

Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

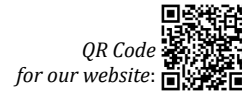
Phone: (03) 9370 5035 | **Email:** mooneeponds@cam.org.au | **Website:** stmonicasparish.com.au

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)

Admin Assistant: Mrs Fran Adamopoulos (mooneeponds@cam.org.au)



The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

27th 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,

As we have followed the course of Matthew's Gospel over the last several Sundays, we have been taken on a grand journey. We have heard Jesus teaching his disciples in parables to teach them about the Kingdom of God. We have heard that the Kingdom of God is like seed scattered and sown, it is dandelion and wheat sown together, it is hidden treasure, it is the pearl of great price, it is the dragnet which brings in a haul of all kinds. And then Jesus walks towards the disciples across the water in the midst of the storm. In all of this, Jesus has been leading his disciples to a particular moment. Jesus has taught his disciples something about the Kingdom of God. Then in the feeding of the Five Thousand and the Walking across the Water, Jesus has taught his disciples something about **himself**. Now, it's time! Jesus asks his disciples the question: **Who do you say I am?**

It is a time of reckoning for the disciples. They have learnt something about the Kingdom of God. They have learnt something about Jesus. Now they are asked for **their** commitment. They are asked to confess their faith in the **One** whom they have followed. And just as Peter was the one a few weeks ago who faltered in his faith as he walked across the water towards Jesus, today he is the one who stands as the spokesman for the disciples (and for us) and confesses his faith in Jesus: **You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!**

To our ears, it doesn't sound like much. But for a Jewish fisherman from the First Century, this was a radical turn around. For Peter to confess that Jesus was the Christ: the anointed one sent by God was one thing. To confess that Jesus was the Son of the Living God was another thing altogether. For the faith of the Jews was that there was but **one** God. To confess that Jesus is the Son of God is to confess that Jesus **is** God. And this is what is so astounding about this whole episode. There is a radical turn around here and Peter names this for us. Jesus **does** teach us something **new** and **radical** about God. Jesus **does** proclaim that God is not distant and uninterested in our world. Jesus proclaims that God has broken into our world, and is **so interested in us** that he takes on our human flesh. The response of faith with which Peter responds is the rock on which our Church is built. Faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Like the disciples, **we too**, have heard Jesus teaching us about the Kingdom of God. Like the disciples, **we too** have learnt something about Jesus in the Feeding of Five Thousand and the Walking on the Water. Like the disciples, **we too** are asked the question: **Who do you say that I am?** What will your answer be?

With every peace,

Fr Tony.



MINISTERS ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 3rd September 2023 — Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	L Bani RSC	L Mathews	S Letcher	S Maurici
10.30 am	S O'Dwyer	J Martin	J Morello	J Trethowan
5.30 pm	T Vu		D Fernando	J Fernando

CHURCH LINEN

September — Connie Munafo

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 3 - Thursday 31st August at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Charlie Tiang Aileen Gnaden

Anniversaries

Anna Ng Amalia (Iolanda) Morabito

Maria D'Agostino Antonio Maiorino

James Marchant Joseph Crasto

John Clancy Thomas Schembri

Philomena & Kenneth Paris

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.

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. The fora will take place in the Symons Centre:

Present: 20th September
Daytime Session: 11.00am

Future: 4th October
Daytime Session: 11.00am
Evening Session: 7.30pm

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**?

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION AND RETIRED PRIESTS SUPPLEMENT FUND *Caring for those who cared*

Special Collection Next Sunday: Priests' Retirement Foundation Father's Day Collection

Next Sunday, the annual Father's Day Collection is taken up to support the work of the Priests' Retirement Foundation in caring for sick and retired priests. Currently, two former parish priests of St Monica's, **Mgr Peter Kenny** and **Fr Tony Feeney** are amongst the 97 sick and retired priests cared for by the Foundation. It costs about \$4.7 million to care for them—your generosity is much appreciated. Envelopes are available in the church this weekend. Donate online at www.melbournecatholic.org.au/foundation

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

Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?

ROMANS 11:35

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything - He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

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 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — 27th August 2023

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you,
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter,

the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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 27- Sunday 21 ORD](#)
([yearaprayingwithchildren.org](#))