

Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

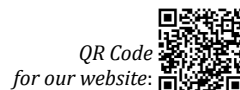
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Parish Priest: Rev Anthony J Doran (Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au)

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The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

12th 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,

While this Sunday's Gospel is talking about rejoicing, the Second Reading is talking about grieving. Both are a part of life and can be very close to one another. Today I may attend a wedding; tomorrow a funeral.

The early Christians believed that Jesus would return soon and take them all to heaven. This made it difficult for them to accept the death of some of their members before Jesus returned in glory. In the Second Reading we hear Paul reassuring the members of the Church of Thessalonika. He is telling them that as surely as God raised Jesus from the dead, Jesus will raise those who have died and present them to God in the final showing of the Kingdom.

But meanwhile, they are grieving. What should be their attitude to grief? He didn't tell the Thessalonians that they should not grieve. What he said to them was ***Do not grieve like those who have no hope***. Grief is not an easy thing to handle. Even today, we still find people who directly or indirectly discourage grieving.

Grief follows the loss of a loved one as surely and as naturally as night follows day. And grief can be one of the strongest emotions we will ever experience. Some people have a problem expressing grief, and may try to suppress it. But to suppress grief is dangerous, and can result in serious really emotional problems.

To live fruitfully after the death of a loved one, people do need to go through a period of mourning. The way to deal with grief is not to run away from it, or pretend it isn't there, but to face it and work through it with as much honesty and courage as you can. There may be any amount of tears as we work through grief, but then again, we should never be afraid to cry. Those who can cry and grieve will emerge as enriched persons. Grief can have a great purgative value. God cannot fill our souls until they are emptied of other concerns. And a great grief is a tremendous bonfire in which all the rubbish of life is consumed.

Faith should not be used as a barrier against grief. Sometimes you will hear it said of a person who does not grieve or appears not to grieve: ***What great faith they have!*** What rot! Even Jesus grieved. To grieve over the loss of a loved one is a good and necessary thing. While faith does not do away with the necessity of grieving, faith can be a wonderful comfort and support at a time of death. Faith places our grief into a wider context. Paul says: ***We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Christ...with such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.*** Faith does not dispense us from grieving. What it does do is enable us to grieve with hope.

There is no escaping the ***work*** of grief. There are no shortcuts, either. If we suppress it now, it will burst out later, when there is another death to mourn or another anniversary. In the same way, we must never be afraid to cry. It is part of the healing. We may have tears in our eyes, but as Christians, we have hope in our hearts, too. If we do indeed do the work of grief, we will wake up one morning, liberated and full of energy for life. And then, the wedding feast to which Jesus invites us will be all the more joyful for those who have walked through the dark valley of grief, and emerged with the lamp of love still burning brightly.

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 19th November 2023 — Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

| Mass Time | Reader | | Extraordinary Minister | |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 8.30 am | B Healey | V Pizzichetta | C Munafo | R Farafalla |
| 10.30 am | J Martin | J Trethowan | L Smolenaars | J Morello |
| 5.30 pm | M Christian | | R Legudi | J Dobson |

CHURCH LINEN

November — Maria Ballato

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 2- Thursday 16th November at 2.00pm

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Ross Stephens Joseph Anthony Edmonds

Anniversaries

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**.

Catholic Theological College: 2023 Knox Public Lecture—Tuesday 28th November at 7.30pm, Live video



stream via Zoom: **“Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins”** Presented by **Dr Susan Connelly RSJ**. To book scan the QR code or go to trybooking.com/CMYVM Enquiries: 9412 3333 vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au or ctc.edu.au

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.



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 Machabees 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 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.



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.



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

Stewardship Corner

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time." Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? Don't delay. None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.

| 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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — 12th November 2023

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes
herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are
worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-8 (JB)

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**

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring

them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 24:42, 44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

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 12 - Sunday 32 ORD](#)
(yearaprayingwithchildren.org)