

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING - 1st February

Presbytery: \$726.60 Thanksgiving: \$1037.55

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

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.

Parish Lenten Group

Contact person: Marianne Kuyper
Email : mkuyper@westnet.com.au
Tel no: 0408 306 129
Date: Every second Monday.
(Starting from 16th February 2026)
Time: 3.30pm - 5.00pm

Ash Wednesday Mass Times

Wednesday, 18 February 2026



The following Mass times are scheduled for our partner parishes:

St Thomas More's Belgrave **9.00am**

St Paul's Monbulk **11.45am**

St John the Baptist's Ferntree Gully

9.15am and 7.00pm

Notice: Palms for Ash Wednesday

We encourage parishioners to bring their Palm leaves from last year to church on the weekend of 7th / 8th February. These will be used to prepare the ashes for our Ash Wednesday services.

Parish Notice: Weekday Mass Schedule

Please be advised that there will be no weekday Masses at St Thomas More, Belgrave **from Tuesday, 10 February to Thursday, 12 February 2026.**

Home Visits

Fr. Peter, who has been appointed as Assistant Priest in our parish, is available for home visits as an opportunity to get to know members of our parish community. Parishioners who would like to arrange a visit are invited to contact the parish office via email belgrave@cam.org.au or calling 03 97542141.

Baptism:

Let us welcome **Dawson and Zion** into our faith community. May they be richly blessed throughout their lives constantly being aware of the unconditional love and mercy of God.

ALPHA

ALPHA is a welcoming programme that provides a relaxed and open space to explore questions about **life, faith and meaning**. Through conversation and shared reflection, participants are invited to listen, ask questions, and connect with others, wherever they may be on their faith journey.

Alpha is held locally in Ferntree Gully, and we would be delighted to welcome you.



Details:

Commences: Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Time: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm, followed by a shared lunch.

Venue: St John the Baptist Parish Community Centre (behind the Parish Office),
19, Forest Road, Ferntree Gully.

All are most welcome!

ACYF Reunion

ACYF Reunion: "Were not our hearts burning?" (Luke 24:32)

Date: Saturday, 28 February 2026

Time : 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Venue: Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 111:4-9.

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:

he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,

he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)

2. The just man will never waver:

he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;

with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)

3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;

open-handed, he gives to the poor;

his justice stands firm for ever.

His head will be raised in glory. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to

philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

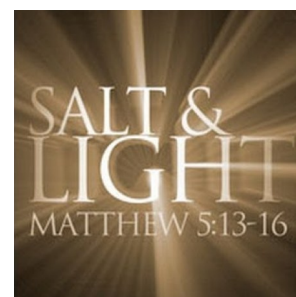
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Next week's reading

First Reading [Sirach 15:15-20](#)

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1](#)

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 2:6-10](#)

Gospel Matthew [Matthew 5:17-37](#)



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 in Ordinary Time Year A 7th / 8th February, 2026

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

BE SALT AND LIGHT

To appreciate what Jesus has in mind in the images of "salt" and "light" we need to recall the setting of the sermon that continues in the Gospel for today. Jesus is addressing his disciples in the presence of a great crowd of burdened and afflicted people gathered on the plain below (Matthew 4:23-25).

In the opening words of the sermon Jesus called "blessed" people prepared to live in the vulnerable, non-grasping ways listed in the nine beatitudes. Now it becomes clear that they thereby become a blessing not just for themselves but for the burdened mass of humanity as well. As those who really lift other people's burdens, they become and remain the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt can hardly "lose its taste". Nevertheless, if it is contaminated and so (in the days before refrigeration) rendered useless for preservation, it is only good for salting the path outside the house, where it will be trampled underfoot. Disciples who fall away from their vocation may face a similar fate.

Jesus' comments in relation to "light" fall into two parts. First, in biblical tradition Jerusalem was the archetypal "city built on a hilltop". When the Temple was illuminated at night, Jerusalem could well be described as "the light of the world". Secondly - and more mundanely, one does not go to the trouble of lighting a lamp and then hiding it. So we are to be like lamps kindled by God. Schooled by Jesus, the way we live should give light and hope in a darkened world.

(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...

10 February Saint Scholastica (Memorial)

11 February Our Lady of Lourdes (Optional Memorial)

14 February Saints Cyril and Methodius ((Memorial)

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

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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: **Fr. Bernard Krotwaar.**

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

Linda Nora De Angelis, Kristina Clark, Lynette Burger, Laurie Webber, Betty Cuttriss, Margaret Meerabach, Arie de Wit, Frank Collins, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Jim McCart, Abraham Schellenbach, Toos Kuyper, Rose-mary Fidge, Zdena Simek, Nick Thomas, Aida Parente, Veronika Talacka, Joanne Sauer, Lee Walsh, Jim Aitken, Joe & Giuseppina Lamendola.

Prayers for the Sick: We pray for all who are ill, but especially the following people: Nada Cargo, Betty Firestone, Verity Loke, 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.