

# Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

**Church:** 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

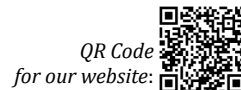
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**Assistant Priest:** Rev Joseph Nguyen ([Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au](mailto:Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au))

**Parish Office Manager:** Mrs Sonia Cavallaro ([mooneeponds@cam.org.au](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au))

**Admin Assistant:** Mrs Fran Adamopoulos ([mooneeponds@cam.org.au](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au))



**The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**19th 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,

Challenging to our modern ears is this Sunday's **First Reading** from the Book of Proverbs. Indeed, most of the Book of Proverbs sounds strange to us. It is a collection of 915 maxims or proverbs which follow one another without any logical order. Perhaps this explains why we read so little of it in the Sunday Lectionary: only 44 verses. But many people would argue that today's reading is beyond the pale.

For this reading praises **a perfect wife**. And the value that she is to her husband: **she is far beyond the price of pearls**. This perfect wife sits at her spinning wheel and weaves fabric and cares for the poor. While it is a noble picture, many modern people would argue that the picture that is painted of womanhood and of married life is out-dated and not helpful for the genuine promotion of female dignity.

That is certainly one way to interpret this reading. But I suggest, that it is not the **right** way to interpret this reading. The perfect wife is praised because she accomplishes her work to perfection. She could have been a teacher, an accountant, or a lion-tamer. **What** she does is not the issue. What is the issue is that what she does, she does **well**. She is faithful to God's law. She is a faithful servant of the Lord. And this, ultimately, is what true holiness is all about. Here is a woman presented as the model for those who wish to be faithful to God because she diligently fulfils the daily tasks entrusted to her, however humble they may be. She stands as a model **for us** because her example teaches us that we must not seek perfection elsewhere than in faithfulness to everyday duties.

I suspect that we must read this parable in the context of our reading of Matthew's Gospel which has now taken place for almost twelve months. And by now, we should know that one of the principle themes – if not **the** – principal theme of Matthew's Gospel is the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. In word and action, Jesus has taught us what this Kingdom of God is really like. It goes against the so-called wisdom of this world: it is salt and light for all who seek to live by it.

And now, having heard this Kingdom proclaimed, the ball is in our court. We stand now in the place of the servants who were given these talents. Our Master – the Risen Lord – has gone from our midst. Ascended into heaven. And so, through our Baptism and Confirmation, we have been entrusted with the task of looking after the Master's affairs in this world. And it is time for us to make a profit with what we have been given.

Whether we have been given five talents, or two talents, or only one talent in the Kingdom, **we know by now** what the Kingdom is all about. We cannot claim that we do not know. And so, we are called to make a profit. We are called to make the Kingdom of God just a little bit more present in our world. And like the perfect wife, it may simply be through faithfulness and diligence in our daily tasks. Few of us are ever called to change the whole world on our own. But all of us are called to change our own hearts and minds, so that we might better change the world in which we live. We have heard the Kingdom proclaimed. We know that we are called to **bear much fruit** in the Kingdom. To fail in this, is to be thrown out **into the dark...where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth**. We can't say that we never knew.

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** 26th November 2023 — Christ the King, Year A

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	S Letcher	A M Catalfamo	B Healey	R Gonsalves
10.30 am	S O'Dwyer	L Besterwitch	C Shiu	S Maurici
5.30 pm	J Dobson		E McMahon	R McMahon

**CHURCH LINEN**

November — Maria Ballato

**CHURCH VACCUMING**

TEAM 3- Thursday 23rd November at 2.00pm

*Please remember in your prayers...*

**Recently Deceased**

Les Rivette

**Anniversaries**

Benny Nigro Catherine Caruana

**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](mailto:MooneePonds@cam.org.au) with the subject line **Parish Contact List**.

**There will be no Mass or Reconciliation on Saturday 25th November due to the Ordinations in St Patrick's Cathedral**

**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. **Get your copy today—selling fast!**

**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.



*But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief.*

*No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness...*

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5



**GAZA CRISIS APPEAL**

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



**DONATE NOW**  
[www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://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 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 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 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

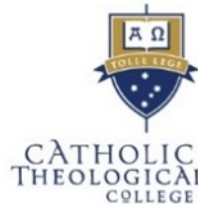
**5.55 % p.a.**

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](http://catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer) to open an account and for disclosure details, or scan the QR code.



**Catholic Theological College: 2023 Knox Public Lecture**—Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm, Live videostream 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](http://trybooking.com/CMYVM) Enquiries: 9412 3333 [vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au](mailto:vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au) or [ctc.edu.au](http://ctc.edu.au)

**Stewardship Corner**

**Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.**

*Matthew 25:21*

God calls us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us. He expects us to grow our gifts, to use them wisely, and to be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us. God asks us to be generous with all our gifts, especially the one that means the most to you.

Special Collections 2023	
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Pastoral Care Appeal
Lent	Project Compassion
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday – Holy Places
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Propagation of the Faith
11 <sup>th</sup> June	SVdP Winter Appeal
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Annual Collection for the Holy Father
13 <sup>th</sup> August	CatholicCare
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Priests' Retirement Foundation
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	World Mission Sunday
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Catholic Deaf
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Melbourne Overseas Mission



## Readings at Mass

The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — 19th November 2023

### First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

*Give her a share in what she has worked for.*

A perfect wife - who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.  
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.  
Advantage and not hurt she brings him  
all the days of her life.  
She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.  
She sets her hands to the distaff,  
her fingers grasp the spindle.  
She holds out her hand to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.  
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127:1-5

**R.** Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life. **R.**

### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

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

*The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons,' since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

### Gospel Acclamation: John 15:4, 5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;

my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

### Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

**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: [November 19 - Sunday 33 ORD](#)  
([yearaprayingwithchildren.org](#))