

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

45:1-4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our

Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

THE BETHANY WAY

All parishioners are invited to a free afternoon of prayer and reflection, introducing The Bethany Way faith formation program for 2027.

Saturday 31 October, 12pm–4pm (Mass at 11.30am)

Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne.

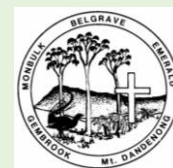
For registration details and invitational materials:

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

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.melbocatholic.org/s/belgrav
Email: belgrave@cam.org.au



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

17th / 18th OCTOBER 2026, WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

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

'Our time is in great need of precisely this', Pope Leo says, 'men and women who have the courage to do good even when it comes at a cost.' As Jesus showed us: sometimes we are forced to make a choice, but we need not respond in the way the world expects.

Our way is a surprising one. 'Draw near to those who are alone, support those who are weary, seek out those who have drifted away', the Pope says. 'Have the courage to forgive, to begin anew and to engage in dialogue. Goodness is not always recognised and often demands sacrifice; yet it is precisely this daily courage of charity that makes our proclamation of the Gospel credible.'

Indeed, as we draw ever closer to Christ, we learn 'the joy of our vocation and learn to love as he loves.' The Pope encourages us to be 'a church that walks together behind the same Lord, listening, welcoming and recognising in the other a brother or sister and a companion along the way, never a rival.'

Unlike those who seek to sow division, we are called 'to discover that following Christ does not diminish freedom, but brings it to fulfilment; that faith does not restrict life, but opens it to a greater horizon.'

[Quotes from Address to Korean Priests and Consecrated Men and Women, 5 October 2026:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/october/documents/20261005-sacerdoti-religiose-corea.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: 19th Mon-St. Paul of the Cross, 22nd Thu-St. John Paul II,
23rd Fri- St. John Capistrano, 24th Sat- St. Anthony Claret

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

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 97542141
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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-NINTH SUNDAY IN OT YEAR A

17th /18th October 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently; Bernardo Romeo,
 Franz Edlinger

Those who we remember at this time: June Dwyer

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 Lake, 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:

33. Synodality and mission beyond the Church: A synodal Church listens not only inwardly but

outwardly, engaging respectfully with society and culture.

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 11th October

Presbytery: \$690.10, Thanksgiving: \$ 1242.60

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 – 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!**

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.

UPCOMING FUNERALS

The Funeral Mass for **Mr Bernardo Romeo** will be celebrated at **St Joseph's Church, Emerald, on Wednesday, 21 October 2026, at 12:30 pm.**

The Funeral Prayer Service for **Franz Edlinger** will be held at **St Joseph's Church, Emerald, on Thursday, 22 October 2026, at 12:30 pm.**

World Mission Sunday 2026 – Celebrating 100 Years

This year, World Mission Sunday, celebrated on 18 October, marks 100 years since its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1926. In a special video message, Pope Leo XIV recalls how World Mission Sunday shaped his own missionary vocation. As a young boy in the United States, the prayers and generosity of Catholics inspired him to become a missionary and later supported his ministry in Peru.

Reflecting on this year's theme, "One in Christ, United in Mission," Pope Leo reminds us that through baptism we are all members of one family in Christ, called to share God's love with the world. He encourages everyone to support the Church's mission through prayer, generosity and practical help, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable.

In Australia, Catholic Mission leads the annual appeal, supporting the Church's work wherever the need is greatest. The Pope's message is simple: Mission is a work of love, and every one of us has a part to play.

For more information, visit catholicmission.org.au/worldmissionmonth.

Looking for flexible work and a chance to support persecuted Christians?

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia is seeking a Diocesan Outreach Assistant to give short presentations at weekend Masses across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This part-time role involves sharing stories of the suffering Church and helping build prayerful support within parish communities. If you are comfortable speaking in front of others and have a heart for this mission, we would love to hear from you. For details: www.aidtochurch.org/work

ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS BOOKLET

This Advent and Christmas, discover the God who is closer than we think. **Presence: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2026** is a beautifully presented, 84-page, full-colour book of daily reflections inviting you to slow down, become attentive, and

rediscover the presence of Christ in your everyday life. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent (29 November 2026) and continuing through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 January 2027), Presence offers a prayerful companion for the entire Advent and Christmas journey. **Cost: \$6.60 +GST & postage per copy.**

Please contact the parish office at office@stjohnthebaptist.net if you wish to order this years Advent booklet **no later than the 26th October 2026**, or use the sign-up sheet in the church. You can peruse a visual example at the following link: PresenceAdvent&ChristmasDailyReflections

