

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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QR Code
for our website:



The Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

5th November, 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,

We don't ever hear much from the prophet Malachi, from whom this Sunday's First Reading is taken. It's a short book – only 55 verses. And in our cycle of readings, we only ever hear about 18 verses. It was written about 450 years before Jesus. And it wasn't written by a bloke named Malachi, either. The word **Malachi** simply means **messenger**. And he was a pretty harsh messenger at times, too. In today's First Reading, the author is attacking the priests of the Temple in Jerusalem. They had strayed from the way; they had caused many to stumble by their teaching. They had not helped the people to remain faithful to the Covenant with the Lord. These priests had not been faithful to this tradition of handing on the Law from one generation to the next.

The Pharisees were the inheritors of this tradition of passing on the Law. Their love for the Word of God was so great that they would write down small verses from Scripture, place the piece of parchment in a small box, and tie the box onto their heads. These are the phylacteries which Jesus is talking about in today's Gospel. And while it does sound strange to us, the idea behind these phylacteries – to keep the Word of God forever before their minds – is a quite good one.

I suppose it was because there was such a good idea behind the phylacteries that Jesus criticised the Pharisees. They had missed the point. By the time of Jesus, some elements in this great Jewish tradition of handing on the Law of Moses had come to concentrate more on the outward observances, rather than on the reason behind them. The people who are criticised by Jesus in today's Gospel, had come to concentrate more on having a phylactery tied to their forehead with long tassels. They had forgotten the original idea of keeping the Word of God constantly before their mind.

Perhaps this was the sort of thing which St Paul was talking about in the Second Reading. He was praising the Church of Thessalonika because they had received the Good News about Jesus as the message of God. They had not confused this message or replaced this message with some human thinking.

Much the same idea is behind the saying of Jesus at the end of today's Gospel: **The greatest among you must be your servant**. It is easy to believe that greatness is about being exalted; about having others serve you.

If we believe that this is what greatness is all about in the Kingdom, then we have missed the point. If we believe that this is what the Kingdom is all about, then we have replaced the Good News with some human thinking. Jesus shows us another way. Over the weeks and months that we have heard Jesus preaching the Kingdom of God, Jesus has shown us that there truly is another way. Jesus has shown us that the values of the Kingdom really are different. True greatness is about serving others. And our model for this is Jesus, and the giving of his life on the Cross. May our greatness lie in this sort of service.

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.

| Mass Time | Reader | | Extraordinary Minister | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 8.30 am | L Bani RSC | M Giardina | M Galioto | R Gonsalves |
| 10.30 am | D Connors | L Connors | C Shiu | A Briggs |
| 5.30 pm | J Beckley | | T Vu | B Clancy |

CHURCH LINEN

November — Maria Ballato

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 1- Thursday 9th November at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Anthony Rintoul Pauline Horsington
Giovanna Distefano

Anniversaries

Frank Larobina Caterina Larobina
Andrew Santilli Guiseppe Timpano
Giovanni Demasi Eileen Forster
Lucia Bordin Rachela Catanzariti
Kata Weber Ivan Weber

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.

Masses this Week

Tuesday 9.15am @ Moonee Ponds
Wednesday 10.00am @ Strathmore
Thursday 9.15am @ Moonee Ponds
Friday 10.00am @ Strathmore
Saturday 8.00am @ Moonee Ponds

Parish Catch-Up Cuppa

There will be a cup after both the **8.30am Mass** and the **10.30am Mass** this Sunday in the Symons Centre. Come along and say hello—get to know your fellow parishioners!

**The Sign:
Advent &
Christmas
Daily
Reflections
2023**



Once again, we have available this resource from the Diocese of Wollongong to nourish us and form during Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. For each day there is a short Scripture passage, a reflection, and a prayer for the day. For Sundays, there is also a reflection on a piece of art, matched to the season. \$4.00 each - available from the Piety Stall.

November—Month of the Holy Souls • Envelopes for November Mass offerings are available in your regular set of envelopes or in the church. The Bishops of Victoria have legislated that the offering to be made for November masses is \$20.00. When envelopes for November Masses are received, the offerings are added together and then divided by 20 therefore giving the total number of November Masses to be offered in the Parish. In actual practice, most masses offered in the parish during November would be masses for the repose of the souls of the Faithful Departed.



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



DONATE NOW
www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413

MASS FOR THE HOLY SOULS
Please offer Mass for the Family, Friends, Relatives and Benefactors of:


Name:

Address:

Amount \$

"It is holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be freed from their sins".
11 Maccabees 12:46

November Masses



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 be 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 inperson 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.



A communion that radiates

How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?

Participation, governance and authority

What processes, structures and institutions in a missionary synodal Church?

Co-responsibility in mission

How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?



Limited time offer

5.55% p.a.

12-month term investment with CDF Community Fund

By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a greater reward than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, churches for growing communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable.

It's a way to save while doing good.

Visit catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer to open an account and for disclosure details, or scan the QR code.



Visit of His Excellency Most Rev Paul Gallagher •

Secretary for the Relations with States and International Organisations, Secretariat of State, Holy See

• On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Vatican, Archbishop Comensoli is pleased to welcome **His Excellency Most Rev Paul Gallagher** and the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia –

His Excellency Most Rev Charles Balvo to Melbourne. Archbishops Comensoli, Gallagher and Balvo, together with clergy of the Archdiocese, will celebrate Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral on the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Thursday 9 November, 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Holy Days of Obligation • After this last week, there seems to be some confusion about Holy Days of Obligation. Currently, there are **54** holy days of obligation:

1. **Every Sunday;**
1. The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—**15th August;** and
1. The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord—**Christmas Day—25th December.**

| 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 Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — 5th November 2023

First Reading: Malachi 1:14 - 2:2, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 130

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. **R.**

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul. **R.**

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good news to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 23:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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: [November 5 - Sunday 31 ORD](#)
([yearaprayingwithchildren.org](#))