

## Second Sunday of Advent Year B

**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 Isaiah** Is 40:1-5. 9-11

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

‘Console my people, console them’says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

**A reading from the second letter of St Peter**

2 Pt 3:8-14

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

**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!**

**Gospel** Mk 1:1-8

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

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

**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.



# Parish of Belgrave

## The Catholic Church

**P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160**  
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*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 Emerald Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads	Sacred Heart Gembrook Main Road	St. Thomas More Belgrave Reynolds Lane	St. Paul's Monbulk 59 Moores Road
MASS TIMES	WEEKEND	6.00pm Vigil Mass	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

### Homily for the 2nd Sunday in Advent

Do you personally like change? If asked, many people would probably answer “no” or “it all depends on what was changing.” That’s fair enough of an answer. But in all honesty we must admit that it is often the case that people, for whatever reason, generally do not like change. It often meets with mild to strong opposition, pointed criticism or at times even with bitter resentment. At the same time some people contend that change is a good thing; they believe that it’s necessary. Just one week ago the Church initiated some significant liturgical changes but not merely for the sake of change. The changes were meant to introduce the beginning of a new liturgical year. Also, in the sanctuary of our churches as well as in many homes, the Advent Wreath is placed in a prominent spot for all to see. The four candles, three purple and one pink, challenge us to remember the importance of these weeks of prayer that lead us to Christmas day.

These changes are so enriching and inspiring as well. However, what the readings of the second Sunday of Advent really call us to is change within, - radical change that will transform us into heralds of Christ. These changes are to take place deep within us so that we become truly “transformed” within through the saving grace of Christ, the Son of God, and the promised messiah. The kind of change that we must strive for each and every day during the Advent season is that type of interior renewal that will actually “configure” us to Christ more perfectly, interiorly, deep within our very being. Change within makes us authentic heralds of Christ and enables us to make Christ’s presence known and felt by all we meet. Through the changes within us we can make Christ’s message easy to hear and touch and see in a powerful way for all of our brothers and sisters. With renewed interior strength we can change hatred to love, violence to peace and selfishness to generosity. It becomes easier to embrace the forgiving love of Christ in the sacrament of reconciliation as well as growing in the ability to forgive others. Through our efforts to change within we see more clearly how the Church is our source of truth, our vessel of safety and, in fact, our mother.

All of the externals of the Advent season will eventually be packed up and put away to be used again next year. Externals can only “decorate” the outside for a limited period of time. The interior changes we make in our personal lives will remain and enrich our lives and those of others around us indefinitely. Thus, each year the new Advent season will bring repeated hope for more light, more promise, more peace - and most importantly more of Christ’s peaceful reign in our world. Interior transformation and configuration to Christ within us will lead us to triumph in the battle against the distortion of truths, virtues and values with which we are so often plagued through relativism, selfishness and an ego-centric approach to life in our world that has led to a culture of death.

In today’s gospel we find the unique example of that radically transformed heart and the totally configured soul to Christ Jesus, namely, John the Baptist. He is indeed the role model for all those who call themselves Christian. We, like John are also called to go forth and “announce” the coming of Christ. Like John we too are called to “proclaim” the Good News by our lives; to encourage our brothers and sisters to “prepare the way of the Lord!”

*Source : Augustine M. Esposito, O.S.A.*

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**Monbulk:** Rin Van Raay  
**Belgrave:** Marie Madden  
**Gembrook:** Pam Giulieri  
**Emerald:** John Conway & Lisa McLean  
**Mt. Dandenong:** Stephen Billington & Virginia Schneiders

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## **REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths** Many people across the world who have died due to corona virus and natural calamities.

**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: Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster. Irene, Linda and Robert Ploeg, Pat McCarrick, Tom Fergus, Leo Walsh, Father Noel, MacKay. Stephen, Loise Lenaghan, B O'Connor, Linda Bullinant. Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, Alida Cabret, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus.

**Topic: Father Cruz' Holy Mass Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMlZOSTYOTFRYXJGQT09>

**Meeting ID: 750 464 5976**

**Passcode: 7mJTwW**

Note : Please be advised about the new changes due to relaxing of restrictions re covid19.

We are now allowed to have up to 150 people inside the church. But because we must also adhere to social distancing we calculated that we can fit the following numbers of people in each mass centre.

**Belgrave - 75 people**      **Emerald - 35 people**

**Monbulk - 50 people**      **Gembrook - 25 people**

Please sign in before you enter the Church with your *name and your contact number*.

*Every Saturday after the 9am mass we pray the Rosary in the presence of the blessed Sacrament exposed during which the sacrament of reconciliation ( individual confession) is available with all hygiene measures and social distancing. We too resumed today our first Friday devotion to Divine Mercy.*

### ***Thanksgiving Envelopes***

Thanks giving envelopes are available at the church. Please place your donations in the collection box. Alternatively you can pay by direct debit.

**BAPTISM:** To arrange a Baptism in the Parish, please phone the parish office during the office hours on 97542141.

### ***Christmas Mass Times***

#### **24th December Christmas Eve Mass**

Belgrave      5.30pm Carols  
6.00pm Children Mass  
11.00pm Carols  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Emerald      6.30pm

Monbulk      7.00pm

#### **25th December Christmas Mass**

Belgrave      9.00am

Gembrook      9.00am

Monbulk      11.00am



### ***Difficult Decision***

For the last 12 years, our Parish Social Justice Group has operated a free meal service at the Tin Shed in Belgrave's main street. Those who used the service, regularly praised the warm friendly atmosphere and the generous quantities of nourishing food we offered. Teams of cooks from our parish, St John the Baptist Ferntree Gully, Mater Christi College and St Thomas More Primary School, supported by our three dedicated co-ordinators, Janette Van Santen, John Shaw and Lou Iaquinto, have sustained this initiative and made it successful.

A recent meeting of the Social Justice Group decided to discontinue Tucker in the Tin Shed. In making this difficult decision, we recognized that the number of diners we were serving has diminished; that more meal services such as Kindness Kitchen in Tecoma, Dig In Café in Emerald; Upwey Baptist Church Community Meals have developed over the years, making more meals available to more people; our ministry has required devoted efforts many people for 12 years.

An uncertain future awaits many in our area, as the full effects of pandemic related unemployment are realized. The Social Justice Group would like to continue working in areas of social need. Our Vision Statement indicates that we exist to raise awareness of Social Justice issues and to be actively involved in addressing them. We would welcome suggestions from parishioners as to where and how our group can be involved. Please send your ideas to Marilyn Huber's email address: [mm.huber34@gmail.com](mailto:mm.huber34@gmail.com)

***Marilyn Huber***

### Important Dates

**8th December**      **Immaculate conception of the Blessed Mary**

**12th December**      **Our lady of Guadalupe**

### Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

#### DIRECTIONS

Since 1531, Our Lady of Guadalupe, or the Dark Virgin, as she is often called, has become the patron saint of the Mexican Republic. Historically and emotionally, the Virgin is deeply woven into the life of every Mexican.



During the wars of independence she was the patroness of the Mexican armies. Almost every Mexican town has a church dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

And people turn to her for help and guidance on every occasion.

Tequila Mezcal (Mexico's national drinks)

Activity Source: Festive Recipes and Festival Menus by Sula Benet, Abelard-Schuman Limited, 1970

The festival of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe actually begins a week before December 12. Thousands of pilgrims from all over the country—many traveling for a week on foot or by burro—flock to the Basilica of Ville Madero, on the outskirts of Mexico City, where the most impressive ceremonies in honor of the Virgin are held. The streets adjoining the church are literally packed with people who wait their turn to enter the church and make their offering.

The climax of the festival begins on the eve of December 12, when the conchero dancers gather in the atrium of the church. The name probably derives from the word concha, meaning "shell," because the mandolin-shaped instruments of the dancers are made of armadillo shells. The dancing—hopping steps performed to the endlessly repeated accompaniment of one or two musical themes—begins at midnight and lasts throughout the day. Groups of dancers alternate to keep up the furious pace. The songs and dances of the concheros, who perform at fiestas all over Mexico, have been handed down through many generations and follow rigid traditional patterns.

Since it is a happy day for all Mexicans, food and drink are enjoyed by rich and poor alike, and many people will save up their money throughout the year for this special occasion.

#### Dinner Menu for Our Lady's Feast

Sopa de Espinaca con Codito (Spinach soup with macaroni) Tacos (Stuffed tortillas) Frijoles Negros (Black beans) Mole Poblano (Chicken in spiced sauce) Arroz (Rice) Guacamole (Chopped avocados) Cajeta (Boiled milk and sugar) Flan (Custard) Cafe con Leche (Coffee with milk) Pulque Pulque Tequila Mezcal (Mexico's national drinks)

Source: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=968>

### Fr. Anthony Cruz' Ordination Anniversary

Kindly remember in your valuable prayers Fr. Cruz as he is going to enter into his 15th year of priestly ministry on the 9th of December.

May he be blessed by the Lord with the graces and blessings needed for his ministry here in our Parish.

### Sacraments Celebrated at St Thomas More

Dear Fr Cruz, Families and Parishioners

Very recently, with the lifting of restrictions, we proudly celebrated the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist with Fr Cruz. We are very grateful for the support and encouragement from Fr Cruz, our wonderful teachers and families who enabled these sacraments to proceed. Our students had been preparing for the sacraments much earlier in the school year so only required a brief refresher to be fully ready, to receive these gifts from God. Please see the beautiful photos showing our proud and reverent students with their certificates.



Confirmation



Confirmation of the students from St. Paul's Primary school  
Monbulk

