

## Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B

**Entrance Antiphon:** Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

***The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also***

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

***(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.***

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. (R.)

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. (R.)

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. (R.)

### A reading from the first letter of St John

1 Jn 4:7-10

***God is love***

My dear people,  
let us love one another since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and  
knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have

known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**The word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**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 John

Jn 15:9-17

***No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends***

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon:** If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

### Next week's readings:

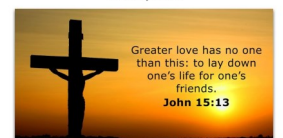
**First Reading:** Acts 1:1-11

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**Second Reading:** Eph 4:1-13

**Gospel :** Mk 16:15-20

Sixth Sunday of Easter





# Parish of Belgrave

## The Catholic Church

**P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160**  
**Phone:** 97542141  
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**Internet:** [pol.org.au/belgrave](http://pol.org.au/belgrave)  
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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 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	9.00am	10.30am
	WEEKDAY			9.00am	

### Homily for the Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B — 9th May, 2021

As we look forward to celebrating the Lord's Ascension and Pentecost's coming of his promised Spirit, our Easter season is drawing to a close. The mood of today's liturgy is reflective, inviting us to take in more fully the deep implications of our Easter faith. Standing out in today's readings is the theme of love. What more important theme is there for our restless human hearts? Yet it is so often trivialised and distorted in today's popular culture. From our earliest years we have learned to know what genuine love is, not from lessons in words, but by being loved ourselves. Today's readings invite us to recognise that the Paschal Mystery that is the centre of our Easter celebration is an expression of God's love for us, and an invitation to enter into the love of Jesus and his Father, and to give it expression in our own lives. True love expresses itself in action rather than in words. The Father's love, John's letter tells us, was expressed in our midst when he 'sent into the world his only Son, so that we could have life in him'. The words of Jesus in John's gospel remind us how complete is the gift which he brings, as an expression of the love which he shares with the Father: 'A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friend'.

Genuine love is an unselfish gift. It seeks the good of the beloved rather than its own benefit. God's love is an outreach of utter generosity; it comes before any response on our part, as John's letter points out. (As the continuation of our passage puts it 'God loved us first'.) And our response can give nothing to God except the joy in the heart of the selfless giver. As we contemplate the mystery of God's generosity, we are reminded that, in the end, love is the most precious of all gifts. If it is true that true joy is the finding of what our hearts are made for, then a love that is genuine brings a joy which is without compare: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you ... I have told you this that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete'. The fruit of genuine love is the intimacy of friendship – sharing all that matters in one's life with the beloved: 'You are my friends ... I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father'.

Coming to a deeper appreciation of the love the Father and the Son have for us, expressed in the Paschal Mystery, we will find new enthusiasm and energy for the outreach which must express our life in Christ during the coming week: 'You did not choose me, no I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit' (We are reading the continuation of the passage about 'the true vine').

In the first reading continues the story of the early Church. As Peter baptises Cornelius, the first gentile convert, we are reminded of our theme: God's generous love is for all, 'God does not have favourites' anybody 'who fears God (i.e. has a loving reverence before God) and does what it right is acceptable to him'. Like Cornelius, we too have, through our baptismal sharing in the Paschal Mystery, been given to share in the mystery of the love of the Father and the Son.

Source: <http://www.themmasseries.com/beaster06.html>

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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:** Carl Galloway, Louise Sullivan, Rosa & Guiseppe Frazetto, Evelyn Fraser, Frank Carville, Silvia Schnelbrieder, Kathleen Boyle, Fr. James Kierce, Koen Goederee, Gregory Pappa, Lucia Falcone, Maria Eyssens, Martha Grainger, Bob Smart.

## **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: Jane Schellenbach, Deanne Atkinson, Damien Van der Linden, Lil Warner, Fiona, Margaret Gilhooly, 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, B. O'Connor, Linda Bullivant, Maureen & Peter 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, 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.

### ***Easter House Blessing***

Fr. Cruz is available for blessing of the houses during the season of Easter on request. Please contact the parish office or meet Father Cruz after the mass.



St Paul's Primary School, Monbulk, invites you to join us for...

## **READY, SET, PREP!**

Get ready for school with a 'taste' of St Paul's!

### **Registrations Now Open!**

Invitation to: 3yo, 4yo and 5yo pre school children

9:30am Friday 30 April: GARDEN TIME - BACKYARD BLITZ

9:30am Friday 14 May: SCIENCE FAIR

9:30am Thursday 27 May: ART ADVENTURES

9:30am Friday 11 June: MINI MASTERCHEF

Spaces are limited due to density limits - so register today!

To register your place: 9756 7201 or email: [office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)



*Please pray before the Recessional Hymn*

## **St Joseph Prayer**



Heavenly Father,

St Joseph set aside his own plans  
to embrace your dream for us.

You invited his help in caring

for Jesus your Son, our Saviour,

and the Revealer of your wonderful love.

Enable us to live by your loving plan  
and to reflect to the world the light of Christ.

St Joseph, man of dreams

and trusting steward, pray for us.

Lord Jesus,

You grew in wisdom and maturity

as you lived in the family

of Nazareth in daily communion

with St Joseph and Mary your mother.

From St Joseph you learned

the dignity of human work.

Give parents the wisdom

to support their children and to guide them

in the way and work of your Kingdom.

St Joseph, faithful parent

and diligent worker, pray for us.

Creator Spirit,

We see in St Joseph a tenderness

and reverence for all your creation.

We learn from him to approach others justly  
and tenderly, and to see our world as endowed

with the glory of God.

Teach us to love one another

and to be of humble service to all of creation,  
empowered by your life within us.

St Joseph, wise protector and humble servant,  
pray for us.

### Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

- Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15-minute visit and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- People must carry a fitted face covering at all times.** Fitted face coverings are no longer mandatory indoors or outdoors (except in particular circumstances, note above), but should be worn by participants (unless they have a lawful exemption or are children under 12 years of age) if a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained.
- Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
- We can have the following numbers of the participants in each mass centre.

Belgrave - 100 people      Emerald - 60 people  
 Monbulk - 80 people      Gembrook - 60 people

### "Self Compassion: in Difficult Times"

Do you want to understand better ways of coping with day to day difficulty- particularly in COVID times? We will explore (& practise) some of the principles explained by Dr Kristen Neff - US Research Psychologist.

This session will be offered at *St Thomas More's Church* in Belgrave on Sunday 23rd May after mass.

10.15am-11.30am

Morning tea provided.

Please text and call Kathleen Ward 0409533753 to book in.

Dear parishioners,

The Archdiocese of Melbourne has planned for a Lay Leadership gathering on 22nd of this month. I wish and encourage that our parish leadership team members represent our parish. From each mass centre of our parish we need the laity participating in it. Kindly use the link below for bookings. Many thanks God bless you.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BOZVR>

Fr. Anthony Cruz

**Thanks giving envelopes are available at your mass centre this weekend.**

### Baptism

Let us welcome **Sebastian Czaja** into our faith community as he is going to be baptized this weekend at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave. May Sebastian be richly blessed throughout his life, constantly being aware of the unconditional love and Mercy of God.

### Prayer Evening, St Joseph's, Emerald

All parishioners are invited to attend an **Evening of Guided Prayer at St Joseph's Emerald, at 7:00pm on Wednesday, 12th May.** Supper will be provided. This initiative follows the success of a similar evening held during Lent. Everyone is welcome.

SACRAMENT	St Thomas More Church	St Paul's Church
<b>CONFIRMATION ceremony</b>	Sat 29 May 12pm	Sat 29 May 2pm
<b>Workshop - Parent/Child</b>	Tuesday 27 April 6.30-7.30pm	Wed 31 March 3.30pm
<b>Run through session in Church for parent/child/ Workshop</b>	Thurs 27 May 3.30 - 4.30pm	Tuesday 18 May 3.30pm
<b>To enroll, please call the parish office during office hours.</b>		
<b>FIRST RECONCILIATION ceremony</b>	Thurs 17 June 3.30 - 5.30pm	Wed 16 June 3.30 - 5.30pm
<b>Workshop - Parent/Child</b>	Wed 9 June 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 2 June 3.30 - 4.30pm
<b>To enroll, please call the parish office during office hours.</b>		
<b>FIRST EUCHARIST ceremony</b>	Sun 22 Aug 9.00 am	Sun 15 Aug 10.30am
<b>Workshop - Parent/Child</b>	Thurs 29 July 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 14 July 3.30pm
<b>Run through session in Church for parent/child/ Workshop</b>	Thurs 12 Aug 3.30 - 4.30pm	Wed 11 Aug 3.30pm

'Happy Mother's day' to all our Mums and Grandmothers and to all expectant mothers.



*Dear Lord, I approach you to give thanks to all mothers who so generously and freely give love, comfort, and guidance to their children every day. I ask you, Lord, to give them strength to carry on doing their work. Give them patience and let them see that they are loved, appreciated and respected. I thank you for the sacrifice each mother makes every day. And I pray you bless them and touch them with your Grace. I pray this is your mighty name. Amen.*