

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 10th / 11th 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- Leo's Lens

'In order to build a peaceful society,' Pope Leo says, 'we must not only reform structures but also renew our hearts.' Each one of us is called to reflect on the 'ethical and cultural crisis' that besets our world, and the part each of us plays in it.

The Pope wants us to see that the path of the Kingdom of Heaven is one which rejects much that the worldly hold dear. In our time, he laments, there has been 'the loss of a sense of limits, the desire for domination, the pursuit of immediate profit, and the inability to recognise the God-given dignity of each human person.'

As the Pope reflects, Jesus 'invites us to transform harm into life', seeking to 'reorder our desires, heal our wounds and help us grow in virtue.' Good and bad are invited to the feast, but truly attending means being transformed.

We are thus invited to enter the feast 'where hearts are renewed, new possibilities begin to open.' Each one of us is called to become an agent of joyful peace, which 'begins in the heart and flows outward to our relationships, communities and the broader world.'

'Let us imagine', the Pope encourages us, 'a world in which the energies currently invested in war are directed toward integral human development, to overcoming poverty, protecting human dignity and reconciling divided peoples. Such a vision reflects faith in the coming of God's Kingdom.'

[Quotes from Message for 11th World Day of Creation, 15 August 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/creation/documents/20260815-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.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: 14th Wed-St. Callistus I, 15th Thu-St. Theresa of Jesus

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

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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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN OT YEAR A
 10th /11th October 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently;

Those who we remember at this time:

Katrina Campion, Kenneth Weir, Julian Xavier

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, Marie Cummins.



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 are 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:

32. Synodality and families

Families are schools of synodality, where listening, patience, and forgiveness are lived daily. The Church learns synodality from family life.

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: \$840. 50, Thanksgiving: \$1415.55

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.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2026

Saturday is World Mental Health Day when people are asked to support people with mental health problems. The 2026 theme is, 'Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change'.

Every human person is deserving of dignity and respect, no matter their circumstance which is in line with Catholic social teachings. As Christians, we follow the example of Jesus who showed how we should treat others. In a new video, Pope Leo asks forgiveness for the times when Christians have looked the other way and not accepted people with a mental illness (see story). He prays the Church may become "a safe space where everyone has a place". perhaps take a minute or two to reflect about those who are struggling. So, perhaps this Saturday take a minute to reflect, Think! How can I better support them? Can I do more? What support would I like if I was in their position?

Prayer: **Dear Lord, when life feels overwhelming, help us to slow down, find peace and remember that we are never alone. Bring hope to our hearts and strength for each new day. Amen.**



BAPTISMS

This Sunday, during Holy Mass at Belgrave, we joyfully welcome **Rosie Sith**, daughter of **Michael Sith** and **Briony Groves**, and **Audrey Conroy**, daughter of **Nicholas Conroy** and **Briony Groves**, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism. May the light of Christ guide them throughout their lives, and may they always grow in God's love and grace. **Congratulations to Rosie and Audrey! May God bless them and their families abundantly!**

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

As we all know, October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. To celebrate this special month, we will be reciting the Holy Rosary at **St Joseph's Church, Emerald, on Saturday, 24 October, immediately after the Vigil Mass.**

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us in this community prayer as we seek the loving intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary for our parish, our families, and all our personal needs.

The Rosary will take approximately 20 minutes. Let us take this beautiful opportunity to come together in faith and prayer, entrusting our intentions to the loving care of our Blessed Mother. **All are warmly welcome!**

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).