

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)

Assistant Priest: Rev Joseph Nguyen (Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au)

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The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

30th 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,

What would you ask for?

In today's First Reading we hear about King Solomon. King Solomon was King of Israel after his father, King David. In today's reading, Solomon is asked by the Lord what gift he would like to be given. He is a young king at the beginning of his reign, unskilled in leadership. His father had been a mighty warrior, unifying the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. You might have expected him to ask for victory over his enemies, or long life, or fabulous riches. But no. Solomon asks for wisdom: the heart to discern between good and evil. And the Lord was pleased. And indeed, the Lord granted Solomon's wish: he gave Solomon wisdom which has become legendary even to our own day.

What would you ask for?

The Gospel Reading helps us to understand what we should ask for. The whole section of Matthew's Gospel, which we have been listening to over the last three weeks, has been about the Kingdom of God. Jesus has been teaching his disciples what the Kingdom of God is like. Jesus has been using parables to give example of what the Kingdom of God is like. The first two parables, which we hear in today's Gospel, give us some clue as to what we should ask for.

In the first parable, we hear that the Kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field. And for the one who has found this hidden treasure, once he has found it, he goes away happy, sells everything he has so he can buy the field. This is how precious the treasure of the Kingdom of God is to him. And in the second parable, we hear that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the hunt for fine pearls. When the merchant finds the pearl of great value, he goes and sells everything he owns so that he can own this most precious pearl.

This is what we should ask for. As a holy people baptised into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we are called to become disciples of Jesus. We are called to become citizens of the Kingdom of God. We are called to proclaim the reign of God in all that we do and say. The Kingdom is so precious that people will give everything they have to gain this pearl of great price.

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

MINISTERS ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 6th August 2023 — The Transfiguration of the Lord

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	A Savino	L Mathews	S Lechter	M Ballato
10.30 am	L Besterwitch	A Briggs	L Butler	A Lim
5.30 pm	T Wilson		M Christian	M Sequerah

CHURCH LINEN

August—Maria Giardina

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 3 - Thursday 3rd August at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Salvatore Di Pasquale Giovanna Fugaro

Anniversaries

Ursel Tornese

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 with the subject line **Parish Contact List**



*The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said,
'Ask what you would like me to give you...'*

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

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.

A Message from the Moonee Ponds Conference of St Vincent de Paul—Winter Appeal

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.



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 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 and we will be *in touch to have a conversation. Cost: Donation*

Stewardship Corner

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

ROMANS 8:28

Do you really trust God? Do you really believe that God will provide all that you need? Faith is a challenge for everyone at times. Putting our trust in God, in everything we do, in good times and in bad, means that God's plan for our lives may be quite different than what we planned. When one door closes, another one opens. Trust in God, His plan is always better.

Special Collections 2023	
12 th February	Pastoral Care Appeal
Lent	Project Compassion
7 th April	Good Friday - Holy Places
4 th June	Propagation of the Faith
11 th June	SVdP Winter Appeal
25 th June	Annual Collection for the Holy Father
13 th August	CatholicCare
3 rd September	Priests' Retirement Foundation
22 nd October	World Mission Sunday
12 th November	Catholic Deaf
10 th 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 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A—30th July 2023

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

R. Lord, I love your commands.
My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **R.**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **R.**

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **R.**

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he

shared his glory.

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 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Acknowledgements • Scripture Texts: The Scripture texts are from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Inc. Psalm texts from *Psalms: A New Translation*, published by HarperCollinsReligious by permission of A.P. Watt Ltd on behalf of The Grail, England. Psalm Responses from *The Lectionary for Mass* © 1981, William Collins Sons and Cassell Limited.

SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME *(click below)*

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year A](#)
[\(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [July 30 - Sunday 17 ORD](#)
[\(yearaprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)