

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 26th April

Presbytery: \$ 633.40 Thanksgiving: \$667.40

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

SYNOD 2026: For priests, synodality is not an added burden but a way of exercising ministry in communion. When priests foster listening and participation, parishes become more alive, missionary, and joyful. The priest presides at the Eucharist, but the whole community contributes to the Church's mission.

Learn more: melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.



MAY - THE MONTH OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

St Joseph's church Emerald will be open every **Thursday 4.30pm - 5.30pm** 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 are 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.

NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE – MAY 2026

Help the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference track long-term trends! Please attend Mass at your local parish across all four weekends in **May, starting 2 May**.

THANK YOU TO BENDIGO BANK:

We sincerely thank the Bendigo Bank Upper Ferntree Gully Branch Manager and all the staff for their generous donation of \$1,500 to our parish community. Special thanks to Connor Jans, the Relationship Manager, for applying for this grant on our behalf. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated and will help us continue serving our parish community.

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.

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.



WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES AND CHILDREN:

We warmly welcome all our school families and children who are attending the Commitment Mass for Confirmation this weekend. As you prepare for this special sacrament, we are delighted to have you with us as part of our parish community. Your presence is a blessing, and we pray that this time of preparation will deepen your faith and draw you closer to God. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen each child as they continue their journey towards receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation will be on 17th May at 2pm.

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT TABLE 2026 : Get ready for our much-loved Mother's Day Craft Table at St. Thomas More's Church! We're excited to bring this event back to help raise funds for our parish, and we'd love your support. If you enjoy baking, crafting, sewing, or gardening, now's the perfect time to start preparing your contributions. We're also seeking donations of "goodies" for a special raffle hamper. Event Details: **When: Sunday, 10 May 2026 (after 8:30am Mass) Where: St. Thomas More's Church, Belgrave.** For more information or to contribute, please contact **Marianne Kuyper on 0408 306 129.** **Thank you for your continued support—let's make this year's event a great success!**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

14: 1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Next week's reading

First Reading	<u>Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17</u>
Responsorial Psalm	<u>Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1</u>
Second Reading	1Peter 3:15-18
Gospel	John 14:15-21

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL 2026

There will be a special collection this Sunday in support of Catholic Care. Catholic Care provides important support and care to individuals, families, and those in need within our wider community. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A ***2nd/3rd May, 2026***

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

DWELLING PLACE

In the human person of Jesus Christ, God has made a dwelling-place – literally, ‘has pitched his tent’ – among us. The disciples ‘have seen his glory’ in the sense that the words and actions of Jesus, notably his ‘signs’ (miracles), have rendered ordinary human life transparent to God’s presence and to the gift of ‘eternal life’ which, through Jesus, God wishes to impart. To ‘have eternal life’ in this sense is nothing less than to have a share in God’s own life, to become ‘children of God’ (1:12; 11:52), inhabitants of God’s ‘house’ forever. As Jesus explains to Martha, grieving at the death of her brother Lazarus, this is the true response and remedy to human mortality: ‘I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live; and whoever lives believing in me, will never die’ (John 11:25-26).

What Jesus is attempting to explain to the puzzled disciples in today’s Gospel is that this gift of eternal life, and the divine ‘at-homeness’ that goes with it, can only come about through his ‘going away’ for a time. His suffering and death are necessary to defeat the grip of sin and death upon the human race and open up the way to life.

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:

13th May - Our Lady of Fatima

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

Parish priest Fr. Thomas Kuruvila
thomas.kuruvila@cam.org.au
Phone: 97542141 / 87518112

Assistant Priest Fr Peter Nguyen
Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au
97542141

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
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...

All who have died recently especially Maureen Tetty and Henny Castricum.

Anniversaries: Margaret Sheanon, Antoinette Bowden, Jean Ellen Williams, Carl Galloway, Louise Sullivan, Rosa & Guiseppe Frazetto, Evelyn Fraser, Frank Carville, Silvia Schnelbrieder, Kathleen Boyle, Fr. James Kierce, 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: 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.