

Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

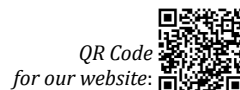
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Parish Priest: Rev Anthony J Doran (Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au)

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 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

20th August, 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 struggling to cope with their Exile, the Israelites clung ever more tenaciously to the stories of their Tradition. Indeed it was during the Exile that much of the Hebrew Scriptures were compiled. But this fidelity to their Tradition is a double-edged sword. For it had the potential to turn the community in on itself. To become inward looking and insular. And with this potential, the Israelites had to face another problem.

One of the big issues facing the returning Exiles was the issue of those people who had moved into *their* Promised Land. What do they do with these foreigners? Deport them as they had been deported? Treat them as they had been treated? The issue was complex for the Israelites – for, as our First Reading tells us: these foreigners...**have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants... who observe the sabbath, not profaning it.** The answers to these questions would be crucial.

In today's **First Reading** – again from the prophet Isaiah – we find answers to just such questions. The Israelites are reminded: **Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity will be manifest...thus says the Lord.** And so, the barriers of God's kingdom are broken down and these foreigners are foreigners no more.

The issues which the returning Exiles faced we, too, face as a Church today. We live in a society of diverse races, cultures and religions. And the voice of the Church does not seem to be heard all that clearly any longer. Indeed, fewer and fewer people even want to listen to what we might have to say. In a time when the Church is faced with such pluralism, an easy and safe option is to retreat into our shell. To turn ourselves into a ghetto where outsiders are not welcome; where those on the edges are ostracised. Some parts of the Church have done this already.

The challenge which the Church faces today is what makes Jesus' words and actions in today's Gospel reading seem strange, even disturbing. When the Canaanite woman – a foreigner – comes forward and asks Jesus to heal her daughter, Jesus says nothing. He actually appears to ignore her. And then it seems that **Jesus himself** is putting boundaries around the Kingdom: **I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel...it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.**

I think this is one of the **hard sayings** of Jesus with which we must struggle. And perhaps at the end of the day, we are left with discomfort.

What, I think, is important for us to take away from this story is the figure of the Canaanite woman. She is persistent. She has faith in Jesus as the Messiah; she addresses him as **Son of David**. But, she remonstrates with him too: **even the house-dogs can eat the scraps which fall from their master's table.** She stands as a model for us of **perseverance** in prayer. That when we want to make the Kingdom of God a bit more inclusive with a place for all, we can perhaps achieve it if we persevere.

More than ever the Church is called and challenged to give witness by its life and preaching. A preaching which is firmly anchored in its faith in God, revealed by Christ. But a preaching that is, at the same time, humble, and bears no trace of exclusivism and inward-looking false security. A witness of life and preaching that seeks to bring to birth ever more in our world the reign of God. Then, and only then, does the Church more truly become what it is called to be: a sign of the Kingdom of God breaking in upon our world.

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

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.

MINISTERS ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 27th August 2023 — Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	S Lechter	A M Catalfamo	B Healey	R Gonsalves
10.30 am	K Martin	L Besterwitch	C Shiu	S Maurici
5.30 pm	S O'Dwyer		E McMahon	R McMahon

CHURCH LINEN

August—Maria Giardina

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 2 - Thursday 24th August at 2.00pm

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

Carmine Molinaro Victor Bartolo
Gordon Windsor

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**

St Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen thanks you for the supply of empty egg cartons. Due to your overwhelming support we must suspend the collection for the time being.

Natural Family Planning • This year, 2023, marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective" will be held on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST. As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life. Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddtcreator>

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 MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend is for YOU... "Live Your Best Married Life in Love" Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!! The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. **Please check our website for more details Date: 3-5 November 2023** in Melbourne **BOOK NOW** Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



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](#)



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

What do we do encourage **participation**?

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



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal ● Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

Because of the generosity of our parish community, CatholicCare Victoria can continue to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families in our community have the opportunity to live life to the full. Thank you for helping those in need!

For more information about CatholicCare Victoria, please visit: www.catholiccarevic.org.au

Catholic Theological College is running an Online Information Session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation on Monday 4 September at 7.30pm (AEST) that might be of interest to you. To register: [Information Meeting - Zoom](#)

Stewardship Corner

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable."

Romans 11:29

God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. We are called to be good stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone. Each of us has a part in God's salvation plan.

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 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — 20th August 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his

choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME *(click below)*

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year A](#)
([weebly.com](#)) Children: [August 20 - Sunday 20 ORD](#)
([yearaprayingwithchildren.org](#))