for 5 consecutive Saturdays. To learn more about this request from Our Lady we need to learn more about Fatima flyers in the foyer.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

FUNDRAISING NEWS:

We are in the process of collecting old stamps and old coins

Can you please keep all used postage stamps (Australian and overseas) and overseas money, also old stamp albums.

These are for sale at the next parish fete. Send to the parish office or call Tony Whyte (St Paul's Monbulk) for collection.

Special Thanks for those who have raised \$123 by selling old money and old stamps.



We are still running the Wine Drive until the 10th of Dec - Pick up in Belgrave, Gembrook, Emerald and Monbulk churches.

CARLEI WINES

Order Form



Carlei Wines is excited to give back to the community!

To Celebrate The Sacred Heart Church of Gembrook's 100th Birthday celebrations, Carlei Wines will be running a fundraiser; donating a percentage of all sales to the church!

Simply fill out the attached order form by 10/12/2021
Your order will be packed and ready for collection at the church.

The Parish will contact everyone once the orders are ready.

For more information on any of the wines listed, please email gettinglocalsbackontrack@gmail.com



Extra Special Winery Offer!!

Spend over \$60 in one order and go into the draw to **WIN** a \$100 Voucher to be used at The Pine Grove Hotel!!

The link to our Facebook page for promoting the wine drive.

<https://fb.me/e/1cRHah8RP>

We congratulate Fr. Cruz who completes his 15th year of his priestly life and ministry on 9th December and enters into the 16th year of his priestly ministry. Lets keep him in our valuable prayers as he is in our parish serving our believing communities.



Human Rights Dinner

You're Invited to acknowledge International Human Rights Day with Casey Grandmothers for Refugees

SATURDAY, 11th DECEMBER @ 6.00pm

Tecoma Uniting Church

1566 Burwood Highway

Tecoma

Please bring: Yourselves and friends

RSVP TO: Prue 0447546327

\$20 for a scrumptious dinner and good conversation

Proceeds to Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project and Kindred

Fully Vaccinated Digital Certificate for Church Volunteers

The Archdioceses of Melbourne, strongly advised us that all the volunteers provide a copy of your COVID19 fully vaccination digital certificate to the parish priest or parish office as soon as possible during parish office hours from Tuesday to Friday 10am to 2pm.

Mass Managers, Liturgy Group Members, Parish Council Members, Finance Committee members, Bookkeeper, Parish Property Manager, Social justice group, Readers, Money Collectors, Sacrament workshop Facilitators, Musicians, Choir Members, Visitation Group, Special Communion ministers, Social Committee Members, Vincent de Paul Committee members, Fundraising group, Child safety committee members, Alter decorators, Cleaners and the other volunteers

Fr. Anthony Cruz

**Happy 50th Anniversary to
Maureen and Patrick
Coyne...**



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Mass (Friday 24th December)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

5.30pm Carols

6.00pm Children Mass (**Salesian Priest**)

9.00pm Mass for the unvaccinated
(**Fr. Cruz**)

11.00pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight
Mass (**Fr. Cruz**)



St. Joseph's Church Emerald

6.30pm (**Salesian Priest**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

6.30pm Carols

7.00pm (**Fr. Cruz**)

Christmas Mass (Saturday 25th December)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

5.30pm (mass for the unvaccinated)

(**Fr. Cruz**)

Sacred Church, Gembrook

9.00am

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

26th December Sunday

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook

9.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9.00am (**Salesian Priest**)

5.30pm for unvaccinated people (**Fr. Cruz**)

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk

11.00am (**Fr. Cruz**)