

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 19th April

Presbytery: \$848.10 Thanksgiving: \$1,218.35

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 and bishops

Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith. Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather, it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.

Learn more: melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.



MAY - THE MONTH OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

St Joseph's church Emerald will be open every Thursday 4.30 - 5.30 for the month for silent prayer. This is a great opportunity to recite a rosary, read the Bible or do a private devotion in the church. Our Lord is always present in the tabernacle and is calling us to spend time and deepen our relationship with Him. Come and make a holy hour or drop in for 5 minutes. All welcome

SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLECTION THROUGHOUT MAY

In keeping with our parish's long history of Social Justice awareness and action, a collection of personal grooming products will be conducted at all Mass centres throughout May. The products will go to a Women's Refuge regularly visited by members of our parish.

We require only the following products, so that each recipient has the same package.

- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Body Wash and Body Lotion
- Hand Wash and Hand Lotion

A box for donations will be placed at each Mass Centre. In this Month of Mary and of Mothers' Day, please help us to reach out to these women in need.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

The envelopes are available for the period 3rd May 2026 to April 25 2027 are now available for collection at our 4 churches. Thank you for your ongoing support, please contact the parish office if you have any queries.

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT TABLE 2026

Get ready, everyone—it's time to get those creative gears turning for our **Mother's Day Craft Table!** We are so excited to bring this event back to **St. Thomas More's Church** to raise much-needed funds for our Parish, and we need **YOU** to make it spectacular!

Whether you can **BAKE** a treat, **MAKE** a craft, **SEW** a masterpiece, or **GROW** something beautiful, now is the time to get organized! Let's keep up our amazing tradition and make this our most successful year yet.

SAVE THE DATE:

Where: St. Thomas More's Church, Belgrave

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

We're also gearing up for an **incredible Raffle Hamper**, and we'd be so grateful for any "goodie" donations you can swing our way. Stay tuned for prize details! For more information or to chat about your contribution, please contact **Marianne Kuyper on 0408 306 129**

Thank you all for your amazing support—let's do this!

GOOD SHEPARD SUNDAY 2026 **26 April (Fourth Sunday of Easter)**

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Leo tells us:

Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25:14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ.

Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE - MAY 2026

The National Count of Attendance is a vital initiative that helps the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference understand the evolving needs of the faithful. To ensure an accurate representation of your community, please consider attending Mass at your local parish throughout the month of May.

- **Start Date:** The count begins the weekend of 2 May.
- **Duration:** It takes place over all four weekends in May.
- **Purpose:** To gather data on long-term trends and demographics.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

(R.) *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

1. The Lord is my shepherd;

there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures

where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,

to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

2. He guides me along the right path;

he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness

no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;

with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me

in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;

my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me

all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell

for ever and ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep,
and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Next week's reading

First Reading

[Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7](#)

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22](#)

Second Reading

[1 Peter 2:4-9](#)

Gospel, Luke

[John 14:1-12](#)



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A ***25th/26th April, 2026***

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

VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD

Inevitably there would be attempts to steal sheep from the fold during the night. Thieves would succeed only if they get into the fold by some means other than the gate and also only if they could get sheep to follow their call. Sheep attuned to their own shepherd's voice would not follow the call of a stranger and so would not be in danger of being removed from the fold.

We can now bring this understanding to the series of images used by Jesus in the Gospel. The central idea is that of the intimate knowledge that should exist between a shepherd and sheep: he knows his sheep they recognise his voice and willingly follow his call. Jesus contrasts a 'good shepherd' like this with others who come only to steal, harass, and ultimately destroy sheep that do not belong to them. The contrast reflects the vicissitudes of the Johannine community as it struggled to free itself from the control of the Jewish synagogue and establish its own identity centred on allegiance to Jesus as its only true Shepherd. Preachers today need not stress the negative but concentrate upon the appealing image of God stemming from the positive aspect of the comparison.

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: 29 April — Saint Catherine of Siena

1 May - Saint Joseph the Worker

2 May — Saint Athanasius

"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 marmakarucha@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

Anniversaries:

Pope Francis, Asuncion Langenegger, Lee Walsh, Silvia Schnelbrieder, Frank Carville, Kathleen Boyle, Fr. James Kierce PE, Koen Goederee, Gregory Pappa, Lucia Falcone, Maria Eyssens, Martha Grainger, Bob Smart.

Prayers for the Sick:

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