

ST. MONICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Moonee Ponds

Presbytery: 22 Robinson St, Moonee Ponds 3039 | Telephone: (03) 9370 5035

Email: mooneeponds@cam.org.au | Website: www.stmonicasparish.com.au

Parish Priest: **Rev. Fr. Tony Feeney** Assistant Priest: **Rev. Fr. Andrew Choi**

Parish Office: **Sonya Bading** Pastoral Assistant: **Abygaile Cukavac**

School Principal: **Mr. Peter Moore** Acting Principal: **Ms Christine Lo Giusto**

School Phone No: (03) 9375 1132



Green

Sunday of the Word of God

24th January 2021

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, as the traditional caretakers of the land which is the St. Monica's Catholic Parish. We acknowledge the Elders, past & present. May we, too, be good stewards of this land.

WELCOMING
MORE PEOPLE
BACK TO
CHURCH!

ORDINARY MASS TIMES
Saturday: 8am & 6pm (Vigil for Sunday)
Sunday : 8.30am (Italian & English);
10.30am; 5.30pm
Tue-Fri : 7am; 9.15am
(Reconciliation by private appointment only)

BOOKING
ESSENTIAL FOR
WEEKEND
MASSES

In 2019, Pope Francis dedicated the third Sunday of the Year as the Sunday of the Word of God. This date is when we begin reading the Gospel of Mark. Mark 1:14-20 shows us Jesus proclaiming the Kingdom and tells the story of the call of the first disciples. The opening two verses are important: Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel of God. He said. "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Convert and believe the gospel!" (Mark 1: 14-15)

So why do we read the Bible in any case? "To hear again the proclamation of God's reign and to take up once more the call to conversion of heart and life."

Words from Pope Francis

We need his word: so that we can hear, amid the thousands of other words in our daily lives, that one word that speaks to us not about things, but about life.

Here there is a message for us: the word of salvation does not go looking for untouched, clean and safe places. Instead, it enters the complex and obscure places in our lives.

To follow Jesus, mere good works are not enough; we have to listen daily to his call. He, who alone knows us and who loves us fully, leads us to put ourselves into the deep of life.

We discover that God is close to us, that he dispels our darkness and, with great love, leads our lives into deep waters.



ONLINE MASSES

St Patrick's Cathedral Live Streaming at
<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
Monday-Friday: 1pm/ Sunday: 11am

SUNDAY LITURGY @ Home;

Please click on each link below for
guided reflection for Sunday of the Word of God
[For Adults:](#) [For Families with Young Children:](#)

WE PRAY FOR

The elderly and the sick

Marius Fernando; Dantina Frederico; Stella Mammone; Gino Salvo; Rosa Di Pietro; Lucia Bordin; Ursula McWhinney; Justin Diviny; Stephanie Jouhari; Anna & Garry Henneken; Nicholas Gillman; Jillian Eolzella; Peter Moore; Loretta Bastian; Sally O'Farrell; Peter Ferrigno; Caterina Timpano; Joy Thoppil; Charlie Tiang

RECENTLY DECEASED

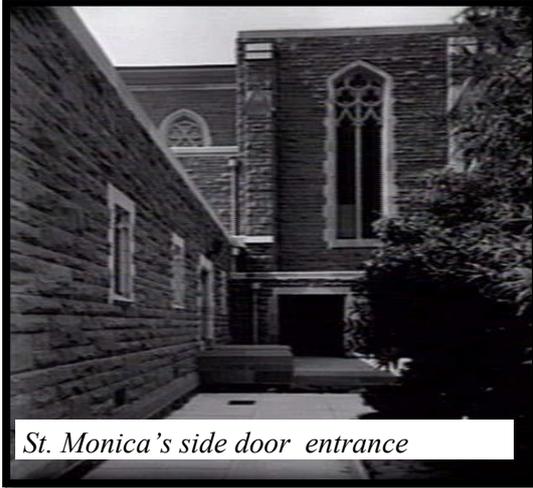
We remember in prayer,

Emilio Agostinetti ; Bishop Neil Wilson; Alan Shallue; Donna Ogden; Pam Deaney; Giovanni Gullace; Joseph Moloney
May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES

In Faith, Hope and Love,
let us pray for repose of the souls
Vincent Coughlan; Judith Clarke

We are delighted to be welcoming Parishioners back to Church in 2021



St. Monica's side door entrance

REGISTRATION FOR MASS

For Weekday Mass: Please arrive early and register with your name and contact details before the commencement of Mass.

For Weekend Mass

Please book online through our Website Mass Times Page at <https://www.stmonicasparish.com.au/mass-times.html>

Next Weekends Booking Schedule will be open on Monday morning. Bookings for Saturday close at 4pm Friday and for Sunday close 7pm Saturday.

Please enter via side back door which will be open half-hour before each Mass. At the Church door your name will be confirmed. Doors will be closed immediately before commencement.

With electronic bookings St. Monica's can now open for more participants for each mass with a indoor density quotient of 1 per 2 square meters. Face coverings/ masks are no longer mandatory but must be carried if the 1.5m social distancing can not be maintained.

Contact details of any person who attends on site for longer than 15 minutes must continue to be recorded to support contact tracing. (Current Archdiocesan and Victorian Government regulations)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Due to increased Mass Sizes and obligations due to COVID-19 we are seeking Volunteers to help at each Mass: Welcoming and Registering Participants and Cleaning directly following Mass. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office by email at mooneeponds@cam.org.au or phone 9370 5035 (Current Working with Children Checks are now mandatory for all those volunteering in Church Ministries)

BAPTISMS

We continue to catch up with our backlog of Baptisms under strict COVID-19 guidelines

This weekend we welcome into our Parish Community



Luna Sebastiana Bellomo

Francesca Victoria Rapita



A sincere THANK YOU to all who were involved in the preparation and celebration of the Christmas season events 2020.

Thank you especially to our mass registers, ushers, collectors, lectors, musicians, sacristans and all who attended and helped to make this Christmas a wonderful experience of the Presence of Emmanuel- God-with-us- in our Parish community.

We especially thank you for all your support, friendship and connection during the many ups and downs of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child Safeguarding Committee Update

Are you interested in supporting the Parish in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people? The main responsibilities of the Child Safeguarding Committee include:

- * Attending committee meetings, usually held in the evening on a quarterly basis.
- * Attending workshops and information sessions provided by the Archdiocese several times a year.
- * Being familiar with, or being willing to contribute to the Parish's obligations, policies, and procedures related to child safety, including legal and Archdiocese requirements, and advising the Parish leadership and other parishioners.

Committee members work co-operatively, preparing and reviewing policy documents, risk assessments, and other Parish material related to child safety. All relevant information and training is able to be provided, so you don't need any previous knowledge or experience - just a desire to learn and contribute. If you're interested in joining, or would like to know more, please give your name and contact details to Sonya Bading or email the Parish Office at mooneeponds@cam.org.au



Support My Parish

In these challenging times the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) and the Archdiocese of Melbourne have partnered to build an online parish payment portal, *CDFpay for Parishes*. This site enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving payments - you can set-up a recurring payment, if you haven't done so already, or you can choose a one-off offering. The Moonee Ponds site is live and found at <https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=96>

We thank you in advance for supporting our parish.

St. Monica's is a Child Safe Parish. We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.

UPCOMING PARISH ZOOM MOBILE

SCRIPTURES REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

with Fr. Tony
Every Friday at 7pm

[Click here for Link](#)

(Meeting ID: 914 0120 3888)
Passcode: 93705035

Wedding next weekend 30th January

Brentt Margariti and Sharon Wee



We pray for them as they begin their married life together

Sunday of the Word of God 24 January 2021

In January 2020 Pope Francis invites Catholics across the world to deepen their appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and his Word.

That's why, he established- the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, to be observed as a special day devoted to " the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God". So that " the Christian community may concentrate on the great value that the Word of God occupies in its daily existence". This special day offers us an opportunity to renew our commitment and understanding of " the inexhaustible richness that comes from God's constant dialogue with his people."

Prayer before reading Scripture

Lord, inspire me to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night. I beg you to give me real understanding of what I need, that I in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet, I know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So I ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into my heart
Amen. Origen, 184-253 AD

January

- Tues. 26th **Australia Day Public Holiday**

8.00am Mass

Office Closed

- 27th *We welcome back our school staff who join us for 9.15am Mass*



February

- 1st *Students return*
- 14th *St. Valentines Day*
- 16th *Strove Tuesday*
- 17th *Ash Wednesday*



50th Jubilee of Religious Life

We congratulate Sr. Joan Stapleton RSC (Sisters of Charity of Australia) who is celebrating her 50th Jubilee of Religious Life on Friday 22nd January.

New Archdiocesan Website "Together in Mission and Hope"

We now encourage you to take your time to explore www.melbournecatholic.org.

It brings together a number of existing Archdiocesan websites such as:

www.melbournecatholic.org.au

www.cam.org.au

www.masstimes.melbournecatholic.org.au

Mission agency websites (e.g. www.aoy.org.au)

to come in 2021 www.pol.org.au

Functionalities still come in early 2021 will include: a map for searching nearby parishes (e.g. show me all parishes within 10km of my suburb);

A website should always be a living thing, open to growth and change, and should reflect the current reality that we are in. As always your feedback is welcome, so please be encouraged to send it to:

communications@cam.org.au

St. Monica's Sacramental Statistics 2020



Baptisms **64**

Confirmations **74**

First Communions **0**
(delayed due to covid-19)

Marriages **15**

Funerals **40**

These statistics are reported to the Archdiocese and sent to the Central Statistics Office at the Vatican in Rome.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions many planned bookings were postponed and rescheduled for 2021.

Wishing everyone a restful holiday on Tuesday 26th January



This week we have the readings for next Sunday the 31st January for our Parishioners to make some time during the week to read and reflect on.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING (Dt 18:15-20)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

The word of the Lord. — *Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

SECOND READING (1 Cor 7:32-35)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord. — *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Mk 1:21-28)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord. — *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Exploring the Word

This is the first of the miracles of Jesus recounted in Mark's Gospel and it is a significant introduction to the person of Jesus and the power he possesses. Only a few verses earlier, at his baptism, Jesus had been revealed as the beloved Son of God. In this short text, Mark contrasts Jesus and the authority of his teaching with that of the scribes. Jesus teaches in such a way that he makes a deep impression on his hearers. Clearly, this is because his authority and his wisdom come from God. While his human audience may still be unclear as to the true identity of Jesus, this is not the case with his 'other-worldly' audience: the unclean spirits know exactly who Jesus is—the Holy One of God—and they recognise his authority and obey his command. They know that the power of the Almighty is greater than the power of the evil one.

- In what ways today do we see evidence of the 'power of evil'? How are people held captive by this power in our world?
- In what ways can we speak and act with the spirit of Jesus against the evil we encounter? What is so attractive about the person of Jesus? What drew you to follow Jesus?
- The disciples undergo conversion and take up a whole new way of life. What are the signs of conversion in yourself?
- What have you left behind to follow Christ?