

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 10th April

Presbytery: \$930.85 **Thanksgiving:** \$1,201.95

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 is about mission



The purpose of synodality is not internal reform for its own sake. Its goal is evangelisation—helping the Church become more faithful, more welcoming, and more effective in proclaiming the Gospel to today's world.

Learn more: melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

CONFIRMATION MASS: We warmly welcome the families, friends, and candidates gathering for the Sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday, **17 May at 2:00 pm at St Thomas More Church, Belgrave**. We extend our prayerful best wishes to all the candidates receiving this special sacrament. May the Holy Spirit guide them always. Our sincere thanks go to the school teachers for their dedication in preparing the students for this sacred milestone.

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 OFFICE NOTICE: Please be advised that due to a temporary arrangement, the Belgrave Parish Secretary will be based at St John the Baptist Parish office until further notice. **Office Hours: Days: Thursday and Friday Times: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm.** For all parish-related enquiries during this period, please contact the Ferntree Gully Parish Office directly on 03 97581029.

FUNERAL MASS

The Funeral Mass for the late **Solange Duivenvoorden** will be at **St. Paul's Catholic Church, Monbulk**, on **Wednesday, 20th May**, commencing at **11:00 am**.

CELEBRATE PENTECOST SUNDAY WITH US!

Join our community for a special mass celebrating our gifts, talents, and a joyful. **When: Sunday, 24 May 2026 at 8:30 am Where: St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave.** Bring a plate of food to share for our community gathering after mass. Everyone is welcome to attend, connect, and celebrate together. We look forward to seeing you there!

APPRECIATION FOR MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISING EVENT SUCCESS:

Thank you everyone! A huge thank you to Marianne Kuyper and her team for running our Mother's Day fundraiser last week. We also want to thank everyone who came out to support us—the event was a great success. We truly appreciate your kindness. We are just finishing up the raffle and will share the results in the next few weeks!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ST THOMAS MORE

SCHOOL BELGRAVE! : We want to say a huge thank you to the students and staff at St Thomas More School. Thank you so much for the beautiful, handmade flowers you made for Mother's Day last Sunday. Everyone loved them, and we truly appreciate all your hard work and kindness!

THE MELBOURNE CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION 2026:

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli invites all people to the annual Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession to publicly celebrate the Blessed Sacrament. **Date : 7th June 2026 Start Time: 2:00 PM Starting Point: St Patrick's Cathedral.** Route: Streets of Melbourne's CBD. Endpoint: Federation Square Purpose: Publicly witness the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL: for Yamikani, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. But there is hope. Let by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built offering a safe place to learn, grow and look ahead. ***You are invited to share in this mission by your offering to this worthy appeal.***

There will be a special collection this weekend. The envelopes are in the church foyer. Please be generous.



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.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for

us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

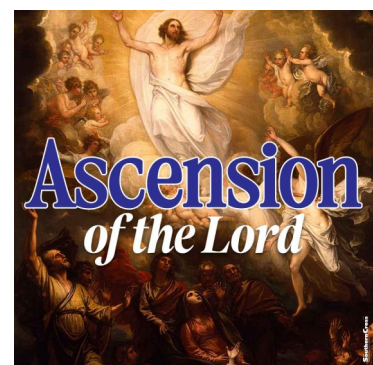
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Next week's reading

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel

John 20:19-23



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

The Ascension of the Lord Year A ***16th/17th May, 2026***

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

UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN

Just before Jesus departs, the disciples voice an understandable concern: 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' Here we seem to have the last flicker of the hope that Jesus would be a Messiah along the lines of conventional messianic expectation. Also present is a strong sense of 'unfinished business'. Jesus may be the Messiah, but neither now nor in the foreseeable future do the times and conditions look particularly 'messianic'. Same old world, same old patterns of violence, suffering and death. Jesus does not give a direct answer to the disciples' query. The time of the Kingdom's full arrival and the completion of the messianic program remains shrouded in the mystery of God.

What the disciples must understand is that, empowered by the Spirit, they are to become instruments of its realisation in the new era – that of the Church – that lies ahead. Through their hands and feet and mouth Jesus will continue his messianic work until the end of time. The conflict he faced will be their conflict too (something the Acts of the Apostles will abundantly demonstrate). But in all their trials and labours he will be with them, inspiring and guiding their work from heaven through the Spirit.

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:

17 May - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

8 May - Saint John I

20 May - Saint Bernadine of Siena,

21 May - Saints Christopher Magallenes and companions

22 May - Saint Rita of Cascia

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

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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... Marion Brett,

Solange Duivenvoorden and Maureen Petty.

All who have died recently especially

Anniversaries: Jeanette Zuijdwijk, Margaret Geri, Wilhelmina Kennet, Des O'Dwyer, Fr. Raymond Deal, Carmine Parente, Joseph Gawronski, Doris Peart, Bill Hitchcock, Amber Kempster, August Langenegger, Betty Smart, Anthony Kosena, Annie Banks, Noreen Ring, Evan Glen.

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.