

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 22nd March

Presbytery: \$ 995.50 **Thanksgiving:** \$1453.26

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

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**Palm Sunday
28th - 29th March 2026**

As Project Compassion 2026 comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion.

Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate! Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion, Caritas Australia 2026, through the **donation boxes/envelopes at church.** Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate Or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

THE HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM MASS

TIMES: The mass times are available on the parish website and the church noticeboard.

PARISH OFFICE NOTICEL: There will be no daily Mass at **St Thomas More Church, Belgrave, on Tuesday, 31 March.** Our priests will be attending the Mass of the Holy Oils at St Patrick's Cathedral. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend the **Reconciliation Service at St John the Baptist Church, Ferntree Gully, on Tuesday 31 March evening at 7:00 pm Mass, following Individual Reconciliation.**

QUIET TIME IN LENT: Whether you are looking for a quiet space for prayer, our church doors are open to all parishioners.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Please remember to bring your Project Compassion boxes and envelopes for collection at Holy Thursday's 'Mass of the Lord's Supper'. If at all possible, please return them earlier.

STATION OF THE CROSS: We warmly invite you to join our community for a morning of prayer and reflection as we observe the **Stations of the Cross:**

ECUMENICAL WALK, hosted by St John the Baptist this Friday, 3 April 2026. Beginning on the corner of Dawson and Burwood Hwy Upper Ferntree Gully at 9:15am making our way to St John the Baptist by 10am and then praying through the stations of the cross in the church.

SUMAVA CZECH, Belgrave South at **10:00 AM** this Good Friday, 3 April 2026.

WELCOME BACK: We warmly welcome Fr Thomas back home this weekend from India and keep him in our prayers.

EASTER BBQ- ST.JOEPH'S CHURCH EMERALD:

Parishioners attending the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, **4th April at 5:00pm**, are invited to stay on for a BBQ after Mass. Please help us to celebrate Easter with food and friendship.

2026 PALM SUNDAY WALK FOR JUSTICE

Join the walk for Justice, Respect and Kindness. Sunday 29 March 2026, at 1.00 pm – Gather on Princes Bridge (near Flinders Street Station) with banners and placards, 1.30 pm – Walk to Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr 2.00pm – 3.30 pm Speakers and music Lwr Terrace Birrarung Marr.

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY PASSION PLAY

The Passion Play will be held at Catholic Regional College 280 Sydenham Rd Sydenham on Sun 29th March 2026 at 1.30pm and again on Good Friday, at 10am same location. Parking via Gate 5. For more Info, go to:

<https://melbournepassionplay.com.au/>

ST. THOMAS MORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELGRAVE TOURS

Open Days at St Thomas More Primary School. If you, or someone you know, would like to visit the school and see the facilities, please contact the school directly via email:

dmcdermott@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

Open dates: **30 March , 24th April, 11th May, 2nd June and 6th August.**

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK TOURS

Open dates: **Wednesday, 1 April 2026 (9am -11am)**

Monday, 18 May 2026 (9am -11am)

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE

Details can be found on the Archdiocese of Melbourne website for various administrative and liturgical positions Job vacancies. Follow this link: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

YOUTH GROUP: YOUNG DISCIPLESHIP

In the spirit of Synod 2026, we are called to walk together as a community. Our parish priests warmly invites the youth of the Belgrave parish to gather, connect in faith through our Youth Group. For more information, please email to belgrave@cam.org.au We'd love to hear from you!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 2026

Sacramental classes for the sacrament of Confirmation will take place in second term 2026. If your child is due to take part in the celebration for Confirmation please contact the parish office. The sacrament of confirmation is for children who have celebrated their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist and are in Grade 6 or upwards.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICE SIGN UP SHEETS.

Please help us by adding your name to the sheet. With Grateful thanks.

SYNOD 2026:

Synodality is not new

Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen, and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

Learn more: melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.



COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

(Matthew 21:1-11)

When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, "The Master needs them and will send them back directly."' 'This took place to fulfill the prophesy: Say to the daughter of Zion: Look, your king comes to you: he is humble, he rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden. So the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, and they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. 'Who is this?' people asked, and the crowds answered, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians**

2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!**

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying
on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a
name above all other names.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!**

GOSPEL

**The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Matthew**

27:1-54

Please refer the separate booklet for **THE
PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.**

Please leave the booklet in the church after use.

The Gospel of the Lord

Next week's readings

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel John 20:1-9



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

Passion (Palm) Sunday, Year A **28th/29th March, 2026**

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

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66

St Matthew's account of the Passion is haunted by the theme of guilt at the shedding of innocent blood.

Prominent in this respect is the figure of Judas. We learn not only of his betrayal of Jesus but also of his subsequent remorse and futile attempt to rid himself of guilt by getting the chief priests to take back the blood money. Tragically, he does not seem to have believed that, like Peter, he would have received from Jesus forgiveness and a fresh start.

Unable to forgive himself, he takes his own life. Next, Pilate, warned by his wife to have nothing to do with "that innocent man", washes his hands before the crowd in a futile attempt to evade responsibility. Finally, urged on by their leaders, the people as a whole answer, "His blood be upon us and upon our children". This cry, devastating in its consequences for Jewish people down the centuries, does not in any way mean that Jewish people as a whole and for all time have incurred responsibility for Jesus' death. For Matthew it explains the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 CE, in the sense that the next generation ("our children"), and only that generation, will bear the consequences of shedding Jesus' blood.

But all this evil - betrayal, miscarriage of justice, shedding of innocent blood - is gathered up and overcome by the divine love that is the true meaning of Jesus' death. Even as he dies there is already a hint of love's victory as the earthquake and opening of tombs foreshadow resurrection.

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 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...

Holy Week and Easter Triduum

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

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Parish Secretary: Mirani Perera
Parish Office: 97542141
Sacraments : belgrave@cam.org.au
Child Safety Contacts: Jeanette Wicks 97542759
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
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 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 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:



Anniversaries:

Lyn Burger, Rev. Salvatore (Sam) Dimattina , Rev. John Tollan. Maria Donker, Len Bennet, Luke Matanovic, Edward Sherry, Abraham Schellenbach, Anne Johnson, Willy Magnus, Jim McCart, Toos Kuyper. Gwen Farwell.

We also remember and pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: 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
Cnr. Emerald-Monbulk & Cornish Roads, Emerald

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook
95/93 Main Street, Gembrook

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk
59 Moores Road, Monbulk

St John the Baptist Church, Ferntree Gully
19 Forest Road , Ferntree Gully.