

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

*18:25-28*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6*

**(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)  
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)  
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians*

*2:1-5*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is

to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



# 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](http://www.melbcatholic.org/s/belgrave)  
Email: [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)



## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 26<sup>th</sup>/ 27<sup>th</sup> 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...**

### GOD'S PATIENCE AND MERCY (Mt 21:28-32)

The parable about two sons in today's Gospel can be understood on various levels. In Jesus' own context it probably served to defend his practice, shocking to the religious authorities of the day, of celebrating God's mercy by associating and even eating with those considered outcasts and sinners.

At a deeper level, the parable shows that what God looks to - and can wait for with infinite patience - is the final outcome in people's lives. God can put up with an initial "No", and many other "No's" besides, on the way to a final and lasting "Yes".

From the human angle, people who appear religious and obedient from the start may never have sufficiently plumbed the depth of God's mercy to know God as God really is. Conversion at depth and the knowledge of God that goes with it overflows into an attitude and pattern of life that truly reflects God's grace. But a hard, judgemental attitude to others may indicate lack of true conversion and knowledge of God: something that may leave such people waiting at the door, while those whom they thought far less worthy enter before them into the fullness of life.

What ultimately determines fitness for eternal life is conformity of the human heart to the heart of God. None of us could ever amass sufficient good works to merit even a second of life with God. That life will be God's gift in abundance if only we have grown, sometimes in the course of a very winding and to-and-fro journey, into the capacity to receive it.

By Brendan Byren, SJ

**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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)  
**SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY.**

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

**MEMORIALS/FEASTS: 29<sup>th</sup> Sept-Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels; 30<sup>th</sup> Sept-Sts Jerome; 1<sup>st</sup> Oct-St Therese of the Child Jesus; 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct-The Holy Guardian Angels.**

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

**Parish Priest** Fr. Thomas Kuruvila  
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**Phone:** 97542141 / 87518112  
**Assistant Priest** Fr Peter Nguyen  
[Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au](mailto:Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au)  
 97542141

**Parish Book Keeper** Andrew Jans  
[andrew.jans@cam.org.au](mailto:andrew.jans@cam.org.au)

**Parish Office** 97542141  
**Ferntree Gully Office** : 97581029  
**Sacraments** : [belgrave@cam.org.au](mailto:belgrave@cam.org.au)  
**Child Safety Contacts** : Jeanette Wicks

**Parish pastoral Group:**  
**Email:** [belgraveparishpastoralgroup@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Paul's primary school, Monbulk**  
**Principal:** Nick Frederiksen **Phone:** 9756 7201  
**Email:** [nfrederiksen@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nfrederiksen@spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

**Mater Christi College - Belgrave**  
**Principal:** Ms. Maria Haggett **Phone:** 9754 6611  
**Email:** [mcc@materchristi.edu.au](mailto:mcc@materchristi.edu.au)

**St Joseph's College - Ferntree Gully**  
**Principal:** Ms. Cathy Livingston **Phone:** 9758 2000  
**Email:** [info@stjosephs.com.au](mailto:info@stjosephs.com.au)

**Mount Lilydale Mercy College - Lilydale**  
**Principal:** Philip Morison **Phone:** (03) 9735 4022  
**E mail:** [pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pmorison@mlmc.vic.edu.au)

### REGULAR MASS TIMES

|                       | Emerald and FTG               | 6:00 pm |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Saturday Vigil</b> |                               |         |
| <b>Sunday</b>         | Belgrave 8.30am FTG 10:30 am  |         |
|                       | Gembrook 9am Monbulk 11:00 am |         |
| <b>Tuesday</b>        | Belgrave 9am FTG 7:00 pm      |         |
| <b>Wednesday</b>      | Belgrave 9am FTG 9:15am       |         |
| <b>Thursday</b>       | Belgrave 9am FTG 9:15am       |         |
| <b>Friday</b>         | Belgrave 9am FTG 11:00 am     |         |
| <b>Saturday</b>       | 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](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au).

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment — 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office on 9754 2141.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN OT YEAR A  
 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026 - Year of St Francis

### PRAYING FOR...

*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:

#### 30. Synodality and hope:

A synodal Church believes that renewal is

possible, even in difficult times.

Hope is not naïve optimism, it is trust in God's faithfulness.

**YOUTH GROUP/ YOUNG ADULTS** If you are interested in becoming a World Youth Day Pilgrim please let us know: [Instagram@stjb.youth](mailto:Instagram@stjb.youth) or email us at [stjbyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stjbyouth@gmail.com) if you have any questions. World youth day 2027 <https://melbournecatholic.org/wyd27>

### WEEKLY THANKSGIVING 20<sup>th</sup> September

**Presbytery: \$639.20- Thanksgiving: \$820.85**

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection** is for the Presbytery – Priest's (car capital, food expenses etc.) retired priests of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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                          |

### 112<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, 27 September 2026.

Refugee advocate Gabrielle Fakhry OAM has been quietly 'getting on' with journeying alongside asylum seekers and vulnerable newcomers for decades. Speaking ahead of World Day of Migrants and Refugees on 27 September, she reveals that her staunch Catholic faith makes room for others, whatever their backgrounds, and there is continual joy in doing that. Read more at: [Gabrielle Fakhry OAM: a faith that makes room | Melbourne Catholic](#)

### OCTOBER PARISH CENSUS

The Parish Census will be conducted on next weekend we begin our Parish Census, an important moment for us to understand who makes up our parish community and how we can best support one another. Census cards will be available at every Mass over the next three weeks.

We invite each household to complete a card during Mass or take it home and return it the following week. Your participation helps us plan effectively for ministries, events, and the future life of our parish.

All information provided will remain confidential. Thank you for helping us strengthen our parish community.

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

A reminder that **Daylight Saving Time begins on next Sunday, 4 October 2026**. Please remember to put your clocks **forward one hour** before going to bed on Saturday evening.

### THANK YOU!

We sincerely thank John from Belcoma Electrics for generously giving his time and expertise to prepare the Belgrave presbytery for the NBN upgrade.

We are grateful for his kindness and support of our parish community. Thank you, John!

### FAITH IN ACTION: THE RADICAL LOVE STORY OF DOROTHY DAY.

Martha Hennessy, member of the Catholic Worker Movement founded by her grandmother, Dorothy Day, will share from her experiences of peacemaking, war and peace, nuclear disarmament, climate change and social justice. She will explore these issues through the lens of **Catholic Social Teaching**, offering an opportunity for thoughtful conversation about faith, conscience and living the Gospel in today's world. **Date:** Thursday, 8 October 2026. **Time:** 5:30 pm–8:00 pm. See the flyer on the Parish Information Board for more details.

### 2026 KNOX PUBLIC LECTURE



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

#### "Synodality: Global and Local"

Presented by Most Reverend **Patrick O'Regan DD**, Archbishop of Adelaide. **Thursday 22 October at 7:00 pm.** See the flyer on the Parish Information Board for more details.

### CHOSEN PROGRAM

Four day Catholic conference for young Australians (16-35yrs) seeking a deeper encounter with Christ. Hosted by Jesus Youth Australia, Chosen brings together hundred of young people from across the nation for inspiring talks, powerful worship, daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, practical workshops and authentic community. 19th Nov-22nd Nov 2026 at La Trobe University Bundoora.

### EUCHARIST28

The journey towards the 54<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress ("Eucharist28") has taken a significant step today as the event's dates were officially announced. Eucharist28 will run from **24 September to 1 October 2028**. Learn more about Eucharist28 here: <https://eucharist28.org/>.