

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

*(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him

anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2
Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2
Gospel Acclamation" See Ephesians 1:17-18
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

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



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR-A

22nd/ 23rd AUGUST 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 highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah. When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer? Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable.

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: 24th St. Bartholomew, 27th St Monica, 28th St. Augustine, 29th the beheading of St John the Baptist.

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

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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-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
 22nd/ 23rd August 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

Anniversaries: Gerard Donker and Willy Hilkes

Prayers for the Sick: 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 Loke, Elisabeth Drake, Patricia Gilchrist, John Kuyper, Peter Hicks, Ruth Hicks, Lucy Hosemans.

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 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:

22. Synodality is a conversion: True synodality requires conversion of hearts, attitudes, and sometimes structures. It asks us to let go of habits that no longer serve the mission.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2026.

2026 SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: Living the Gospel in times of Social Division. — "The cost of our Living: Economic & social justice for the common good. Next weekend is Social Justice Sunday — You can find out more at ACBC- Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING

Presbytery: \$870.70 Thanksgiving: \$1151.85

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

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Week 5: Tuesday 25 August – Saturday 29 August. Please note the following changes to the weekday Mass schedule: **Tuesday–Thursday: No weekday Masses at Belgrave.** Please attend St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully for Mass on these days. **Friday and Saturday:** Morning Mass will be celebrated at Belgrave as usual, at the regular Mass times.

PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE 2026



"A PLEASANT AFTERNOON" THANK YOU. Fine weather on August 16th, a beautiful venue, a band that was just right and

tables laden with delicious food...what more could we have asked for? Willing helpers from both of our parishes and bargains galore in the Silent Auction made for a successful function. We extended friendships, were delightfully entertained, raised just over \$2000 and increased our awareness of those in our midst, who need our help. **Thank you to everyone who worked and participated.** It was indeed a very pleasant Sunday Afternoon. From Erica Kurec and Marilyn Hube.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Knox-Sherbrooke Regional Council 2026 Festival Mass was celebrated on Wednesday 12th August. It was a significant moment in the life of our Vincentians. Our members, staff and volunteers came together to celebrate milestones such as years of service and commissioning. Special thanks to Fr Jim and the St Thomas More's Choir for enriching our gathering. From Bea Eadie.

ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN 2026

FOLLOW- UP WEEKEND 22nd/23rd Aug. Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Online (direct debit or credit card donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating, or you can use the campaign envelopes. *Please note that there are both tax-deductible and non-tax-deductible gift options. If you would like your donation to be tax-deductible, please ensure you select the appropriate option when making your gift.*

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, **aged from 30 into their 50's**, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate. Online Diaconate information meeting **Tuesday, 22 September 2026 beginning 19:00 – 20:00 Location: via ZOOM.**

Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison: Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au.

PRAYER SERVICE OF LAMENT

"This Service is an occasion to humbly stand alongside those who have suffered abuse, and all who continue to carry its lasting effects. It is for us, as the Body Of Christ, to acknowledge and lament sincerely and with humility the failures that have caused such profound harm, and to place before the Lord our prayer for healing, justice and the ongoing conversion of His Church." Join with Archbishop Peter on Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4.00pm in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral as we come before the Lord in prayer and lament.

Are You Interested In Becoming Catholic or Learning More About the Catholic Faith?



RCIA 2026
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION
OF ADULTS

Ferntree Gully and Belgrave Parish

RCIA program 2026 Starting Mon 7th September.

RCIA is a formation program open to those considering becoming a Catholic, those who have been baptised in other traditions but would like to know about the Catholic faith, as well as Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. Please contact the Parish office if you have any questions or would like to register your interest Ph: 9758 1029 or marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au