



The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A
20th/21st 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: stmonicaspriest.com.au



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

Anniversaries: Reverend Fred Chamberlin, Stephen John Borraccino, Pasquale Accadia, Jenine De Castro, Isidoro Paolo De Castro, Mark Chamberlin, Maria Mascia, Nora O'Dwyer, Joseph Russo, Antonio Ragnanese

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.

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.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who attended the Working Bee on Saturday, 13 December at St Vincent de Paul Parish, Strathmore. Your generous efforts with garden maintenance, repairs, and cleaning have made a wonderful difference to our Parish grounds and facilities.

Christmas Eve Supper Invitation

Parishioners are warmly invited to stay for supper after the 9.00 pm Christmas Eve Mass at St Vincent de Paul Parish, Strathmore. Supper will be served in the Church foyer. All are most welcome to stay, share fellowship, and rejoice in the gift in Christ's birth together.

Morning Tea Assistance

Families are invited to assist with the monthly morning tea after 9.30am Mass at St Vincent de Paul Parish, Strathmore. If you are able to help please contact Rosa on 0412 445 239. Your support is 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 Stewardship Program

St Monica's Parish

Thanksgiving: \$3,054.80

Presbytery: \$1,198.90

St Vincent de Paul Parish

Thanksgiving: \$1,834.55

Presbytery: \$818.75

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.**



Holiday Wishes—School Community

We warmly wish the Principals, teachers, and students of St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Strathmore and St Monica's Primary School, Moonee Ponds a safe and well-deserved break.

We look forward to welcoming you back in late January 2026 for another year of learning, growth and community.



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
Application closes 5th January, 2026.

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 27th/28th December 2025, Year A

Mass Times	Readers		Extraordinary Ministers	
6.00 pm SM	M Murphy		Fill-In Please	
6.00 pm SVdP	B Duggan		T Dargan	
8.30 am	A Savino	A Catalfamo	L Nardo	V Pizzichetta
9.30 am	F Adams		L O'Brien	
10.30 am	M Sexton RSM	S O'Dwyer	C Shiu	A De Fazio
5.30 pm	B Smolenaars		M Passuello	J Dobson

CHURCH VACUUMING

SM: Team 1
 Thursday 8th
 January @ 9.45am
SVdP: Group B
 Tuesday 23rd
 December @ 8.00am

CHURCH LINEN

SM December
 M Ballato
SVdP 20/21 December
 Marlene Watson

Parish of St Monica, Moonee Ponds

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 Monica's Primary School 2025 Year 6 Graduation



St Monica's Primary School, Moonee Ponds Staff Christmas Lunch.



**Liturgical Readings for the Fourth
Sunday of Advent, Year A**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered, 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6

**R. Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans 1:1-7**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

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

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew 1:18-24**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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

