

# Parish of St Monica

## Moonee Ponds

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

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

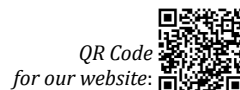
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**Parish Priest:** Rev Anthony J Doran ([Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au](mailto:Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au))

**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 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**23rd 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,

In this week's parable of the wheat and darnel, we learn that all of us are a mixture of good and bad. The people we call **good** may have terrible things in them – mad moods of recklessness, aggression, jealousy and sin. And so-called **bad** people may have in them moments of goodness, compassion, gentleness and kindness.

So, what do we do? As for ourselves, I think we must always take a good look at our own paddock, first. If we find some darnel there – as no doubt we will – we strive to rid ourselves of it. And when we do, we discover just how painful this can be.

As far as others are concerned, we respond to them as Jesus responded. It is something of a paradox that Jesus – who had no trace of evil in him – is so understanding towards those of us who seem to be riddled with the darnel of evil. Why didn't he weed out Judas? Or even Peter who was to deny him? He saw the weeds in Peter's life, certainly, but he saw the wheat growing there too. Jesus knew that with encouragement, the wheat could and would prevail. As indeed it did.

As a Church, we are called to the same response. We have to be big enough and loving enough to hold sinners in our paddock. If we do not, we are not the authentic Church of the Risen Christ.

It seems so sensible to try to root out the weeds, and indeed this has often been tried. Many governments have tried it in the face of opposition. Our daily news bulletins are full of stories of the so-called **good** trying to eliminate the so-called **bad**. Never a Christian solution. Never a humane solution.

A Church which admitted only saints would make about as much sense as a hospital which only admitted healthy people, or a smash-repair shop which only wanted brand new cars to work on. The Church is not a museum of saints: it is a school for sinners. As Pope Francis has so often reminded us, the Church is called to be like a field hospital on a battle field. There to bind up the wounds of the broken. Indeed, the Church is a temple with a hundred gates, and pilgrims – saints and sinners alike – enter through every single one of these gates. Through every door, from every direction, from all different kinds of paths, we come to the altar of God on Sunday. Ours should never be a Church for those who feel good, but for those who know they are not.

At the end of today's parable, Jesus challenges his hearers: **Listen, anyone who has ears!** We, too, hear this parable. The challenge is placed before us. Now is the time for our hearts to be converted. Now is the time for us to be changed.

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	<b>K Sherwood</b>	<b>A M Catalfamo</b>	<b>B Healey</b>	<b>R Farfalla</b>
10.30 am	<b>S O'Dwyer</b>	<b>L Besterwitch</b>	<b>C Shiu</b>	<b>L Connors</b>
5.30 pm	<b>C Taylor</b>		<b>E McMahon</b>	<b>R McMahon</b>

**CHURCH LINEN**  
August—Maria Giardina

**CHURCH VACCUMING**  
**TEAM 2** - Thursday 27th July at 2.00pm

*Please remember in your prayers...*

**Recently Deceased**

**Anniversaries**

Ursel Tornese            Louis Vella            Mary Vella  
Kevin Ryan                Rex Ryan

**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.

**Vinnies Winter Appeal 202—Thank You!**

The response to the Vinnies Winter Appeal 2023 was wonderful with over \$3000 cash and credit card donations. In addition and very importantly, our Parish Primary School have restocked our food store so that we are able to provide immediate and sensible food and household necessities.

Vinnies continues to welcome the donations of non-perishable food and sensible household necessities.

Please leave these at the Piety Store.



**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.



*He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'*

Matthew 13:33



## 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 kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom."

MATTHEW 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all "good seeds". We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow "good seeds" on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

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 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A—23rd July 2023

**First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19**

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*In the place of sin, you give repentance.*

There is no god, other than you,  
who cares for everything,  
to whom you might have to prove  
that you never judged unjustly.  
Your justice has its source in strength,  
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.  
You show your strength  
when your sovereign power is questioned  
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;  
but, disposing of such strength,  
you are mild in judgement,  
you govern us with great lenience,  
for you have only to will, and your power is there.  
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people  
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,  
and you have given your sons the good hope  
that after sin you will grant repentance.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16**

**R.** Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of love to all who call.  
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer  
and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

All the nations shall come to adore you  
and glorify your name, O Lord:  
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,  
you who alone are God. **R.**

But you, God of mercy and compassion,  
slow to anger, O Lord,  
abounding in love and truth,  
turn and take pity on me. **R.**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.*

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

**Gospel Acclamation: cf Matthew 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Let them grow together until the harvest.*

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables  
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year A](#)  
([weebly.com](#)) Children: [July 23- Sunday 16 ORD](#)  
([yearaprayingwithchildren.org](#))