

# Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

**Church:** 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

**Presbytery (Correspondence):** 22 Robinson Street, Moonee Ponds 3039

**Phone:** (03) 9370 5035 | **Email:** [mooneeponds@cam.org.au](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au) | **Website:** [stmonicasparish.com.au](http://stmonicasparish.com.au)

**Parish Priest:** Rev Anthony J Doran ([Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au](mailto:Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au))

**Assistant Priest:** Rev Joseph Nguyen ([Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au](mailto:Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au))

**Parish Office Manager:** Mrs Sonia Cavallaro ([mooneeponds@cam.org.au](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au))

**Admin Assistant:** Mrs Fran Adamopoulos ([mooneeponds@cam.org.au](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au))



**The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**16th July, 2023**

## Worship Timetable—Moonee Ponds

Sunday: **8.30 am** (*Italian & English*); **10.30 am**; **5.30 pm**  
Tuesday - Friday: **9.15 am**  
Saturday: **8.00 am**  
**8.30 am—Reconciliation**

## Worship Timetable—Strathmore

Saturday Vigil: **6.00 pm**  
Sunday: **9.30 am**  
Tuesday - Friday: **10.00 am**

## Parish Office Hours

Tuesday

to

Friday

**9.00 am - 3.30 pm**

Dear friends,

This Sunday, we hear the parable of the sower. When we hear this parable, we normally hear it as referring to **different people** and how they hear the word of God. Actually, I think it is more accurate to hear it as referring to **ourselves and the different ways in which we hear the word of God**. Sometimes **we** are the hard path. Other times, **we** are the stony ground. Still other times, **we** are rocks and thorns. And sometimes, just sometimes, we hear the word of God as the fertile soil ready for it to take root, to grow, to flourish.

God's word confounds, comforts, inspires, and challenges us in turn. It **is** like precious seed. The sower in the parable sowed the seed haphazardly: on the path, on the rocks, among the thorns, and on good ground. You might say that the sower was wasteful and foolish.

But there is another way of looking at this. He was extremely generous, even prodigal with the seed. He wanted to give every part of the paddock a chance to produce something.

God continues to sow **the Word** in our hearts even though he knows that much of what he sows, at different times, will be eaten by birds, or fall on rocks or among the thorns.

In nature, the seed has only a very short growing season. Not so with the seed which is the **Word of God**. Growth, surprising growth can come at any stage in a person's life.

The seed of God's Word, once dropped into the human heart, never ever dies. No matter how long it lies in the cold and darkness of our lives doing nothing, it is never too late for us to respond. It is never too late to say **Yes!**

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

**MINISTERS ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY** 23rd July 2023 — The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	<b>B Odachowski</b>	<b>V Pizzichetta</b>	<b>C Munafo</b>	<b>S Maurici</b>
10.30 am	<b>J Trethowan</b>	<b>B Smolenaars</b>	<b>L Smolenaars</b>	<b>A Briggs</b>
5.30 pm	<b>R Young</b>		<b>D Fernando</b>	<b>J Fernando</b>

**CHURCH LINEN**

July—J Trethowan

**CHURCH VACCUMING**

**TEAM 1** - Thursday 20th July at 9.45am

*Please remember in your prayers...*

**Recently Deceased**

**Anniversaries**

Anton Vivoda                      Pasquale Cristiano  
Filomena Anania                  Alan Dobson

**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.

**Masses this Week**

Tuesday      9.15am @ Moonee Ponds  
Wednesday   10.00am @ Strathmore  
Thursday      9.15am @ Moonee Ponds  
Friday         10.00am @ Strathmore  
Saturday      8.00am @ Moonee Ponds

**Parish Contact List**

If you have not already done so, please make sure you subscribe to the new Parish Contact List — simply send an email to [MooneePonds@cam.org.au](mailto:MooneePonds@cam.org.au) with the subject line **Parish Contact List**

**New Envelopes Available**

The next set of envelopes is available for those who use weekly envelopes to support our Parish. If you do not currently support our Parish, now is the time to join with your sisters and brothers in this Parish and make a commitment to financially support our community.

**Date Claimer: Our Parish: Past-Present-Future**

Over coming months, our Parish will hold a series of fora to reflect on our past, celebrate our present and discern our future directions. In the Symons Centre, beginning at 7.30pm

Present:

*Date for daytime 'Present' session to be advised soon*

Future: 4th October

**Expressions of Interest • Parish Safeguarding Team** We are currently seeking expressions of interest from parishioners who would be prepared and interested in joining our Safeguarding Team. This team would meet regularly to promote and coordinate our efforts in relation to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. If you would be interested, please contact Fr Tony by phone: 9370 5035 or email: [Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au](mailto:Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au)

**St Vincent De Paul Society - Assist A Student •** The Annual Appeal to assist students in third world countries in here again! \$100 assists a student to cover educational costs for one year. This is a wonderful way to give a Christmas gift to somebody you do not know. Your donation can be left in the piety stall or place it in a collection basket in an envelope marked **ASSIST A STUDENT**. If you have any enquiries, please see one of the member of SVdP Moonee Ponds Conference.

**Forum on the Referendum on the Voice to Parliament**

St Therese's Parish, Essendon warmly invite parishioners to a forum on the Voice referendum. Guest Speaker Dr Heather Warne. Come along and have your questions answered in a lively and engaging discussion.

**Where:**            **St Therese's Parish Centre,  
Lincoln Road, Essendon**

**When:**             **19th July at 7.30pm.**

**Enquiries:**      **Jacinta Hyland 0431031036**

**Invite to Eucharist Celebration in honor of St John Bosco's relics—Tues 18th July 2023**

Don Bosco Retreat Centre,  
465 Lysterfield Rd, Lysterfield  
Personal Prayers from: 6pm— Mass —7pm  
Fr Shane Reade SDB—9752 2432





## Australian Catholic Bishops Conference— Voice to Parliament

As a vote on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament nears, Australia's bishops have encouraged Catholics to read and discuss the Uluru Statement from the Heart—the document from which the Voice proposal emerged.

During their recent plenary meeting in Sydney, the bishops considered how they might assist Catholics in preparing for the referendum to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, with a vote due in the second half of 2023.

The bishops argued that the fact First Nations Peoples have lived in Australia for many thousands of years but their custodianship of the land isn't mentioned in the Constitution: *"It is an omission which needs to be rectified...a Voice to Parliament isn't the only way to achieve that outcome, but it is the way requested by those who gathered at the historic meeting at Uluru...This could be a significant step towards a more just and equitable Australia...we want to encourage all Australians to educate themselves as well as possible concerning the proposal to establish the Voice."*

The bishops call for a meaningful debate on the issue, acknowledging that *'people may, in good faith, have differing concerns and perspectives...we are an open democracy, and this is a moment to use our democratic institutions to produce a high-quality debate shaped by a genuine concern to do justice and bring healing to First Nations Peoples...we ask those drafting the changes to the Constitution to work together in a spirit of cooperation, so that the proposal presented to the Australian people will appeal to a wide range of the population.'*

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2021, with the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia taking the same step last year. The bishops have encouraged us to read the document and have discussions about our response to its key messages.

[ACBC Statement regarding an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.pdf - Google Drive](#)

[View The Statement - Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)



## Heart of Life

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

**Are You Retired or Seeking A Deeply Rewarding Ministry to Others?** We invite you to join Heart of Life's **Taster Session 2 on Saturday 5 August 2023, 9.30-11am, via Zoom**, where we'll share with you information on our formation programs to become a spiritual director, pastoral supervisor, spiritual leader and contemplative listener to others. Our programs develop a compassionate, listening heart. The session will include a facilitated reflection session led by formation team members at Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/taster-session/> or email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) for more details.

**Retreat in Everyday Life - Moments of Grace - over five weeks, beginning Monday, 31 July and concluding 28 August** (at Heart of Life, Malvern, or via Zoom) Flexible timing. The Retreat in Everyday Life involves a commitment to daily prayer and weekly spiritual accompaniment for an hour per week over five weeks with this year's theme 'Moments of Grace'. This is an ideal opportunity for a Parish or spiritual community to retreat together, as well as for individuals who would like to experience an opportunity to recognise God's presence in their everyday lives in a more intentional way. Register your interest <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/retreat-in-everyday-life-moments-of-grace/> or [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) and we will be *in touch to have a conversation. Cost: Donation*

### Stewardship Corner

*"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit."*

MATTHEW 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

Special Collections 2023	
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Pastoral Care Appeal
Lent	Project Compassion
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday - Holy Places
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Propagation of the Faith
11 <sup>th</sup> June	SVdP Winter Appeal
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Annual Collection for the Holy Father
13 <sup>th</sup> August	CatholicCare
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Priests' Retirement Foundation
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	World Mission Sunday
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Catholic Deaf
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Melbourne Overseas Mission

What do we do to deepen **communion**?

What do we do encourage **participation**?

What do we do to promote **mission**?

**Readings at Mass**  
The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A—16th July 2023

**First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 64:10-14**

**R.** The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. **R.**

And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth. **R.**

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat,  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,  
see and see again, but not perceive.  
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

**SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME** *(click below)*

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year A](#)  
([weebly.com](#)) Children: [July 16 - Sunday 15 ORD](#)  
([yearaprayingwithchildren.org](#))