

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 18th January

Presbytery: \$ 922.10 Thanksgiving: \$ 1209.55

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

Funeral Mass for Don Kempster

The Funeral Mass for **Don Kempster** will be held at St Paul's Church, Monbulk, on Tuesday 27th at 11:00 am. The Rosary will be prayed at 10:30 am.

NO MASS ON TUESDAY: Please note that there will be **no daily** Mass at St Thomas More's Church, Belgrave, on **Tuesday, 27 January 2026**.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS:

If you are a volunteer in any of our positions here at St Thomas More Parish and you have not done the Safeguarding Essentials online training yet, we encourage you to do it asap as it is a compulsory requirement to comply with the Safeguarding policies and procedures. You can access it at <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/>. Also, please check that your WWCC card details are up to date, and notify the office of your valid card.

ARCHBISHOP INVITES COMMUNITY TO EMBRACE

National Day of Mourning with reverence and lament. On Thursday 22nd January, Australians observed a National Day of Mourning in response to the tragic and horrific events at Bondi on 14th December. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli invited all members of our community, of every belief and background to embrace the day with reverence and lament and to hold with deep compassion those who mourn. You can learn more about the day of mourning here. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news/national-day-mourning-victims-bondi-beach-terrorist-attack#bondimitzvah>



AUSTRALIA DAY MASS:

A SPECIAL AUSTRALIA DAY MASS will be celebrated at **10.30am, on Monday 26th January, 2026**. All welcome, to remember our nation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026:

The Sacramental program for children who do not attend a catholic school, will begin early in term 1 2026. First Term is for students who are in grade 3 and upwards to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Second term will be for children, who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, grade six or upwards and Third Term will be for children who will be celebrating their First Eucharist. For further details please contact the parish office of Ferntree Gully Email: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or Ph: 9758 1029.

THE RED MASS

The red mass is the traditional gathering of the Legal Profession to invoke God's guidance and blessing for the year ahead. A Mass will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne, on Tuesday 27th January, 2026 from 9.00am - 10.00am. Following the mass, the Judiciary, members of the legal profession, law students, staff and their families are invited to join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli for morning tea in the presbytery grounds adjacent to the Cathedral. Please rsvp to Kathryn Toll at: admin@mcfarlanelegal.com.au for catering purposes.

Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage in the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Celebrate the vibrancy and contribution of our migrant communities in our Church as we welcome the Migrant Jubilee Cross to the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Let us pray for God's blessing upon Australia, particularly the great gift of migrants and refugees. Join the pilgrimage and venerate the relics of the Holy Family and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Event Date: Friday 13 February 2026– Monday 16 February 2026.

Pilgrimage Dates: 13 February (7pm): Liturgical Reception of the Migrant Jubilee Cross at St Patrick's Cathedral with Vespers and Lectio Divina. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will preside. All welcome. For more information, click [here](#).

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY.

Would you like to prayerfully journey through Lent with inspiring and meaningful reflections on the daily Mass readings? Coming soon.. resources.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 8:23-9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

Before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. **(R.)**

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 1:10-13,17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you?

Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Next week's reading

First Reading Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12





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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A **24th / 25th January, 2026**

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 : Two sets of two brothers were running successful family businesses. But once Jesus passed by and *called* them, the Gospel says, at *once* they left their boats and followed him. I think because, hearing his voice, they realised that Jesus was the true vocalist of God.

Irish author and mystic, John O'Donohue, once wrote, 'Something in us senses and knows how perfectly the contours of the soul fit the divine embrace.' Maybe Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John sensed that, in this Jesus, there was a Soul whose contours perfectly fitted the divine embrace. They were prepared to risk everything for the chance to have *their* souls contoured along the same lines.

The call: '**Follow me ...**', was not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, **a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.**

We could pause for a moment to hear the brothers beckoning us to follow the call of that voice sounded by Our Lord Jesus Christ. © 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 up on our parish . And grant us a new vision of your kingdom, a new faithfulness to your word, a new consecration to your service, that we may become growing community of disciples, that seeks to bring your word to 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 26th January Australia Day Mass 10.30am at Belgrave.**

Tue 27th St Angela Merici & Sts Timothy and Titus

Wed 28th St Thomas Aquinas Sat 31st St John Bosco

"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
Belgrave: Bill Farrell, Patrick Coyne
Joe Van Strijp, Sue Luxford
Evie Czarnecki, Louise Jans and
Rhonda Soans

ST. THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY, BELGRAVE
Principal: Declan McDermott Phone: 9754-4444
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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 centres, 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.

REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS:



PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently: Don Kempster and Barbra Pike.
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 ill, but especially the following people: Verity Loke, Christine Camilleri, Elston Tennent, Elisabeth Drake, Patricia Gilchrist, John Kuyper. Peter 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
17 Terry Avenue, 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.