

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C

Entrance Antiphon Lk 2:16

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

A reading from the first book of Samuel

1 Sm 1:20-22. 24-28

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.' When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10.

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St John

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name

of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. **Alleluia.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk 2:41-52

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Next Sunday Readings

First Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11
Second Reading	Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12



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	

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year C - 28th/29th December 2024

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'God did not create us to be lone rangers,' says Pope Francis, 'but to walk together.' The Pope invites us to reflect on this mystery of togetherness during the Feast of the Holy Family.

'Each of us has our own story and the family is the story from which we originate', he explains, adding that today's Gospel 'reminds us that Jesus too is the son of a family story.'

The Pope wants us to appreciate that Jesus, Mary and Joseph experienced earthly problems and difficulties. 'The Holy Family of holy cards does not exist,' he says bluntly. It is a figment of pious imagination.

As today's Gospel story relates, Mary and Joseph sometimes experienced considerable anxiety. Elsewhere in the Gospels we learn of other trials they faced. If we think of the Holy Family as untroubled and permanently blissful, then we misread the history of our Lord. The Holy Family endured hardship.

Through their troubles, Jesus, Mary and Joseph show us important lessons about coming together in times of trial and being open to the grace of putting the needs of others first. May we pray to be like them, not in rosy-tinted picture-card bliss, but in real-world faith, hope and love.



<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2024Dec29/0/RefNickB>

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

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Monica Rayner

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Chairperson Evie
Monbulk: Sue Luxford
Belgrave: David Paton
Gembrook:

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REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Recent deaths:

Many people across the world who have died due to Covid-19, wars, civil restlessness and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries:

Alida Maria Cabret, Dorothy Surmen, Jean Moule, Maria Wotkiw, Ian Schofield, Anne Oude Vrielink, Anthony Vale

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Fr Peter Carrucan, Elisabeth Drake, Faye & Colin Brown, Rohan Fernando, 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, Dieter Farmer, 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, Philis 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 29th December

Erica Kurek and Michael Couche

Next week — 5th January

David Atkinson and Mary-Anne Ferraro



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

2025 Enrolments are open

Study scripture, theology, pastoral ministry and spirituality

- Introductory or further studies
- Face-to-face or online modes
- Audit, undergraduate or postgraduate level

For more information: view our [2025 Prospectus](https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/)
ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/



Jubilee Year 2025

Sacred Heart



'JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Jubilee 2025 was proclaimed by Pope Francis in the Papal Bull *Spes Non Confundit* ("Hope does not disappoint").

"The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation." (Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit* 25)

<https://catholiclife.dioc.org/2024/11/19/jubilee-2025-what-it-is-and-how-to-participate/>

Dear Parishioners

I would specially like to thank our parishioners who contributed to the life and the functioning of the parish in 2024 through their generous service.

And also to our Volunteers...

Mass Managers, Liturgy group members, Parish council members, Parish Finance Committee members, Bookkeeper, Parish property manager, Social Justice group, Alter servers, Lectors, Money collectors and coun-ters, Sacramental Coordinator, Musicians, Choir mem-bers, visitation group, Special communion ministers, Working bee organizing committee members, Vincent de Paul Committee members, Garden maintain volunteers, Child Safety Committee members, Alter decorators, Cleaners, and other Volunteers...

Wishing you all a prosperous New Year!

Fr. Anthony Cruz MC

Thank you

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



Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions. Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: [Job vacancies](#)

[Melbourne Catholic](#)

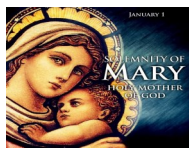


New Year Mass - 1st January 2025

(**Mary, the holy Mother of God**)

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave

9am Mass - Fr. Cruz



Wishing you all a grace filled New Year!

On the 5th January 2025, the Sunday, His Grace Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne will be celebrating the mass at Sacred Heart Church Gembrook.

All are welcome.



Dilexit Nos': wisdom from 20 saints on the Sacred

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556) In his “Spiritual Exercises,” St. Ignatius encourages retreatants to contemplate the wounded side of the crucified Lord to enter into the heart of Christ. Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits, which has promoted devotion to Jesus’ divine heart for more than a century. The society was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1871.

St. John of the Cross (1542–1591) St. John of the Cross viewed the image of Christ’s pierced side as an invitation to full union with the Lord. In his poetry, he portrayed Christ as a wounded stag, comforted by the soul that turns to him. John sought to explain that in mystical experience, the infinite love of the risen Christ “condescends” to enable us, through the open heart of Christ, to experience an encounter of truly reciprocal love.

St. Francis de Sales (1567–1622) St. Francis de Sales was deeply moved by Jesus’ words “Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart” (Mt 11:29). He writes in the “Introduction to the Devout Life” that the ordinary trials of life — such as “the tiresome peculiarities of a husband or wife” or a headache or toothache — when accepted lovingly, “are most pleasing to God’s goodness.” In his letters, Francis wrote about Christ’s open heart, seeing it as an invitation to dwell within and trust completely in God’s grace, describing it as “a heart on which all our names are written.” “Surely it is a source of profound consolation to know that we are loved so deeply by Our Lord, who constantly carries us in his heart,” he said in a Lenten homily on Feb. 20, 1622.

St. Vincent de Paul (1581–1660) St. Vincent de Paul emphasized that “God asks primarily for our heart,” teaching that the poor can have more merit by giving with “greater love” than those with wealth who can give more. He urged his confreres to “find in the heart of Our Lord a word of consolation for the poor sick person.” The constitutions of his congregation underline that “by gentleness we inherit the earth. If we act on this, we will win people over so that they will turn to the Lord. That will not happen if we treat people harshly or sharply.” For him, embodying the “heart of the Son of God” meant going everywhere in mission and bringing the warmth of Christ’s love to the suffering and poor.

To be continued for next week.....

Consecration of the Family to the Holy Family

(*To be prayed after the mass*)

Prayer:

O Jesus, our most loving Redeemer, Who having come to enlighten the world, with Your teaching and example, willed to pass the greater part of Your life in humility and subjection to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth, thus sanctifying the Family that was to be an example for all Christian families, graciously receive our family as it dedicates and consecrates itself to You this day. Defend us, guard us and establish among us Your holy fear, true peace and concord in Christian love: in order that by conforming ourselves to the divine pattern of Your Family we may be able, all of us without exception, to attain to eternal happiness.

Mary, dear Mother of Jesus and Mother of us, by your kind intercession make this our humble offering acceptable in the sight of Jesus, and obtain for us His graces and blessings.

Saint Joseph, most holy Guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all our spiritual and temporal necessities; that we may be able to praise our divine Savior Jesus, together with Mary and you, for all eternity.

Our Father, Hail Mary and Gloria three times.