

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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

3rd September, 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,

This Sunday's First Reading opens with a dramatic accusation. The prophet Jeremiah **accuses** God of seducing him into becoming a prophet. Deceiving him about the personal suffering his mission would involve. Throughout his prophetic ministry, Jeremiah appears the most plaintive and heartbroken of all the prophets. He is burdened by a ministry he does not want. He is upset by the hostility of his own people, which he deeply resents. He is commissioned to tell the people of Judah and Jerusalem that their sins have earned them defeat and exile. He warns them that God's help is not automatic; that they might as well surrender to the invading Babylon armies, because God will not help them.

Jeremiah's message is heard by the people as treason. He is attacked by the crowds, imprisoned, tortured. His painful vocation isolates him from his family and friends. He becomes a laughing stock around the streets of the city. And in the midst of all his anguish and pain, normal life goes on in the city. People continue their daily routines. Business as usual. No one seems to care. Suffering happens while the sun shines, while others carry on as usual, while the traffic continues to flow.

Just as Jeremiah spoke of the approaching suffering of Jerusalem and his own troubled relationship with God, so Jesus in today's Gospel prepares his disciples for his approaching ordeal at Jerusalem. He speaks of it as **necessary**. Not a tragic fate, but rather as the will of God made known through the prophecies. Like Jeremiah, Jesus has to face the stark truth that his relationship with God involves him in personal anguish and suffering and rejection. More than that, it will lead to violent death.

To understand the Kingdom, to understand Jesus is to understand the Cross. That is the essence of his teaching. And that is why Peter is denounced so strongly. Peter is seen as a tempter. Peter's ambitions and desires, says Jesus, belong to the realm of Satan. Peter wants Jesus to be immune from frustration, suffering, and contempt. The Christ of Peter's dreams is all glory and prestige, untouched by vulnerable humanity. But this is a world away from the Christ that Jesus must be: a Christ with a future of suffering which Jesus is about to enter.

The way of the Cross that Jesus outlines for himself is the way of renunciation, that we, his followers are called to tread. Jesus faced suffering which could only be conquered if it was accepted. And accepted freely. He faced rejection which could be transformed only if he assented to it. If the suffering was to pass, it had to be endured. But, I suspect, more than just endured: it has to be embraced: **For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.**

The way of the Cross which Jesus followed was one which passed through streets and markets, by houses and palaces, by windows and doors. And while it happened, people went about their business. Suffering must run alongside with the familiar. But, as Christians, we live in the assurance that our way of the Cross does not go unnoticed. Indeed, never goes unnoticed. Jesus is our suffering companion. Jesus has compassion. Literally, he **suffers with** us. And so, he is our strength. His power is mighty in our weakness.

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 10th September 2023 — Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

| Mass Time | Reader | | Extraordinary Minister | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 8.30 am | K Sherwood | M Giardina | A Savino | |
| 10.30 am | F Baker RSM | K Martin | L Butler | A Lim |
| 5.30 pm | A Mathews | | P Duggan | B Mathews |

CHURCH LINEN

September —Connie Munafo

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 4 - Thursday 7th September at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Glenn Doran | Rocco Sofo |
| Natalina Tralongo | Tony D'Anna |
| Domenico Daniele | Domenico D'Anna |
| Genevieve Rufus | Cordelia D'Cruze |

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.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO 9.15AM MASS ON WEDNESDAY—THERE WILL BE MASS AT STRATHMORE AT 10.00AM

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





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 This Sunday: Priests' Retirement Foundation Father's Day Collection

This 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

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"

MATTHEW 16:26

St. Francis of Assisi said, *"Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else."* We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

| 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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — 3rd September 2023

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord,
and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-6, 8-9

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy

sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation: cf Ephesians 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME *(click below)*

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year A \(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [September 3 - Sunday 22 ORD \(yearaprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)