

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 30th November

Presbytery: \$ 805.10 Thanksgiving: \$ 962.30

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
<u>Church Account</u>	<u>Presbytery Account</u>
BSB 083347	BSB 083347
Acct No: 672146192	Acct No: 669831148

The latest PPG minutes are now available for viewing on the parish notice board.

Caritas Australia: Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas.

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity.

Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>



The third collection for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal will take place on December 6th and 7th.



Vinnies ask :

Can you help to give our local children a Happy Christmas?

Vinnies will be visiting local in-need families just prior to Christmas and some of these families have young children. Your assistance by providing some small presents for these children- will be a huge help (to Vinnies) and very much appreciated (by these children). There are boys and girls, of all ages from 1 year to 13 years, and in total there's about 25 children. Please leave your gift in front of the nativity scene (at all our churches), on Sunday 14th December, (wrapped and labelled boy or girl & age).

Thank you and Christmas greetings, from Vinnies

Belgrave Conference

Join us for the Emerald church Christmas get-together on **December 13th!** The gathering will take place in the Emerald church hall immediately following the 6pm mass. **All are welcome!** We simply ask that you kindly bring along a plate of your favourite festive food to share with the community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 17th December, 6:30pm Extended Penitential Rite within Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass from 7.00pm. All are welcome.

No morning mass on Wednesday 17th December.

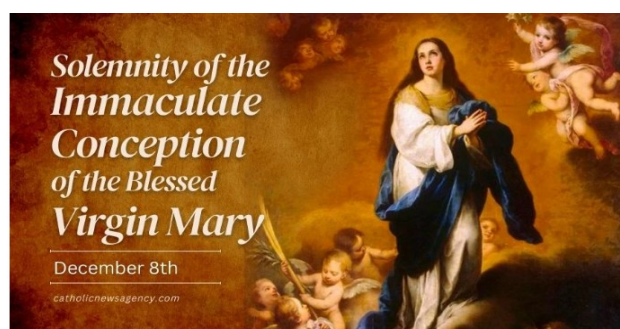
CHRISTMAS 2025 CRAFT TABLE EVENT

The FUN(draiser) continues:

Hello everyone,

Last Sunday was once again a great example of what a generous community can do when it gets together for a purpose. However I do have a confession to make: On the actual day I totally forgot about the substantial donation of plants which was dropped off at the Church on Saturday morning. I was reminded of them as we were packing up :<(. My sincere apologies to the parishioner who donated these plants. Some people also asked if we would consider keeping the big raffle open for at least another week. So after speaking with the folks helping us pack everything up, the decision was made to leave the raffle open until this Sunday (Dec 7) when the five major prizes will definitely be drawn after the 8.30 am Mass at Belgrave. Today we will have the plants on clear display just outside the Church and we are asking you to extend your generosity once again to look at purchasing some of these. Some of the craft items will also be on sale again for that day only. After that any unsold items will be passed on to any charity shop interested in them. Thanks again for all your amazing support.

Marianne Kuyper



CHRISTMAS EVE WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER

St Thomas More Church Belgrave:

7pm Carols ✕ 7.30pm Mass

St Joseph's Church Emerald: 5pm Carols ✕ 5.30pm Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER

St Thomas More Church, Belgrave ✕ 8.30am

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook ✕ 9.00am

St Paul's Church, Monbulk ✕ 11.00am

OTHER MASS CENTRES:

CHRISTMAS EVE WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FERNTREE GULLY:

5.30pm Carols ✕ 6.00pm Family Mass

9.00pm Carols ✕ 9.30pm Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER

Mass ✕ 10.30am

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of

circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. ***Alleluia!***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.



Next week's reading

First Reading [Isaiah 35:1-6, 10](#)

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4](#)

Second Reading [James 5:7-10](#)

Gospel [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

Belgrave church reading roster - 7th December

Clem O'Connor and Sharon Bennett

Next week — **14th December**

Rebecca Van Rensburg and Michael Couche

Church cleaning - 7th December

John and Sally Anne Faragher and family



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—2pm Tuesday to Friday

Web : www.melbcatholic.org/s/belgrave

Email: belgrave@cam.org.au

Our Parish Vision Statement:

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

We are called to be a welcoming, compassionate community, empowered for our faith journey for active service.....

Second Sunday of Advent Year A - 6th/7th December 2025

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.



<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2025Dec07/0/RefDiBer>

WE ARE A CHILD SAFETY PARISH AND WE BELIEVE IN CHILD SAFETY.

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 a growing community of disciples, that seeks to bring your word to the world, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

O 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.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER— PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



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

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Monica Rayner

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Chairperson David Paton
Belgrave: Bill Farrell
Patrick Coyne
Joe Van Strijp
Monbulk: Sue Luxford
Emerald: Evie
Gembrook: Louise Jans and Rhonda Soans

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Email: principal@smbelgrave.catholic.edu.au

ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONBULK

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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
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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:

Recent deaths:

John Robinson, the brother of Marie Madden.

We also pray for people across the world who have died due to wars, civil restlessness and natural calamities. May their souls rest in peace.

Anniversaries:

Paul Daniel Lucas, Leo Walsh, Paul Granieri, Terry McDermott, Dorothy ward.

Prayers for the Sick:

We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Verity Loke, Christine Camilleri, Don Kempster, Elston Tennent, Elisabeth Drake, Patricia Gilchrist, John Kuyper.

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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Prepare spiritually for Christmas. All are invited to join us for a period of Adoration following the evening Mass on the *fourth week of Advent*.

Date: Saturday, 20 December

Time: Immediately after the 6:00 PM Mass

Location: St Joseph's Church, Emerald

Come and spend quiet time in the Lord's presence as we near the Nativity of Christ.

