

## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

**Entrance Antiphon** : You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

**Ez 33:7-9**

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8**

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.**

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

**Rom 13:8-10**

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

**The word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

**Alleluia!**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**Mt 18:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

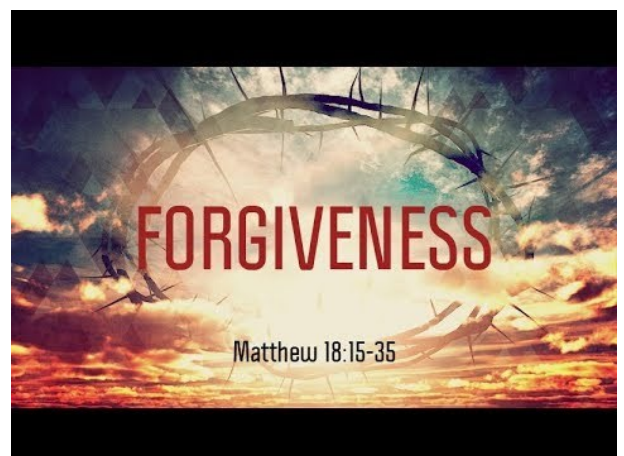
'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

**The Gospel of the lord.**

### Communion Antiphon:

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.





# Parish of Belgrave

The Catholic Church  
in the Dandenong Ranges

P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160

Phone: 0400436793 Office Hours **Office is closed to**

Internet: [pol.org.au/belgrave](http://pol.org.au/belgrave) Email: [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

*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	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>	<u>No Masses</u>
	WEEKDAY				

**Mass changes: MASSES CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE ON-LINE DUE TO COVID19 RESTRICTIONS—we will keep you up-to-date.**

**Reconciliation: Marriages & Baptisms by appointment. To speak with Fr. Cruz, phone 03 8751 8112 and leave a message if not answered.**

**6TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 — 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A.**

Dear Parishioners,

I take this opportunity to wish all the fathers in our parish both young and old and those on the way to becoming fathers “Happy father’s day.” I would like to share with you this real story which explains about father’s love for his his child. On December 7, 1988, an earthquake devastated the northern section of Armenia, killing an estimated 25,000 people. In one small town, just after the earthquake, a father rushed to his son’s school only to find that the school had been flattened. There was no sign of life. But he had no thought of turning back. He had often told his son, “No matter what, I’ll always be there for you when you need me!”

Though his prospects appeared hopeless, the father began feverishly removing rubble from where he believed his son’s classroom had been. Other forlorn parents only wailed hopelessly... “My son!” or “My daughter!” Some told the father to go home, that there was no chance that any of the children could be alive. Yet, he replied: “I made my son a promise that I’d be there for him anytime he needed me. I must continue to dig.” Courageously, he worked alone; no one volunteered to help him. He simply had to know for himself: “Is my boy alive or is he dead?” Finding strength and endurance beyond himself, the faithful, loving father continued to dig... for 8 hours... 12... 24... 36 hours. Then in the 38th hour, as he heaved away a heavy piece of rubble, he heard voices. “Armand!” he screamed.

A child’s voice responded: “Dad! It’s me... Armand!” Then, “I told the other kids not to worry. I told them that if you were alive, you’d save me, and when you saved me, they’d be saved. You promised you would always be there for me! You did it, Dad!” Moments later, the dad was helping his son Armand and 13 more frightened, hungry, and thirsty boys and girls climb out of the debris. Free at last! When the building collapsed, these children had been spared in a tent-like pocket. When the townspeople praised Armand’s dad, his explanation was, “I promised my son, ‘No matter what, I’ll be there for you!’” This is a true story, and it shows the power of a father’s love. The father in this story made his son a promise, and in spite of the evidence to the contrary, the father never gave up trying to rescue his son. Like the father in this story, we all have a heavenly Father who loves us and keeps his promises. The Bible tells the story of a Father’s love. We read in the Bible that our heavenly Father’s love is steadfast, unmovable, unshakable, relentless, never-ending. When God our Father makes a promise, He always keeps it. When we say the word, “love” it can mean a whole lot of things. When our heavenly Father says “love”, it means something very specific. The word in the Hebrew language is “Hesed”. Perhaps the best way to describe it is to quote another verse from the 2 Chronicles 20:21. “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.” Regardless of circumstances the love of God is steadfast; it never gives up. Let us with the Lord for being such a loving Father to all of us.

**Fr. Anthony Cruz**

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Fr. Anthony Cruz [anthony.cruz@cam.org.au](mailto:anthony.cruz@cam.org.au) Phone: 87518112.

**Parish Secretary:** Email: [belgrave@cam.org](mailto:belgrave@cam.org).

**Parish Office:** **Closed at present.**

**Sacraments :** [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)

**Child Safety Contacts:** Maria 9754 5200 & Jeanette 97542759

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

Chairperson — Andrew Jans 0419590155

**Monbulk:** Rin Van Raay

**Belgrave:** Daryn Corish & Marie Madden

**Gembrook:** Pam Giulieri & Matthew Thomas

**Emerald:** John Conway & Lisa McLean

**Mt. Dandenong:** Virginia Schneiders & Stephen Billington.

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

Principal: Caroline Quinton

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### **ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK**

Principal: Michael Watt

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[www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

**REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Recent deaths:** Henri Donker (81), the elder brother of Maria ( Mia ) Jansen. Many people across the world who have died from the corona virus and calamities. *Eternal rest grant unto them, Our Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them and may their dear souls rest in peace. Amen.*

**Anniversaries:**

Margot Green, Kathy Sta Maria, Helen Van Bergenhenegouwen, Stephanie Separovich.

**Prayer for the deceased**

Lord open wide the door of your compassion to those who died in this week in different parts of the world, And in your mercy receive them into your kingdom.

**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Lida Ploeg and Robert Ploeg, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene and Kevin Ryan, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Pat McCarrick, Joan Newman, Justin, Joy Goodie, Tom Fergus, Leo and Josie Walsh, Father Noel MacKay, Stephen, Lois Lenaghan, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter Lyons, Laurie Fitton, Ingyin Collins, Alida Cabret, David Bourke, Eileen Banyard, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Geoff Henwood, Margaret & Fiona Gilhooly, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Robert Drake, Helen Hermann, Lyn Blackman, Joan Munday, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Dieter Farmer, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Peter Champion, Joshua McQuade, Jim & Ed Hodapp, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

**AS OF NOW ALL LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS STAND SUSPENDED except funerals with restricted numbers. Please call 03 87518112 if any of you want to talk to me. You are most welcome to call me on that number, too, if you want me to offer Mass for any of your personal intentions.**

Fr. Cruz

**Topic: Father Cruz's Zoom Mass**  
**Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime**

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
[https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQTO9)  
[pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQTO9](https://zoom.us/j/7504645976?pwd=SOYwS3FiQndpMIZOSTYOTFRRYXJGQTO9)

**Meeting ID: 750 464 5976**

**Passcode: 7mJTWw**

**ZOOM ROSARY: now held on Monday to Saturday immediately after the holy mass. Father's Zoom link below.**

**FR. CRUZ WILL BE CELEBRATING MASS VIA ZOOM every day.**

**Days and times of ZOOM live masses**

**St Thomas More Belgrave**

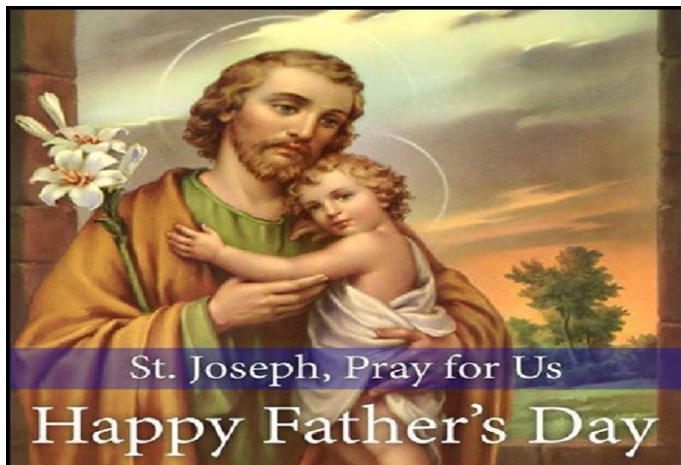
Weekdays – Mon. – Sat . 9.00AM

**Sacred Heart, Gembrook & St. Joseph's - Emerald**

Sunday 9.00AM — 10AM

**St. Thomas More -Belgrave & St. Paul's - Monbulk**

Sunday 10.30.AM — 12PM



**"A beautiful sign of new life " A message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mk3TNuEw79w>

**Happy 80th Birthday Moya Alsford!**  
**Happy Birthday Elizabeth Fitzgerald!**

May the glory of Jesus lighten up your life and you feel the love and compassion of God, on this special day of yours! Be happy and stay blessed!

**Happy Birthday**

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to You for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. St Joseph, Pray for all our Fathers, Amen

## **THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF**

**MELBOURNE** has fantastic online resources to help you through this time of suffering:

[www.cam.org.au/coronavirus](http://www.cam.org.au/coronavirus).

### **STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS – METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE:**

'Metropolitan Melbourne' is made up of 31 local government areas. Stage 4 restrictions have been put in place for these areas, which includes this Parish in its entirety.

•**All Victorians over the age of 12 must wear a face covering whenever they leave their home, unless a medical exemption applies. As of 11.59pm Sunday 2 August, 2020 and for a period of 6 weeks unless otherwise directed.**

•All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services. are to be closed. **Fr. Cruz cannot receive visitors for confession, unfortunately.**

•**WEDDINGS:** No weddings are permitted unless an application is made to the DHHS for an exemption on compassionate grounds. If compassionate reasons permit a marriage ceremony to proceed, then only 5 people are allowed, comprising of the couple, the two witnesses and the celebrant.

•**FUNERALS:** will be limited to 10 mourners, plus the minimum number required to conduct the funeral.

•**BAPTISMS:** are to be postponed, unless here is a grave pastoral need. (Can. 857; 860).

•**LIVESTREAMING:** a limit of 5 in total may be present, including the celebrant.

•**VISITATIONS:** home visitations are not permitted unless for grave reasons. Only Clergy (Priests and Deacons) may visit. All hygiene precautions must be adhered including the wearing of face coverings. Holy Communion is not to be given to anyone in their homes or care facilities, including the sick and homebound, except as Viaticum for the dying, which may be administered only by Priests and Deacons, and complying with all hygiene precautions and the protocols of the relevant hospitals or aged-care facilities (washing hands, etc.) as appropriate.

•**CURFEW:** A Curfew is in place from 8pm until 5am each day. You may leave home for the purposes of essential work only.

• **If you can work from home, you must do so.**

All requirements around hygiene and distancing must be met, along with the collection of contact details. **Accordingly, the Parish Office is closed. Phone: 0387518112.**

### **THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 6 September 2020**

This week on the Journey, Fr Mike Delaney's gospel reflection, Mother Hilda on how God's Word consoled her and will do the same for us in difficult times, and Darren McDowell on why understanding the difference between leadership and management is critical for parish mission. Plus, all your favourites and great music! Tune to **LIFE 105.1 Sat 4pm or LIFE 103.9 Sun 10am**, go to [WWW.jcr.org.au](http://WWW.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free. If you love the show, let your local radio station know that you'd like to hear it broadcast locally each week.

#### **MAX NORDEN**

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#### **Prayers of the Faithful - Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**PRIEST.** *Whenever two or three people gather in Jesus name, he is there as he promised. Heartened by his presence, let us pray with hope and faith.*

**READER.** *The response.. Lord hear my prayer .*

**READER.** WE pray for Christian communities around the world, that they will be clear examples of integrity, justice and reconciliation. Lord hear us.....Response.

**Lord hear my prayer**

**READER.** We pray for mediators and peace-makers, that their wisdom and expertise will make the world a safer place. Lord hear us.....Response.

**Lord hear my prayer**

**READER.** We pray for nations with advanced health resources, that they will share them freely with those ill equipped to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. Lord hear us.....Response.

**Lord hear my prayer**

**READER.** We pray for those at greater disadvantage in this health crises, especially people with disabilities, that they will be given the extra support they need. Lord hear us...Response.

**Lord hear my prayer**

**READER.** We pray for fathers, step fathers, grandfathers and all who have a fatherly role, that they will be blessed in loving those entrusted to them. Lord hear us.....Response.

**Lord hear my prayer**

**READER.** We pray for the recently deceased, that they will know the fullness of God's love and mercy. Lord hear us....Response.

**Lord hear my prayer**

**PRIEST.** God of all consolation, your son is always with us. May we be encouraged by his presence and renewed in our confidence of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.