

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next, he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So, they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH



The Catholic Church in the Dandenong Ranges
P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160 Phone: 97542141
Office Hours: 9.30am—2.30 pm Monday & Friday
Web: www.melbcatholic.org/s/belgrave
Email: belgrave@cam.org.au



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

3rd / 4th OCTOBER 2026, YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS

Our Parish Vision Statement: We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service...

FOCUS ON THE WORD

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie: 'Christians do not flee from complexity,' Pope Leo says, 'for God himself has called them to follow his Son.' We Christians live, as the Pope puts it, 'in a world that is already inhabited, already in motion, already marked by both human misery and goodness.' In it, we are meant to be God's light in the darkness.

'As disciples of Christ,' the Pope reminds us, 'you know well that the Christian community is not a refuge into which we withdraw in order to protect ourselves from our age. On the contrary,' he says, 'the Church is a place of welcome, respect, revelation and meaning for everyone.' We must never reflexively or selfishly reject anyone God sends our way.

Moreover, as the Pope also points out, the Church 'is called always to be a Church "going forth"' in service. Crucial to this, the Pope recognises, is the 'missionary presence of the lay faithful, who are the living front line of the Church at the crossroads of everyday life.'

'Therefore,' he encourages us, 'place communion with the successor of Peter and with the Church before your personal preferences, so as to foster the unity of God's people.' None of us has to go into the vineyard alone. We should go 'together', and through our togetherness 'we will bear prophetic witness to the possibility of a reconciled world.'

[Quotes from Homily at Notre Dame, Paris, 25 September 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260925-francia-vespri.html>]

PARISH PRAYER: Loving God, we ask you to pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your kingdom, a deeper faithfulness to your word, and a renewed dedication to your service. Help us to grow as a community of disciples, bringing peace to our families, communities, and the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Sacred heart of Jesus, Have mercy on us. St. Joseph, Pray for us... St. Paul, Pray for us... St. Clare, Pray for us... St. Thomas More, Pray for us...

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

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY.

WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.

MEMORIALS/FEASTS: 6th Tue-St. Bruno 7th Wed-Our Lady of the Rosary

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

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Ferntree Gully Office : 97581029
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts : Jeanette Wicks

Parish pastoral Group:
Email: belgraveparishpastoralgroup@gmail.com
Chairperson: David Paton
 Bill Farrell, Patrick Coyne, Sue Luxford, Evie Czarnecki, Louise Jans and Rhonda Soans

SCHOOLS:

St. Thomas More's Primary, Belgrave
Principal: Declan McDermott **Phone:** 9754-4444
Email: principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

St. Paul's primary school, Monbulk
Principal: Nick Frederiksen **Phone:** 9756 7201
Email: nfrederiksen@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au

Mater Christi College - Belgrave
Principal: Ms. Maria Haggett **Phone:** 9754 6611
Email: mcc@materchristi.edu.au

St Joseph's College - Ferntree Gully
Principal: Ms. Cathy Livingston **Phone:** 9758 2000
Email: info@stjosephs.com.au

Mount Lilydale Mercy College - Lilydale
Principal: Philip Morison **Phone:** (03) 9735 4022
E mail: pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au

REGULAR MASS TIMES

	Emerald and FTG	6:00 pm
Saturday Vigil		
Sunday	Belgrave 8.30am FTG 10:30 am	
	Gembrook 9am Monbulk 11:00 am	
Tuesday	Belgrave 9am FTG 7:00 pm	
Wednesday	Belgrave 9am FTG 9:15am	
Thursday	Belgrave 9am FTG 9:15am	
Friday	Belgrave 9am FTG 11:00 am	
Saturday	Belgrave 9am FTG NO MASS	

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays BLG: 9:45am FT :5.15 pm

BAPTISMS: Baptisms are celebrated either during the weekend Masses on the second Sunday at any of the Mass center's, or at 12:00 pm on the second Sunday of the month at St John's, Ferntree Gully. A six weeks' notice is required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism on the Parish website. Contact the Parish Office on 9754 2141 or via email at marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au.

WEDDINGS: By appointment — 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office on 9754 2141.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN OT YEAR A
 3rd /4th October 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently;

Those who we remember at this time: Le Thi Ty, Gerry McInerney, Shirley west

We pray for all who are sick, especially: Asher Froelich, Cathy Sheehan, Brendan Lacey, Kathleen lacey, Anita Mahoney, Fay Ryan,, Nada Cargo, Betty Firestone, Verity Loke, Elisabeth Drake, Patricia Gilchrist, John Kuyper, Peter Hicks, Ruth Hicks, Lucy Hosemans. Mei Ling Chu, Trevor Lyons.

Adoration and Devotions

Rosary is recited half an hour before Holy Mass on weekdays at St. Thomas More, Belgrave and St. John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully. All are welcome to join in the recitation.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena is recited on Wednesdays after Mass at St. Thomas More, Belgrave. All are welcome to join.

Divine Mercy Novena is recited on Saturday after Mass at St. Thomas More, Belgrave and concluded with Benediction. All are welcome.

Anointing of the Sick is celebrated on First Fridays within the Mass at St. Thomas More, Belgrave. All are welcome.

Holy Hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament is held on First Fridays at St. John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully, at 10:00 a.m., followed by Mass at 11:00 a.m. All welcome!

ADDRESS OF THE CHURCHES

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave
 Corner of Reynolds Lane, Belgrave.

St. Joseph's Church, Emerald
 13 Emerald-Monbulk Road, Emerald.

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook
 93 Main Street, Gembrook.

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk
 59 Moores Road, Monbulk.

St John the Baptist Church, Ferntree Gully
 19 Forest Road. Ferntree Gully.



SYNOD 2026:

31. Synodality and young people: Young

people long to be heard and taken seriously. Synodality invites the Church to listen attentively to their questions and hopes.

YOUTH GROUP/ YOUNG ADULTS: If you are interested in becoming a World Youth Day Pilgrim, please let us know: Instagram@sjtb.youth or email us at sjtb youth@gmail.com if you have any questions. World youth day 2027 <https://melbournecatholic.org/wyd27>

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING 27th September

Presbytery: \$740.20, Thanksgiving: \$953.85

1st Collection is for the Presbytery — Priest's (car capital, food expenses etc.) retired priests of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

2nd Collection is for Thanksgiving for the Parish Churches running expenses.

If you would like to support our Parish by making an online contribution, our bank details are below:

Acct Name:	Acct Name:
St. Thomas More's Parish Church Account	St. Thomas More's Parish Presbytery Account
BSB 083347	BSB 083347
Acct No: 672146192	Acct No: 669831148

OCTOBER PARISH CENSUS

Our parish is currently undertaking a Parish Census to help us better understand our parish community and support its ongoing life and mission. By completing the census form available at Mass, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also assist the parish to plan effectively for ministries, important events, and future parish initiatives. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you for your Participation.

PARISH WALK



Parish walk a great day was had by those who braved the weather, and took part in the Parish Walk on 26th Sept., at Birdland Reserve. Thank you all for coming along.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

This weekend, on **Sunday 4th October, DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 2026** in Victoria will begin at 2:00am . **Don't forget to change your clocks.**



IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
 Ezekiel 47:9, 12

SEASON OF CREATION

-1st Sept to 4th Oct.

There are key stages in the Season of Creation.

1. Receive Living Water — contemplating water as a sacred gift, focusing on prayer, gratitude and

recognising our deep spiritual & physical thirst.

2. Encounter Christ: Gaining awareness of ecological damage and standing in solidarity with

frontline communities and regions suffering from water scarcity or injustice.

3. Become Living Water: Committing to concrete ecological conversion, lifestyle, simplicity and local actions to protect water sources and restore our common home.

THE BETHANY WAY

Introductory Retreat 'At the feet of Jesus: on retreat with Mary, Martha and Lazarus' Saturday 31 October 2026, 12pm-4pm (11.30am Mass) Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne.

We congratulate 40 'Bethany Wayfarers' as they conclude their 20-week formation journey. Now, we invite others to consider applying for The Bethany Way in 2027. This free afternoon retreat offers a taste of the Archdiocese's flagship formation journey through Scripture, prayer and reflection on Jesus' friendship with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Invite your parishioners to come and see what it means to let Christ form them. For registration details and invitational materials:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/bethanyway>.

SMART LOVING MENTOR COUPLES

GATHERING

Saturday 17 October 2026, 9am-1pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne
 Mentor couples and couples married for five years or more who are interested in becoming mentors are invited to a relaxed morning of connection and formation. Register [here](https://melbournecatholic.org/bethanyway).

YOUTH LEADERS TRAINING

Saturday 7 November 2026, 9am-3pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne
 Youth and young adult leaders will explore safeguarding requirements, practical advice, case studies and risk management to help strengthen their mission for young people. Register [here](https://melbournecatholic.org/bethanyway)