

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

FORGIVE
as you've been
FORGIVEN

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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 12th/ 13th SEPTEMBER 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

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given. Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentfulness, vindictiveness and unresolved frustration. When we forgive we truly begin to be healed.

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/responsesandprevention
SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY.

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

MEMORIALS/FEASTS: 14thSept-The Exaltation of the Holy Cross; 15thSept-Our Lady of Sorrows; 16thSept-St Cornelius.

"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 11:00am	
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-THIRD SUNDAY IN OTYA
 5th/6th Sept 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

Anniversaries:

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. Mei Ling Chu.

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:

27. Synodality and Scripture: From

Abraham's journey to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Scripture is full of stories of God walking with His people. Synodality places us within that biblical story.

28. Why participation matters: Participation helps people move from being passive recipients to active disciples. This deepens faith and strengthens mission.

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING 26th JULY

Presbytery: \$823.05 - Thanksgiving: \$1356.25

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

PRAYER SERVICE OF LAMENT FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Melbourne invites parishioners to the annual Prayer Service of Lament for Survivors of Abuse on **Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4pm in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne**. Held on the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows to stand in solidarity with survivors and their families, and all affected by abuse. All welcome.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER



Catholics around Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday on 13th September. The 2026 theme, "Love Protects", recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love. This year's theme reminds us that 'genuine love is demonstrated through action,' said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet. When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel. 'Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry. It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence.' May this parish be a true sanctuary, safe for the smallest among us, attentive to the most vulnerable, honest with the truth, and faithful to the God whose love always protects.

MARCH FOR THE BABIES

You are invited to join the 17th annual March for the Babies in Melbourne. **Saturday, 10 October at 1.00pm Treasury Gardens, cnr Spring St & Wellington Pde, Melbourne.**

Wear pink and blue in support of babies and families. For more information: [March for the Babies](#)
 Free parish bus: A free bus may be available if 50 people register.



marchforthebabies.com

Please join us on the 18 year anniversary, as we march for the babies. Attendance is completely free, we just ask that you please book in advance for yourself, your family or group through the link shown.

BOOK YOUR FREE TICKETS



Our march is a family-friendly event with a peaceful police presence. #marchforthebabies #marchforthebabies2026

"PRESENCE": ADVENT & CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS 2026

Prepare for Advent and Christmas with *Presence*. A beautiful 84-page, full-colour book of daily Scripture reflections and prayer, inviting us to slow down and rediscover Christ's presence in our everyday lives. To order: Contact the Parish Office at Belgrave@cam.org.au. Shipping expected from mid-September.



ENGAGING YOUR FAITH ONLINE

Explore faith and contemporary life through short, online presentations by lecturers from Catholic Theological College. **Mon, 12 Oct, 7pm - Tue, 27 Oct, 8:30pm AEDT**. Discover topics including synodality, science and faith, the Gospels, Eucharist, canon law, spirituality and AI. Ticket at: <https://events.humanitix.com/engagingyourfaithoctober2026/tickets>

SIMPLICITY SEPTEMBER

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters. Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for **Palms International Volunteering**, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering. Join Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia Pacific. www.simplicityseptember.org.au



SIMPLICITY SEPTEMBER