

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 5th April

Presbytery: \$ 1135.95 Thanksgiving: \$ 1178.60

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

BSB 083347

Acct No: 672146192

Presbytery Account

BSB 083347

Acct No: 669831148

NO WEEKDAY MASS : Please note that there will be **no daily** Mass at St Thomas More's Church, Belgrave, on **Tuesday, 14th of April to Thursday 16th of April 2026**. Those who would like to go to weekday mass, please go to St. John the Baptist in Ferntree Gully, Tuesday 7pm and Wednesday to Thursday 9:15am.

Building the Synodal Way Together

As we enter the Easter season, we are invited to continue growing as a Church that listens, learns, and walks together. The *Synodal Way* calls each of us—clergy, religious, and lay—to participate actively in discernment and dialogue, guided by the Holy Spirit.

In the coming weeks, we will focus on deepening our commitment to:

- **Listening with an open heart** to the experiences, hopes, and concerns of others.
- **Engaging in meaningful conversation**, grounded in respect, humility, and prayer.
- **Strengthening our sense of communion**, recognising Christ at the centre of our shared mission.

Discerning pathways forward, so that our parish and wider Church can respond more faithfully to the needs of our time. Reflection question: How can we deepen our understanding of synodality in our parish life?

The first meeting of the Diocesan Synod Commission will be held on Thursday 9 April. We ask for your prayers as we gather to discern and plan for the work of the Synod. If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email:

Synod2026@cam.org.au



5. Why listening matters in the Church

Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the Christian tradition, listening is an act of humility and faith. We believe that God can speak through the experiences, joys, and struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us that listening is a form of love and a path to wisdom

PROJECT COMPASSION

Caritas Australia sincerely thanks you for your generous support of **Project Compassion** this Lent.

Please return any donation boxes and place them in the basket in the church foyer, or you may donate online at www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate or by calling **1800 024 413**.

Reflection Note: Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday is a special feast celebrated on the **first Sunday after Easter**. It is a day dedicated to remembering and trusting in the infinite mercy of God. This devotion originated from the visions and revelations received by **Saint Faustina Kowalska**, a Polish nun, in the 1930s. According to her diary, Jesus asked that this feast be celebrated so that people may come to know His mercy and receive His grace in a deeper way. Later, the Church officially established this feast, emphasizing God's loving compassion for all humanity. The practice of Divine Mercy Sunday often includes attending Mass, going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, and praying the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy**. Many believers also begin the **Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday**, continuing it for nine days until the feast. At **3:00 PM**, known as the Hour of Mercy, people pause to pray and reflect on the passion and death of Jesus Christ. These practices help strengthen faith and remind us to place our trust in God's mercy.

Praying on Divine Mercy Sunday is important because it reminds us that no sin is too great for God's forgiveness. It is a powerful invitation to repent, seek healing, and renew our relationship with God. This prayer not only asks mercy for ourselves but also for the whole world. It teaches us to become merciful toward others by showing kindness, forgiveness, and compassion in daily life. Divine Mercy Sunday inspires us to reflect on how deeply God loves us despite our weaknesses and failures. It gives hope that every person can begin again through faith and trust in Him. It is a reminder that mercy is at the heart of Christian life and that through prayer, we open our hearts to peace, grace, and spiritual renewal.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory

in the tents of the just. **(R.)**

3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;

we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time

have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls. **The Word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen
me; happy those who have not seen me, but still
believe!**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Next week's reading

**First Reading Acts 2:14,22-23/ Responsorial Psalm
15:1-2,5,7-11/ Second Reading 1Peter1:17-21/**

Gospel, Luke 24:13-15



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A ***11th/12th APRIL, 2026, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY***

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

FOCUS ON THE WORD : Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.' Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.' Pope Francis used to say we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways. We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds. Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith. We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.' **Fr Michael Tate**

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: Mon 13th *St Martin I, Pope, Martyr*

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

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

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Mater Christi College - Belgrave
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St Joseph's College - Ferntree Gully
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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 Grant O'Neill, May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries: We also remember and pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time. John Daniel Healy, Hella Becker, Julie Moore, Henk Koelewijn, Cees Cabret, Catherine Bernard, Frank Volta, Marie Rivalland, Anna-Maree Chia, Maria Robinson, Marinus Bissels, Rosaria Coniglione, Joseph Melia, Nella Renna, Peter Straubenmuller.

Prayers for the Sick:

We pray for all who are sick, especially the following people: Hennie Castricun



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.