

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. "If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. "If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) I love You, Lord, my strength.

**1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)**

**2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell

other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

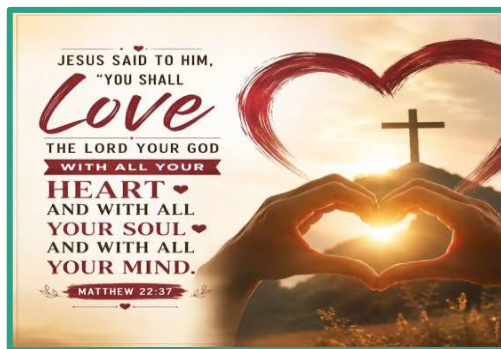
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'



OCTOBER PARISH CENSUS

Our parish is conducting a census to better understand the needs of our community. All parishioners are kindly encouraged to complete the census form available in the church foyer at each Mass centre. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Thank you for your participation and support!

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.melbolic.org/s/belgrave
Email: belgrave@cam.org.au



30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
24th / 25th OCTOBER 2026

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 Dianne Bergant CSA

Our religious tradition is founded on love. Actually, life itself is grounded in love. We may not always feel this love, but if we allow ourselves to reflect on life, we will realise this truth. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love. Thus, when we are directed to love God and love one another, we are not being asked to do something contrary to our nature. Rather, we are being told to live in accord with that nature. We come from God who is love, and so it is in our very nature to love and to be loved.

We may sometimes think that it is easier to love God than to love others. It may actually be just the opposite. Other people are tangible. We can see and hear them, interact with them. Their influence in our lives can permeate our consciousness. That is not the way it is with God. Like Moses on the mountain, we can only see the traces of divinity as God passes by (see Ex 33:23). However, we show that we love God in the way we love our neighbour.

Love, the foundation of the reign of God, is contagious. When we love others, the reign of God spreads throughout the world. The compassion that we show toward others is a form of evangelisation. It proclaims much louder than any words that the reign of God has been established. © Dianne Bergant CSA

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: 28th Wed-Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostle,

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

Parish Priest Fr. Thomas Kuruvila
Thomas.Kuruvila@cam.org.au
Phone: 97542141 / 87518112
Assistant Priest Fr Peter Nguyen
Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au
 97542141
Parish Book Keeper Andrew Jans
andrew.jans@cam.org.au
Parish Office 97542141
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

Saturday Vigil	Emerald and FTG	6:00 pm
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.

30th SUNDAY IN OT YEAR A
24th /25th October 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently... Lucy Hosemans
Those who we remember at this time: Mim Haaster



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, Mei Ling Chu, Faye Brown, Marie Cummins.

Adoration and Devotions

Rosary is recited half an hour before Holy Mass on weekdays at St. Thomas More, Belgrave an9d 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:

34. Synodality prevents isolation:

When leaders and communities walk together, no one carries the burden alone. Synodality builds shared responsibility. The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026, more information is available at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

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>

SAFE TRAVELS FR.PETER

From Monday 26TH October, Fr Peter will be away on leave. We wish Fr Peter, a safe and happy holiday. This will have a bearing on our Weekday Mass Times. Fr Thomas will move alternately weekly between the FTG & Belgrave.

There will be no weekday Mass at Belgrave on Wednesday, 28 October, and Thursday, 29 October. Friday Masses will continue as usual in both parishes.This arrangement will alternate weekly between the two parishes.

THE HOLY ROSARY

All parishioners are warmly invited to join us in praying the **Holy Rosary at St Joseph's Church, Emerald, on Saturday, 24 October, immediately after the Vigil Mass.** Let us come together in prayer, seeking the loving intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary for our parish, families, and personal intentions. **The Rosary will take approximately 20 minutes. All are welcome!**

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

In our Catholic tradition, November is a special month dedicated to remembering and praying for our departed loved ones, entrusting their souls to God's loving mercy. One of the beautiful traditions of the Church is to offer Holy Mass for the souls of the faithful departed. Offering Mass for them is a profound act of love and charity, as the Holy Eucharist is the greatest prayer we can offer. November Mass offering envelopes are available in the church foyer. Parishioners are invited to write the names of their departed loved ones on the back of the envelopes. Masses will be offered for their intentions throughout November.

ALL SAINTS' DAY AND ALL SOULS' DAY

All Saints' Day – Sunday, 1 November: All Saints' Day will be celebrated on Sunday, 1 November. Masses will be held at the usual Sunday times.

All Souls' Day – Monday, 2 November: On All Souls' Day, we will celebrate two Masses:

- **9:00 am** – Belgrave
- **7:00 pm** – Ferntree Gully

All parishioners are warmly encouraged to attend either the morning or evening Mass as we remember and pray for our dearly departed loved ones and all the faithful departed. Let us come together in faith and prayer, entrusting our departed loved ones to God's infinite mercy and eternal peace.

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING 11th October

Presbytery: \$ 690.10, Thanksgiving: \$ 1260.15

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

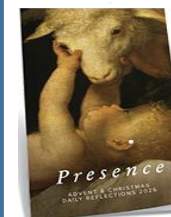
RAISING OUR VOICES

In the face of rapid, often destabilising social and technological change, we are called to raise our voices in defence of our humanity. In an opinion piece published today in the Herald Sun, [Archbishop Peter A Comensoli asks: who will stand for the least among us?](#) Pointing to the horror felt by many at a recent failed execution in the United States, he contends that 'the termination of the unborn at one end of life and the terminally ill at the other end is just as brutal and should be just as shocking.' As we approach the upcoming state election, he prays that our elected leaders 'will govern wisely and prudently, upholding the good of all, especially the least among us'. Click on the link above to read more.



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: [Presence Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections](#)

UPDATES ABOUT THE SANCTUARY WORK

Dear Parishioners, Since, my arrival at Belgrave, I have taken time to listen carefully to the concerns and suggestions expressed by parishioners, both individually and in group discussions, regarding the crucifix and tabernacle in our church sanctuary. I sincerely appreciate everyone who has shared their views and concerns in a respectful and constructive manner.

I understand the importance of these matters to our parish community and recognise that certain changes may be helpful in fostering greater harmony and unity. However, any proposed changes must be approached with careful consideration, taking into account the differing views and sentiments of our parishioners, the liturgical requirements of the Church, and our parish's present financial challenges.

Over recent months, I have sought advice and explored various possible options. Our intention was to present these options to parishioners at the beginning of November and invite their feedback before proceeding further. **No final decision regarding any proposed changes has been made.**

Recently, a number of parishioners wrote to the Archbishop, the Regional Bishop and the Vicar General, expressing their concerns that no changes had been made to the sanctuary during the past twelve months and seeking guidance from the Archdiocese.

Following further reflection, consultation and advice from the appropriate Church authorities, **I am now considering deferring**

any renovations to the sanctuary for the next few years.

In particular, our Regional Bishop has encouraged me to give priority at this time to building up our parish community, fostering unity, strengthening relationships and bringing parishioners together. I believe this is wise and timely pastoral guidance.

As your parish priest, my sincere desire is to serve the spiritual and pastoral needs of the entire parish community. While the sanctuary remains an important part of our worship, the unity of our parish family, our shared faith and our commitment to one another must remain central to our mission.

During this time, I hope that we can direct our energy and resources towards strengthening parish life, supporting our pastoral ministries, addressing our financial responsibilities and creating a welcoming and prayerful community where everyone feels valued and respected.

I sincerely thank all parishioners for your patience, understanding and continued commitment to our parish.

Let us put aside past differences and move forward together in a spirit of peace, mutual respect, understanding and unity. May we always remember that we are one parish family, united in Christ and called to work together for the good of our Church.

Every Blessing,

Fr Thomas Kuruvila, Parish Priest

MELBOURNE SYNOD: WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



A total of 224 responses were received from parishes, individuals and groups across the Archdiocese as part of the upcoming Melbourne Synod's consultation phase, and representatives of 106 parishes attended the regional consultation meetings held throughout the Archdiocese in August. Synod Program Lead Cathy Jenkins updates us on what's been happening since then.

[Continue reading: Melbourne Synod: what's been happening](#)

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

JOB VACANCIES: -COME WORK WITH US

Applications are currently open for the following positions:

Archdiocese of Melbourne

- **Administration Assistant**—Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, Thornbury
- **Head of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry**—Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, Thornbury
- **Discipleship Internship 2027**—Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, East Melbourne
- **School Engagement Administration Assistant** Cardinal Knox Centre East Melbourne

Parishes

- **Pastoral Worker**—St Joseph's Parish, South Yarra
- **Pastoral Assistant**—Holy Trinity, Bentleigh East
- **Pastoral Co-ordinator**—at the St Paul's Pastoral Centre, Bentleigh
- **Parish Secretary**—Western Port Parish Hastings
- **Pastoral Worker & Youth Co-ordinator**—Immaculate Conception Parish Westernport
- **Parish Office Administrator**—Christ Our Light Parish, Cheltenham. Permanent Part Time 25 hrs per week.

Other

- **Community Engagement Officer**—CDF, East Melbourne

If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions, further details can be found [here](#). VMCH (Villa Maria Catholic Homes) also has multiple positions available on their website

<https://careers.vcmh.com.au/jobs/search>

