

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)

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The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

17th 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,

Today's First Reading comes from the Book of Ecclesiasticus. Sometimes known as the *Book of Sirach*, and the passage we read today deals with a question which is important – even vital: this question is the daily relationships between human beings. And the things which Sirach preached against, we find are the same things which haunt us today. **Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.** The call to us is clear. We are to let these qualities have no part in our lives. We are called to remember the commandments and not to bear our neighbour ill-will. We are called to **remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.**

It is perhaps no surprise that this reading was chosen to complement today's Gospel Reading. In last week's Gospel, Jesus spoke to his disciples about how we must act towards brothers and sisters who persist in sin. What we might call **fraternal correction**. This week, his message continues with how we deal with a member of the community who has been excluded. Can their sins be forgiven? If a brother or sister has committed a fault **against me** how many times must I forgive?

It's easy to laugh at the question which the author of Matthew's Gospel has placed on the lips of Peter: **Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?** For to forgive up to seven times – is this not already a lot? A limit beyond which it would be unreasonable to go? For we would not want to show weakness and be too lenient.

But we should be wary of laughing at Peter. Because which one of us can say that we have it right? And we laugh at Peter if we continue to look at these things on the level of human justice. But we are asked to do more than that. The parable which Jesus tells then goes on to illustrate the nature of forgiveness in the Christian community. The king – faced with a servant with a debt too huge to ever pay back, yet who begs for mercy – is forgiven his debt. But this forgiven servant, in turn, refuses to cancel the debt of one of his fellows. This parable can be nothing but an allegory of God's forgiveness. God is the merciful king who forgives debts that are too huge to ever be paid back. We are the servant who is forgiven the huge debt. But, too often, I suspect, we do not forgive our brothers and sisters the small fault which they have committed against us.

But, as if the message is not clear enough, Matthew underlines it for us: **Were you not bound...to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?** Forgiveness in the Christian community is to be modelled on God's forgiveness of us. As today's Responsorial Psalm reminds us: **The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

However...Jesus does not promise that this will be easy to do. We know that when we have been wronged and terribly hurt, it is immensely difficult to forgive. It is hard to be like the Lord, **slow to anger and rich in compassion.** We should try not to let the difficulty get in our way, though. For anything that is good in life does require hard work and effort and determination. Just look at the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It required the hard work and effort of his death on the Cross.

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 24th September 2023 — Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	L Bani RSC	V Pizzichetta	C Munafo	M Galioto
10.30 am	L Besterwitch	B Smolenaars	A Lim	L Smolenaars
5.30 pm	J Fernando		B Clancy	M Passuello

CHURCH LINEN
September — Connie Munafo

CHURCH VACCUMING
TEAM 2 - Thursday 21st September at 2.00pm

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Fred O’Hely

Anniversaries

Gwendoline Besterwitch Domenico Barravecchio

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

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.

Votive Candles • A reminder that votive candles are 20cents each—currently, the Parish is losing a lot of money because some people who are lighting candles are not paying for them. The system relies on honesty—can we all make an effort to be honest!

Devotional Statues • It is a custom of our church to seek the intercession of Our Lady and the saints in our prayers. Recently, we have found money being left at the statues of Our Lady and the saints in the church. Please do not leave money at or under the statues—it could easily be stolen. If you wish to make an offering in thanksgiving or to have mass said for your intentions, please speak to one of the priests.

‘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



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 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 in-person 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.



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

What do we do encourage **participation**?

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



Catholic Theological College 2024 Study Tour: Journey with Paul: Türkiye – Greece: 20 September – 6 October 2024 Tour Leader: Dr Rosemary Canavan. Online Information Sessions: Saturday 16, 23 September, or 7 October 2023 at 2pm Participants have the opportunity to undertake a study unit with CTC in conjunction with the tour for credit towards an award. RSVP & further information: rosemary.canavan@ctc.edu.au

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

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
Romans 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to the live the life that He intended for you.

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-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — 17th September 2023

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance
will experience the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death,
and live by the commandments.
Remember the commandments,
and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High,
and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102:1-4, 9-12

R. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be

Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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](#)
[\(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [September 17 - Sunday 25 ORD](#)
[\(yearaprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)