Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

Entrance Antiphon Isaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

A reading from the book of Joshua Joshua 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded. **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God. **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." 'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Luke 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Next Sunday Readings

First Reading	Isaiah 43:16-21
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 125. R. v.3
Second Reading	Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel	John 8:1-11

St. Thomas More Parish, Belgrave

The Catholic Church in the Dandenong Ranges

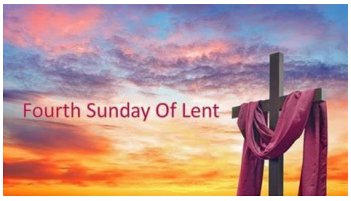
P.O. Box 100, Belgrave, Victoria 3160
Phone: 97542141
Office Hours: 9.30am—2pm Tuesday to Friday
Internet: pol.org.au/belgrave

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***

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 17 Terry Avenue, Belgrave	St. Paul's Church Monbulk 59 Moores Road
Mass Times	Weekend	Vigil Mass 6.00pm	9.00am	9.00am	11.00am
	Weekday			9.00am	



Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C - 29th/30th March

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis says that today's Gospel parable 'leads us to the heart of God'.

On the one hand, it shows us that 'God always forgives. We are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness.' What the prodigal son's Father shows us is God's boundless mercy.

But on the other hand, the parable also shows how easily we humans can slip into what the Pope calls 'the indignation of the elder son'. If we do not see God as our merciful Father, then we can easily fall into 'living a distant religion, made of prohibitions and duties.' When we judge and exclude, we try to limit God's mercy.

Falling into that mindset, we lose sight of our relatedness. We can become like the resentful elder son who calls his own brother 'this son of yours'. To combat this mindset of 'rigidity towards our neighbour' the Pope suggests that, like the Father, we 'make merry and rejoice'. We should try to 'demonstrate our closeness to those who repent or who are on the way, to those who are in crisis or who are far away … we have to offer them a warm welcome that encourages them to go ahead.'

In our lives, we should always treat others without judgment. And in our churches, we should always warmly welcome them home.

https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2025Mar30/0/RefNickB

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

Parish Priest:	**Fr. Anthony Cruz MC**
	Anthony.cruz@cam.org.au
Phone:	***87518112.***
Parish Secretary:	**Mirani Perera**
Parish Office:	**97542141**
Sacraments :	**belgrave@cam.org.au**
Child Safety Contacts:	**Jeanette Wicks 97542759**
	Monica Rayner
Parish Pastoral Council:	
Chairperson	**Evie**
Monbulk:	**Sue Luxford**
Belgrave:	**David Paton and Bill Farrell**
Gembrook:	

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

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths: Justin McCarthy.

Many people across the world who have died due to wars, civil restlessness and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries:

Lyn Burger, Rev. Salvatore (Sam) Dimattina , Rev. John Tollan. Maria Donker, Len Bennet, Luke Matanovic, Edward Sherry, Abraham Schellenbach, Anne Johnson, Willy Magnus, Jim McCart, Toos Kuyper.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Elisabeth Drake, Faye & Colin Brown, , Patricia Grant, Kate Joy star, John Kuyper , Flynn Kroeger, Verity Loke, Helen Bye, Anne Radocaj, Simon Kuyper, John Barber, Dimuthu, Juhyeon Kim, Peter Hicks, Margaret Campion, Cameron DiCasio, Ewa Wallis, Jane Schellenbach, Rebecca Jane Atkinson, Daniel, Mason, Hero, Helen Smith, Irene, Debbie Owens, Don Kempster, Justin, Tom Fergus, Josie Walsh, B. O'Connor, Ingyin Collins, David Bourke, Brendan, Martin Fergus, Margaret, Maureen, Patricia Gilchrist, Stephen Mc., Cheryl McInnes, Kate Arnott, Julian Neesham, Fa Perisipi, John Reid, Margaret Sheanon, Dianne Zidek, Mark Pickthall, Terry Schubert, Neil Weatherill, Margaret Herbert, Rob Zwagerman, Joshua McQuade, Lanie Brereton, Sandra Dowling, Francesca, Neil Holland, Maureen Hughes, Marilyn Ward, Isabelle Henry, Phillis Willoughby.

- **Sick List: If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 97542141.**

Belgrave church reading roster 30th March

Marianne Kuyper and Rebecca Van Rensburg

Next Week - 7th April

Marianne Kuyper and David Paton

For details relating to Baptisms, Marriages & Anointing of the Sick, please contact the parish office.

To Contribute Financially to St. Thomas More Parish

St Thomas Mores Parish Church Account

BSB: 083 347, Account: 67214 6192

Presbytery Account

BSB 083 347, Account : 669831148

Project Compassion Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Lent
29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.

Please donate today.
You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.
Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/ Caritas Australia

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Every Friday at 7pm at St. Thomas Mores church Belgrave.

Every Saturday at 5.30pm at St. Joseph's church Emerald.

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for March 2025

For families in crisis

For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts even in their differences.

On behalf of myself and the Parish, I would like to thank Tony Ellingworth who after four years as our volunteer Building & Maintenance Inspector for our five Parish Churches, is now stepping down from this role.

Thank you, Tony, for a wonderful job done! We were truly blessed to have you undertake this important work for the Parish these last four years.

We're now seeking a replacement for Tony, so if you think this is something you could do, come and have a chat or email the Parish Belgrave@cam.org.au Tony is also happy to handover and take the new volunteer through the process.

Fr. Anthony Cruz

Catholic Theological College

Invites you to our **Engaging Your Faith online presentations**

From $25 per session.

For more information and to register:
ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

Sacred Heart Church Raffle Draw

Easter raffle draw will be drawn in Easter Sunday at Sacred Heart church Gembrook after 9am mass. To purchase the tickets, please contact Mary Leah on 0400 602 591.

Live Your Best Life in Love...

A Marriage Encounter weekend is for you…

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out to nurture your most precious relationship away from daily distractions. The two of you will come away from your weekend feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep the passion alive. No group sharing required. The weekend is based around Catholic values. Couples of all faiths are welcome. Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend: Our next weekend is: 25-27 April 2025 at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm

Information/Bookings: Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au

worldwide marriage encounter

"Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom"

Notice to all musicians, singers, liturgy people and anyone who would like to volunteer.

There will be a meeting at the Belgrave Presbytery on Tuesday the 1st April at 7.30pm to prepare for Holy Week and who will be available to coordinate and participate on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services.

Anyone is welcome. If you are unable to attend the meeting could you make it known if you could help at any of the above.

Reconciliation in Lent

St. Joseph's church Emerald

5th April 4.30pm—5.30pm

St. Thomas More church Belgrave

12th April 9.45am—11.45 am

19th April 10am—12pm

Sacred Heart Church Gembrook

6th April 8am –9am

St. Paul's church Monbulk

6th April 10.15am —11am

Permanent Diaconate Information Session 3 May 2025

Following the success of the permanent diaconate information sessions in 2024, we will be holding another session for those interested. The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service. The information session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. Wives most welcome. The session will be on Saturday morning, 3rd May and will be in person. If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison

Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome.

Event Date Saturday 3 May 2025

Time: 10.00am–11.30am Venue: Catholic Theological College

278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne

Thursday of the Lord's Supper —17th April

7.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave — Washing of the Feet and Eucharist.

8.30 pm Solemn Reservation. Adoration.

Good Friday - 18th April:

10.00am. The Stations of the cross at Sumava Czech Centre, Locks Way, Belgrave South.

3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with Adoration of the Holy Cross and Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night —Saturday 19th April: 6.30pm at St. Thomas More Church, Reynolds Lane, Belgrave.

Blessing of the Fire. followed by the vigil Mass.

Sunday of the Resurrection — Easter Sunday 20th April:

6.30am -St. Joseph's Church, Emerald.

Blessing of the Fire, Holy Eucharist.

Please note that breakfast will be served after the **Easter Dawn Mass at St. Joseph's church Emerald. All welcome.**

9.00am - Holy Eucharist at Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook.

9.00am - Holy Eucharist St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.

11.00am - Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's Church, Monbulk.