

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)

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The Third Sunday of Advent, Year B—Gaudete Sunday

17th December, 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,

Traditionally, this Sunday of Advent is known as **Gaudete Sunday**. This name comes from the first Latin word of the Entrance Antiphon – **Gaudete**. This word means **Rejoice**. In our season of Advent – our time of preparation for Christmas – this Sunday is, if you like, a bit of a let-up from our preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. This sense of real joyfulness is picked up by St Paul in today's Second Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians: **Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.**

The First Letter to the Thessalonians is perhaps our earliest Christian writing. It was written well before the Gospels: and probably only about twenty years after the death of Jesus. And Paul's insight in this earliest of Christian writings is a crucial one for us to remember. Our belief in Jesus Christ means that we should be a people of joy, a people of prayer, and a people who give thanks for all things. It is easy to give thanks to God for the good things. It is much more difficult to give thanks for those things which are not so good, those things which we might not exactly welcome with open arms. But the Christian is one who does give thanks for these things also. **Gaudete Sunday**: Rejoice always!

But even though this **Gaudete Sunday** is joyful relaxation of our preparation for Christmas, the message to prepare a way for the coming of the Lord is not dulled. During this season of Advent, one of the real constants is the figure of John the Baptist. We heard about him in last week's Reading from the Gospel of Mark. And today we hear more about him – this time from the Gospel of John. In fact, John the Baptist – and his call to prepare for the Lord's coming – is one of the few things which is included by the writers of all the Gospels.

In this season of Advent, the figure of John the Baptist is a bit like a road sign. He points the way. And he always points away from himself; always points towards the one coming after him. And on this point, John is very firm. The religious leaders of that time want to know who he is, for there were great expectations that the Messiah was coming. Indeed, many people thought that **John** was the Messiah. But again and again, John tells the people that he is not the Messiah. As always in the Gospels, John the Baptist points the way towards the One who comes after him. **He is not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.**

This, too, is our call. Like John the Baptist, our task as Christians is to always point towards the Light. Our task is to point towards the one who comes as little baby in Bethlehem, to point towards the one who will come in glory at the end of time. And to give witness to him.

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 24th December 2023 — The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B: Gaudete Sunday

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	L Bani RSC	V Pizzichetta	C Munafo	M Galioto
10.30 am	L Besterwitch	B Smolenaars	C Shiu	L Smolenaars
5.30 pm	n/a		n/a	n/a

CHURCH LINEN

December—L Bani RSC

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 3- Thursday 21st December at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Tony Jones

Anniversaries

Janine De Castro, Joaquim Martins Figueiredo, Carolina Quesado Sao Mamede, Manuel Torio, Innocencio Dela Cruz, Richard Passeri, Dave Ditty, Jim & Valda Cahir and Leo Hannan.

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**.

Sacramental Preparation for Children Attending Non-Catholic Schools—Confirmation 2024

Classes to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation will commence early next year. Further information can be found in the information pack available from the Parish Office or from one of the priests after Mass. Please contact Fr Tony for further information.

Liturgical Ministers—Christmas Masses

We are looking for ministers (readers & ministers of communion) for our Christmas Masses (timetable opposite). If you can help out, please email Fr Tony Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au as soon as possible.

Available from the Piety Stall:

Columban Art Calendar 2024 now available — \$10.00 each.

Christmas Cards—\$3.00 for a packet of 5; \$5.00 for a packet of 8

St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

is once again in our church—Vinnies rely on it to stock their pantry for Christmas hampers. Please take a tag and help out today!

Advent Timetable

Tue 19th Dec	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Reconciliation
Wed 20th Dec	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Reconciliation
	7.30pm	Second Rite of Reconciliation
Thu 21st Dec	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Reconciliation
Fri 22nd Dec	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Reconciliation
Sat 23rd Dec	8.00am	Mass
	8.30am	Reconciliation

Christmas Timetable

Sun 24th Dec	6.00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
	9.00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
Mon 25th Dec	12.00am	Christmas Midnight Mass
	8.30am	Christmas Day Mass
	10.30am	Christmas Day Mass

Catholic Mission thanks the parish of St Monica's for your support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$1,706.15 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need. Many thanks!



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

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



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.



Christmas Offerings • Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the church. Christmas Offerings make an important contribution to the stipend of the priests of the Parish and in meeting normal household expenses. They also contribute to the support of sick and retired priests, to support priests in needy parishes, and also to support the Archbishop.

Stewardship Corner

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

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 Third Sunday of Advent, Year B — 17th December 2023—*Gaudete Sunday*

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things
give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you
to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of
prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything -
hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and
may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and
body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has
called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME (*click below*)

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year B \(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [December 17 - Sunday 3 ADVENT - PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024 \(yearbprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)