

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)

Parish Office Manager: Mrs Sonia Cavallaro (mooneeponds@cam.org.au)

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The First Sunday of Advent, Year B

3rd December, 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,

At this time of the year, you can hardly have failed to notice how much more light there is in our southern skies as we come to the end of our year. As the amount of light in our skies increases at this time of the year, we begin our new liturgical year. We begin Advent preparing for the arrival of the Christ child of Bethlehem, the Light to the Nations and only Son of God.

Advent, as we know, is the season which prepares us for the celebration of the coming of Christ at Christmas. In some ways it is like Lent – our period of preparation before Easter. We do wear purple vestments, and we refrain from singing the *Gloria*.

But in many ways, Advent is very, very different. For, we still sing *Alleluia* during Advent. And Advent never seems nearly as stark and sombre in its preparation for Christmas as Lent is in its preparation for Easter. Perhaps that is because here in Australia in Advent time we are winding down for the year, and starting to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas parties, and holidays, and the end of the Year.

We know that the season of Lent largely originated in the preparation of the catechumens for baptism at the Easter Vigil. Advent, on the other hand, seems to have begun in the very simple desire of people to prepare for the coming of Christ which we celebrate at Christmas.

Advent is also different to Lent largely because there is a two-fold nature to Advent. Yes, Advent is a time of preparation for our celebration of the coming of the Christ-child at Bethlehem at Christmas. But it is also a time of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. A time when we reflect a little more deeply on the words of the Mass: ***As we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*** A time for us, as the Gospel says: to be on our guard and stay awake, because we do not know when the master of the house is coming: evening, midnight, cockcrow or dawn.

And, how ready are we? Have we fallen asleep, and failed to heed the warning of today's Gospel? Or have we taken heed of Paul's exhortation to the Church of Corinth: do we know that as we wait for ***Our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed*** we are not left without any of the gifts of the Spirit? As we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, this week, let us join our prayers to the cry of the Psalmist in today's Psalm: ***Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.***

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	K Sherwood	M Giardina	V Pizzichetta	A Savino
10.30 am	F Baker RSM	K Martin	L Butler	A De Fazio
5.30 pm	A Mathews		P Duggan	B Mathews

CHURCH LINEN

December—L Bani RSC

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 1- Thursday 7th December at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Maria Salvo Rev Gerard Dowling DE
 Rose Di Pietro

Anniversaries

Vittoria Furina Christopher Caserta
 Connie Schembri George Szirom
 Percy Nicol Alec Nicol
 Harold Archbold

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.

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**.

Sacramental Preparation for Children Attending Non-Catholic Schools—Confirmation 2024

Classes to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation will commence early next year. Further information can be found in the information pack available from the Parish Office or from one of the priests after Mass. Please contact Fr Tony for further information.

Parish Catch-Up Cuppa this Sunday

There will be a cup after both the **8.30am Mass** and the **10.30am Mass** this Sunday in the Symons Centre. Come along and say hello—get to know your fellow parishioners!

**The Sign:
 Advent &
 Christmas
 Daily
 Reflections
 2023**



Once again, we have available this resource from the Diocese of Wollongong to nourish us and form during Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. For each day there is a short Scripture passage, a reflection, and a prayer for the day. For Sundays, there is also a reflection on a piece of art, matched to the season. \$4.00 each - available from the Piety Stall. **Get your copy today—only a few copies remain!**

Also available from the Piety Stall:

Columban Art Calendar 2024 now available — \$10.00 each.

Christmas Cards—\$3.00 for a packet of 5; \$5.00 for a packet of 8



So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.

Mark 13:35-36



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



DONATE NOW
www.caritas.org.au/gaza
 1800 024 413

Child Safety Update • There is an old African proverb which states it takes a village to raise a child. In much the same way, it takes a whole parish to be care for and be responsible for the safety of our children and vulnerable adults.

Working with Children Checks—A reminder that **all parish volunteers** need to have a valid WWCC with the Parish listed as one of the places where you undertake child related work. That means all

- Readers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
- Ministers of Communion to the Sick
- Musicians & Choir Members
- Church Cleaners

need to have a WWCC—if you are unsure, please contact the Parish Office or speak to one of the priests. Registered teachers are exempt from requiring a WWCC but are required to notify WWCC if they engage in child-related work other than their teaching—Click here to notify WWCC [Teacher notification](#)

Child Safeguarding Training—All volunteers need to undertake safeguarding training. You may undertake this training online [Online Safeguarding Training](#) The parish will also be running some inperson sessions in the near future—please keep an eye on this Bulletin for details.

Code of Conduct Declaration—Thanks to all those who have completed their Code of Conduct Declaration. Again, this is a requirement of all volunteers. We will be following up with those yet to complete their declaration.



A communion that radiates

How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?

Participation, governance and authority

What processes, structures and institutions in a missionary synodal Church?

Co-responsibility in mission

How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?



Limited time offer

5.55 % p.a.

12-month term investment with CDF Community Fund

By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a greater reward than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, churches for growing communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable.

It's a way to save while doing good.

Visit catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer to open an account and for disclosure details, or scan the QR code.



Stewardship Corner

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

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

Readings at Mass

The First Sunday of Advent, Year B — 3rd December 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open
and come down
- at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face
and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see,
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you
grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have
been enriched in so many ways, especially in your
teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed
been strong among you so that you will not be without
any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our
Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you
steady and without blame until the last day, the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has
joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake,
because you never know when the time will come. It is
like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and
left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he
has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake,
because you do not know when the master of the house
is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he
comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And
what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 HarperCollins Religious 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 B \(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [December 3 - Sunday 1 ADVENT - PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024 \(yearbprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)