

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 3rd April

Presbytery: \$713.15 **Thanksgiving:** \$1091.35

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 St. Thomas More's Parish

Church Account

Presbytery Account

BSB 083347

BSB 083347

Acct No: 672146192

Acct No: 669831148



SYNOD 2026: Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.

Learn more: melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

ADORATION FOR WORLD PEACE:

On Saturday **23rd May, 2026** we will be holding a special time of Adoration in St John the Baptist Catholic Church in Ferntree Gully, for Peace in our World. Beginning with 10am Mass, followed by Adoration & Praying all decades of the Rosary, both for World Peace and to intercede to Mother Mary in the Month of May. Concluding at **12pm with Benediction**. Refreshments will be served. Please note that there will be no Mass at Belgrave on that day. Please mark this date in your diary and come along to join us in prayer for peace.



PARISH MINISTRIES – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Our parish community is blessed with many gifts and talents, and we invite you to share yours in service to others. We are currently seeking more volunteers to support the life of our parish and help build God's Kingdom here on earth. Your help is essential to keep our ministries active, welcoming, and thriving. Whether you are new to the parish or already involved, we warmly encourage you to sign up. No experience is needed—training and support will be provided. We are looking for volunteers across the various ministries in our parish. A sign-up sheet is available in the Belgrave church foyer. Please take a moment to add your name, phone number, and email address. Every gift, no matter how small, can make a difference. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve and support others through our parish ministries. Thank you for your generosity and support.

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT TABLE 2026 :

Get ready for our much-loved Mother's Day Craft Table at St. Thomas More's Church! We're excited to bring this event back to help raise funds for our parish, and we'd love your support.

When: Sunday, 10 May 2026 (after 8:30am Mass)

Where: St. Thomas More's Church, Belgrave.

For more information, please contact Marianne Kuyper on 0408 306 129. Thank you for your continued support—let's make this year's event a great success!



GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING INFO SESSION: Special online webinar for parishioners to discern a global mission assisting our human family.

May Session: Live from

Timor Leste! Scan here-

Date: Thursday 21 May 2026

Time: 4 pm – 5:30 pm AEST

02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au



A Prayer for Mothers

God our Father, we thank
You for the gift of life and
the gift of our mothers.
Bless our mothers and
make their hearts glad.
Fill our homes with
laughter and love.
Grant that our mothers
might always rejoice in
their sons and daughters.
And may they hold their
children's children in
their arms.

—Most Rev. José H. Gomez

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

8:5-8. 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **(R.)**

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **(R.)**

3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **(R.)**

4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Next week's reading

First Reading	<u>Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11</u>
Responsorial Psalm	<u>Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6</u>
Second Reading	<u>Ephesians 1:17-23</u>
Gospel	<u>Matthew 28:16-20</u>



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—2.30 pm Thursday to Friday

Web : www.melbcatholic.org/s/belgrave

Email: belgrave@cam.org.au

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A ***9th/10th May, 2026***

Our Parish Vision Statement: *We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....*

SHARING THE RISEN LIFE

But here there is more to say. The Fourth Gospel plays down the traditional expectation of Jesus' coming at the last day in the direction of emphasising his abiding presence in the community. This lies behind the statement: 'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live'. In contrast to 'the world' (unbelievers), for whom Jesus after his death will cease to exist, believers will 'see' him and 'also will live' in the sense of here and now experiencing his presence in the community and sharing his risen life.

Thus the passage continues to address directly the situation of the disciples in the period when his appearances as risen Lord have ceased, the situation of the Church that prevails to this day. Naturally, the disciples will feel the loss of his comforting physical presence. But if they grasp the sense in which he will continue to be present, they should not feel 'orphaned'. In this connection Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' that he will ask the Father to give. (The implication is that Jesus himself has been a 'Paraclete' for the disciples during his earthly life.)

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

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

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.

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...

FEAST DAYS:

12th May - Saints Nereus and Achilleus & Saint Pancras

13th May - Our Lady of Fatima

14th May — Saint Matthias

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

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Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
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Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
Monica Rayner

PARISH PASTORAL GROUP: belgraveparishpastoralgroup@gmail.com

Chairperson David Paton
Bill Farrell, Patrick Coyne,
Sue Luxford, Evie Czarnecki,
Louise Jans and Rhonda Soans

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

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Emerald and Ferntree Gully 6:00 pm
Sunday Belgrave 8.30am and Ferntree Gully 10.30am
Gembrook 9.00am and Monbulk 11.00am

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday, Belgrave 9am	FTG 7.00pm
Wed Belgrave 9am	FTG 9.15am
Thurs Belgrave 9am	FTG 9.15 am
Friday Belgrave 9am	FTG 11.00 am
Saturday Belgrave 9am	FTG: NO Morning MASS

RECONCILIATION: Belgrave Saturday 9:45am

Ferntree Gully Saturdays 5.15 pm

For all other Mass centres, please see the priest before or after Mass for confession.

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 marvmakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au.

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

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently especially Fr Peter Foley.

Anniversaries: Giovanni Turco, Hazel Lithgow, Gerard Kruyer, Ross Smith, John Connor, Norman Jones, Mary Rose Cannon, Alex Steel, Koen Goedderis, Gregory Papa, Stephen Surman, Willem Rath.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are sick, especially the following people: Anita Mahoney, Fay Ryan, Fr. Anthony Cruz, Nada Cargo, Betty Firestone, Verity Loke, Elisabeth Drake, Patricia Gilchrist, John Kuyper, Peter Hicks, Ruth Hicks.



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.