



The Third Sunday of Advent, Year A
13th/14th December, 2025. *You're welcome to take this Newsletter with you.*

Parishes of St Monica & St Vincent de Paul
Moonee Ponds & Strathmore

MP Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039
SVdP Church: Cnr The Crossway & Woodland Street, Strathmore 3041
Parish Office & Presbytery (All Correspondence): 22 Robinson Street, Moonee Ponds 3039
Phone: (03) 9370 5035 **Email:** mooneeponds@cam.org.au or strathmore@cam.org.au
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Nhân Le (mooneeponds@cam.org.au)
Assistant Priest: Rev. Dr Joseph Raj (mooneeponds@cam.org.au)
Parish Office Manager: Mrs. Sonia Cavallaro (mooneeponds@cam.org.au)
Parish Finance Officer: Ms. Karen Nguyen (mooneeponds@cam.org.au)
Website: stmonicasparrish.com.au



<u>Sunday Worship Timetable</u>		<u>Weekday Worship Timetable</u>	
SVdP: Reconciliation	@ 5.30 pm & followed by	SVdP: Tuesday - Wednesday	@ 9.15 am
Saturday Vigil	@ 6.00 pm	Thursday (Communion Service)	@ 9.15 am
Sunday	@ 9.30 am	Friday:	@ 10.00 am
SM: Saturday Vigil	@ 6.00 pm	SM: Tuesday - Friday	@ 9.15 am
Sunday	@ 8.30 am (Italian & English)	Saturday:	@ 8.00 am
Sunday	@ 10.30 am	followed by Reconciliation:	@ 8.30 am
Sunday	@ 5.30 pm	SM: Wed 17th Dec - Reconciliation	@ 7.00 pm

St Monica's Primary School
20 Robinson St, Moonee Ponds, Vic. 3039
Principal: Peter Moore
Secretaries: Maria Muller
Vanessa Di Chiera
Sandy Gunasekera
Phone: (03) 93751132
Email: info@stmonicasmp.catholic.edu.au
Website: stmonicasmp.catholic.edu.au

St. Vincent de Paul Primary School
92-114 Woodland St, Strathmore, Vic. 3041
Principal: Shane Byrne
Secretaries: Maria Kuret
Patricia Hengel
Phone: (03) 93795723
Email: principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au
Website: svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au

Please remember in your prayers

Recently Deceased: Reverend Michael Leonard Shadbolt PE

Anniversaries: Jacob Eid, Salvatore Todaro

The Sick & Seriously Ill: Please remember in your prayers all those in our Parish who are sick and suffering serious illness, together with their families and loved ones who care for them.

Names for the Parish Weekly Update: If you would like your loved one who has died recently or whose anniversary is occurring to be remembered at Mass and in the Parish Weekly Update, please make sure you have their names into the Parish Office by Wednesday at 3.00pm.

Christmas Prayer—May the peace of Christ fill our hearts this Christmas. May his light guide our parish community, and may his love be born anew in each of us. Amen.

Baptisms this weekend: This weekend for the Rite of Baptism we welcome *Allegra Lucy Persano*, Daughter of Daniel & Kristel. They are the newest member of our Parish family. Kindly keep the family in your prayers.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers Needed

With the introduction of our new Vigil Mass at St Monica's Church, Moonee Ponds, on Saturday at 6.00pm, we are seeking volunteers to serve as Readers and Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested in assisting in either of these ministries, please contact the Parish Office.

The Grade 5 students at St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Strathmore, have lovingly made Christmas cards for our parishioners. You are warmly invited to take a card home from the foyer of the St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Strathmore.

Thank You!

Our sincere thanks to Natalie Morello at Jellis Craig Moonee Valley & Kensington for generously providing the Mass times boards that were installed on Saturday at both Moonee Ponds and Strathmore parishes. Your support and contribution to our parish community are greatly appreciated.

Safeguarding Committees - Members Needed

Safeguarding is our shared commitment to protecting the dignity and safety of every person in our community. It involves promoting safe practices, raising awareness, and ensuring that our parishes meet the standards and guidelines set by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

St Monica's Parish and St Vincent de Paul Parish are each seeking members to form Safeguarding Committees. These committees play an important role in ensuring our parishes remain safe, welcoming, respectful communities for all, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

If you are interested in contributing to this important ministry or would like more information, please contact the Parish office.

Christmas Offerings • Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the church and in your regular set of envelopes. Christmas Offerings make an important contribution to the stipend of the priests of the Parish and in meeting normal household expenses. They also contribute to the support of sick and retired priests, to support priests in needy parishes, and also to support the Archbishop.



Parish Giving Tree at St Monica's Church, Moonee Ponds

Advent is the liturgical season that precedes and prepares for Christmas. It is a season of hope and of longing, of joyful expectation and of peaceful preparation. During our Advent preparation, we remember those for whom Christmas can be a time of sadness and a struggle. So to bring some joy and love at Christmas to our brothers and sisters in need, we ask you to take a tag from the giving tree. Please purchase the item marked on the tag. Your contribution can then be left at the base of the tree. The Moonee Ponds Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will then make up hampers from your generous contributions and distribute them to those in need. **Donations can be left no later than 30th December 2025.**



You are warmly invited to join our ***Advent Reflections*** each Wednesday morning beginning Wednesday, 3rd December from 10:00am to 10:45am at St Monica's Parish Church, Moonee Ponds and St Vincent de Paul Parish Church, Strathmore. ***The Promise-Advent & Christmas Daily Reflection Book 2025*** is available for purchase for \$7 from the Piety Stall at St Monica's Parish Church or from the Sacristy at St Vincent de Paul Parish Church.

FINANCE OFFICER POSITION **St Monica's Moonee Ponds and St Vincent de Paul Strathmore**

St Monica's Parish, Moonee Ponds, and St Vincent de Paul Parish, Strathmore, are currently seeking a Finance Officer for 15-hour per week. This is a six-month, part-time position.

This is a warm, community-focused role where the Finance Officer will be the welcoming face of our parishes. The position plays an integral part of Parish finance.

If you are interest and would like a copy of the position description, please email Fr Nhan Le - Nhan.le@cam.org.au

Parish office Christmas Closure—Please note that the parish office will be closed for the Christmas period from 3.30pm Friday, 19th December 2025 and will reopen 9.00am Tuesday, 6th January 2026.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 20th/21st December 2025, Year A

Mass Times	Readers		Extraordinary Ministers	
6.00 pm SM	G Mullen		B Smolenaars	
6.00 pm SVdP	A Mammone		J Mammone	
8.30 am	L Bani RSC	K Giaquinta	M Galioto	S Letcher
9.30 am	L Hastings		M Pittapillil	
10.30 am	A Cukavac	C Cukavac	S Maurici	Fill-in Please
5.30 pm	J Fernando		D Fernando	J Fernando

CHURCH VACUUMING

SM: Team 3
 Thursday 18th
 December @ 9.45am
SVdP: Group B
 Tuesday 23rd
 December @ 8.00am

CHURCH LINEN

SM December
 M Ballato
SVdP 13/14 December
 Sharika Peiris

Parish of St Monica, Moonee Ponds

Wednesday 17th December
 7.00pm Reconciliation

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.30pm Christmas Family Mass
 11.15pm Christmas Carols
 12.00am Christmas Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.30am Christmas Day Mass
 10.30am Christmas Day Mass

1st January 2026 – New Years Day
 10.00am Mass

Parish of St Vincent de Paul, Strathmore

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.30pm Christmas Family Mass
 8.40pm Christmas Carols
 9.00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30am Christmas Day Mass

1st January 2026 – New Years Day
 10.00am Mass

St Vincent de Paul Primary School 2025 Nativity Play.



St Vincent de Paul Moonee Ponds Conference Christmas Dinner & St Vincent de Paul Primary School Year 6 Graduation.



**Liturgical Readings for Third Sunday of
Advent, Year A**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord, R/ Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for
the precious fruit of the ground until it has had
the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too
have to be patient; do not lose heart, because
the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make
complaints against one another, brothers, so as
not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.
For your example, brothers, in submitting with
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord, R/ Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mathew 11:2-11**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was
doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are
you the one who is to come, or have we got to
wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go
back and tell John what you hear and see; the
blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are
cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are
raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed
to the poor; and happy is the man who does not
lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to
talk to the people about John: 'What did you go
out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying
in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to
see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those
who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces.
Then what did you go out for? To see a
prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a
prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:
Look, I am going to send my messenger before
you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell
you solemnly, of all the children born of women,
a greater than John the Baptist has never
been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven
is greater than he is.'

**The Gospel of the Lord, R/Praise to you, Lord
Jesus Christ.**

