

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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

10th 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, we start reading from a section of Matthew's Gospel called by some commentators *The Discourse on the Church*. We have spent several weeks learning about the Kingdom, being brought to the point of making our own confession of faith, and then last week being taught about the demands of being a disciple, about taking up our cross.

From this Sunday, we begin to learn what it means to be a member of the Church. What it means to be a member of the family of disciples. Matthew gives us instructions for addressing the issues and problems which arise in the life of the organised community of the local church. He is writing at a time when Jesus is not present, certainly not in the flesh, but when he is present in the Spirit, wherever two or three are gathered in his name. The theme is the relationship of members of the Church – who are meant to be **brothers** and **sisters** to one another – in an offence that violates this bond of brotherhood. And Matthew places these instructions on the lips of Jesus in an address given to the disciples.

The advice is straightforward: ***If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves.*** The Gospel says that the offended party, not the offending one, should first seek reconciliation. The Gospel counsels personal intervention and honest confrontation. The Gospel encourages members of the Christian community to straighten things out with each other privately, if that is at all possible. Christians are to deal with each other candidly and personally – no anonymous complaints, no whisper campaigns, certainly no gossip. The purpose of confronting a brother who has done wrong is not to humiliate him, but to be reconciled with him. It is an honest attempt to avoid division within the Christian community. It's all fairly straightforward.

Or is it?

Some years ago when discussing this passage in a Parish Scripture Study Group, the commentary on this passage presented an intriguing possibility. Here, is Jesus teaching us to exclude such people? Or to show especial care and concern for such people? We know from our reading of the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus had especial care and concern for outcasts and sinners. And so, when he tells us to treat the supposedly recalcitrant members of the community as ***pagans or tax collectors***, I just wonder whether Jesus might be challenging us to go further in following of his way of discipleship? Are we being challenged to go even further in reaching out to others who might be on the margins? If the way of discipleship, the way to life in this Kingdom which Jesus preaches, is about taking up our Cross and following Him, then I really think Jesus is challenging us to go further, and not just to exclude. Certainly, this discussions of which I was a part made me think that this must be a possibility in what Jesus is teaching us.

All the practical advice in the Gospel centres on one thing: ***Christians taking responsibility for each other.*** Belonging to a community implies being involved in the life of its members. This is not a charter for the legion of the curious, but a procedure for a caring community to follow. It is a way of handling wrongdoing and hurt. And this way uses the language of love. For as Paul tells us in today's Second Reading: ***Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour.***

The challenge of Jesus in today's Gospel is not easy to follow. So, we try to approach each other gently and warily, hoping that our halting, limping efforts at giving voice to our hurt will be accepted in the best spirit. It may not work, but it sure beats letting division grow on the Christian community.

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.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 17th September 2023 — Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	A Savino	A M Catalfamo	S Maurici	M Ballato
10.30 am	D Connors	S O'Dwyer	L Connors	J Morello
5.30 pm	M Passuello		M Sequerah	R Legudi

CHURCH LINEN

September — Connie Munafo

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 1 - Thursday 14th September at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Norman 'Jim' Schuler

Anniversaries

Shirley Doran	Veronica Paladin
Pasquale Rullo	Angelina Cefala
Jennifer Johnson	Luigina Nola
Gordon Windsor	Domenic D'Andrea

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.

The funeral of Normal 'Jim' Schuler will take place on Friday 15th September at 11.00am

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

St Monica's Prayer Group • Want to grow in your faith and spirituality? Make some new friends and enjoy fellowship? Share in the Word of God? Praise and Worship in song? Enjoy some delicious cake? Come, join us every Thursday from 7.30-9pm in Symons Centre.

'True North' Young Adults Group meets every second Sunday of the month 6:30pm - 8:30pm (after 5:30pm Mass at St Monica's). The night includes food, fellowship, and faith discussion
Location: The Symons Centre, St Monica's Catholic Church, 820 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds.

Ages 18-35 welcome. More queries: please email truenorth90stable@gmail.com

True North is for young adults from all our local region, supported by the local parishes, and hosted by St Monica's Parish.



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: Priests' Retirement Foundation Father's Day Collection • Thank you for your contribution towards the annual Fathers' Day Collection for our sick and retired priests. Your generosity is much appreciated. Envelopes are still available in the church this weekend. Donate online at www.melbournecatholic.org.au/foundation

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual and Pastoral Formation is offering **Waiting at the Well - 4 x Thu 5, 12, 19 & 26 Oct, 10am-12.30pm** (in-person event) with Carole Carmody rsm & Julie Adam. This series offers an opportunity for those waiting to have their thirst quenched at the Well of Life to explore the depths of wisdom in their own heart, to recognise wisdom in the encounter with another, and to dwell in the Heart of Contemplation. Places limited. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/waiting-at-the-well-series/> or email info@heartoflife.melbourne Cost \$100 for the series or \$30 per session.

Stewardship Corner

You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel...

Ezekiel 33:7

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts and to give back with increase. He calls us to be generous with all the gifts, especially the one that means the most to us.

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

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

R. O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love

your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: 2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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 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](#)
[\(webly.com\)](#) Children: [September 10 - Sunday 23 ORD](#)
[\(yearaprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)