

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zechariah

Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this: 'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.**

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Romans 8:9.11-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to

die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me. 'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward. 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Next week's reading

First Reading Isaiah 55:10-11
Responsorial Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:81
Second Reading Romans 8:18-23
Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

Unfolding catastrophe in Venezuela threatens tens of thousands more lives

Caritas is warning that the humanitarian situation in Venezuela is rapidly deteriorating in the aftermath of the devastating double earthquake on 24 June, and that the true scale of the disaster may yet be unknown. Pope Leo XIV is calling for global solidarity and sending financial aid to Venezuela. Continue reading: [Unfolding catastrophe in Venezuela threatens tens of thousands more lives](http://www.caritas.org.au/venezuela). To support Caritas Australia's Venezuela Earthquake Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/venezuela or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

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 Thursday & Friday
Web: www.melbolic.org/s/belgrave
Email: belgrave@cam.org.au



ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY **14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR-A** **4th/5th JULY 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...**

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for today engage us in a reflection on the nature of the Trinity, as well as the ways that we are enriched by each of the divine Persons. The gospel acknowledges the sovereignty of God. This is followed immediately by mention of the handing over of all things to Jesus, making him a kind of vice-regent of God. Paul speaks of the Spirit, clearly a divine reality, but different from Jesus and the one called God. According to Paul, this Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus and the Spirit of God, implying that somehow both Jesus and God claim the Spirit. It is this Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, and it is this same Spirit who dwells in Christians.

The grace of this Triune God touches our lives in some ways that are tangible and other ways that demand faith. The most tangible manifestation of God is Jesus himself. God has been revealed to us through this Jesus. While Jesus was a tangible person, our accepting of him as the manifestation of God requires faith, and this faith is no easier today than it was at the time of Jesus himself.

The overriding disposition of these readings is humility. Jesus, the human manifestation of the divine, is meek and humble, and the true disciple is called to be humble. A second disposition is placed before us — grateful praise. In the psalm we praise and bless God; we extol God's holy name. In Jesus we have known the tender touch of God, and we are grateful.

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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. Clare, Pray for us...

St. Joseph, Pray for us... St. Paul, 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: 6 Monday: **St. Maria Goretti**, 7 Tuesday: **St. Peter To Rot**, 9 Thursday: **St. Augustine Zhao Rong & companions**, 11 Saturday: **St. Benedict, Abbot**

"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

	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.

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
 4th/5th July 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently...

Anniversaries: Robert Healy, Christopher Swiderski

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are sick, especially: Asher Froelich, Cathy Sheehan, Brendan Lacey, Kathleen Lacey, Anita Mahoney, Fay Ryan, Fr. Anthony Cruz, Nada Cargo, Betty Firestone, Verity Loke, Elisabeth Drake, Patricia Gilchrist, John Kuyper, Peter Hicks, Ruth Hicks, Faye Brown

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.

SYNOD2026: 17. Synodality

requires humility: Walking together means recognising that no one has all the answers. Synodality invites humility—from leaders and from communities—so that the Spirit can guide us beyond our limitations. melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.



PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

We will take up the Peter's Pence Collection at all Masses this weekend. This annual collection supports the Holy Father's mission of proclaiming the Gospel, promoting peace, and assisting those in need throughout the universal Church. Thank you for your generous support.

FEAST OF ST PAUL

This Sunday, 5 July, we will celebrate the Feast of St Paul, the patron saint of St Paul's Church and School, Monbulk, at the 11:00 am Mass. All parishioners are warmly invited to join the Monbulk community for this special celebration. Let us gather together to give thanks and seek the intercession of St Paul, asking him to pray for us. Refreshments will be served after Mass. Please bring a plate of finger food to share.



MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

Dear friends, thank you for attending the ministry meeting last week, and thank you for your support of our parish. We will have another session on **Tuesday, July 7**. All ministers who have signed up as **lectors or Communion ministers**, as well as those who wish to join the ministry, are invited to participate. Parishioners from other Mass centers are also welcome. Please see the date and time below.

Communion Ministers Training

Tuesday 7 July at 2:00 pm

Lectors Training

Tuesday 7 July at 6:00 pm

Thank you for your commitment and service.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Mass 2026

The Catholic Church in Australia will celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday on Sunday 5 July 2026. This special Mass honours the rich cultural heritage, spirituality and contributions of First Nations peoples to the life of the Church.

The 2026 theme is "Walking together in Christ: 40 years on!" All are warmly invited to attend special mass.

Date: Sunday 5 July 2026

Time: 11.00am-12.00pm

Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral

Pope Leo appoints Archbishop Comensoli to Dicastery for Evangelisation

Pope Leo XIV has appointed Archbishop Peter A Comensoli to the Dicastery for Evangelisation, Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelisation in the World. The appointment was announced on Saturday 27 June. Continue reading: Pope_Leo_appoints_Archbishop_Comensoli_to_Dicastery_for_Evangelisation

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING – 14th JUNE

Presbytery: \$ 628.25 Thanksgiving: \$ 613.70

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

The Archdiocese of Melbourne celebrated its birthday last week

The Archdiocese of Melbourne celebrated its birthday last week, and what better time to reflect on the dedicated leaders who have shaped it. From its establishment as a diocese on 25 June 1847 to becoming the biggest Archdiocese in Australia, a succession of Archbishops has guided the Catholic community through periods of immense growth and change. Each tenure has been unique, each leaving its own mark. The men have been united in their dedication to leading God's people in Melbourne. We take a look at the nine Archbishops who have shaped it. Continue reading: The_archbishops_behind_Melbourne's_179_years_as_a_diocese

A DAY OF PAUSE

Are you longing for a day of quiet simplicity — a chance to rest, reconnect, and open yourself to the presence of God? You are invited to **A Day of Pause**, a gentle day of prayer, reflection, silence, and meditation. The day will begin with a warm welcome and time for centring. Gentle music and a short reflection will lead into silent meditation, with space for walking meditation, time in nature, or simply resting in stillness. Later, there will be an opportunity to gather and share reflections. **Date:** Friday 24th July **Time:** 10.00 am – 4.00 pm



THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC MISSION

Catholic Mission sincerely thanks the parish community of St Thomas More for your generous support of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal. Your contribution of \$1,623.70 will help bring education, dignity and hope to children and families in Kampira, Malawi, through the building of a new primary school and the ongoing mission of the local Church. Your generosity is a true expression of this year's World Mission theme, "One in Christ, United in Mission." Thank you for walking in mission with the Church in Malawi.

