

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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Parish Office Manager: Mrs Sonia Cavallaro (mooneeponds@cam.org.au)

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The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

21st January, 2024

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,

Sometimes, it seems as if God gets it wrong. Take one look at today's Gospel Reading. He calls as his followers four fishermen. Simon and his brother Andrew; and James and John, the sons of Zebedee. What is going on here?

Fishermen back then would not have been the obvious choice for Jesus to choose as his followers. For they would not have been all that educated. Certainly they would have known about tides and climate and the price their catch might bring in. But they certainly would not have been the educated elite. The brief account we have today in Mark's Gospel doesn't specify if Simon and Andrew and James and John were up with the religious elite of their time. I suspect they were not. But Jesus calls these four fishermen to follow him. And not just to follow him, but also to share in his work. To become **fishers of men and women**.

Actually, God does not get it wrong. God never gets it wrong. Yes, Jesus does call the four fishermen to follow him. But Jesus does not wait for them to be perfect. He calls them as they are. With their imperfections, with all their faults and failings. And perhaps the more surprising thing is that these fishermen do indeed follow Jesus. These fishermen do not wait until they are perfect, until they have it all together before they decide to follow Jesus. They follow Jesus when he calls them.

The story of these four fishermen is also our story. We too are called by Jesus to follow him. And Jesus does not wait until we are perfect. Jesus does not wait until we have it all together and have all the answers. If he did, Christian life would be a bit boring. And reasonably lacking in disciples.

God calls us in the midst of our life. Whether we are priest or layperson, married or single, young or old, or whatever. We are called to follow Jesus.

And, like Simon and Andrew and James and John, we are not called just to follow Jesus. Like them we are called to share in the task of **proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom**. All of us share in this task of proclaiming the Kingdom. For it is not just about preaching the Kingdom in words. We preach the Kingdom in what we do far more eloquently and powerfully than by any words which we may speak. And that is why bishops and priests are not the only players in the evangelisation stakes. All of us who are baptized are called to proclaim the reign of God's love.

We do this when we hold out our hands to someone in need. We do this when we walk together with our brothers and sisters who may need our companionship and accompaniment. We do this when we help someone else find their place in the world. We do it when we get our hands dirty helping someone else. As Pope Francis has reminded us, the Church should be like a field hospital on a battle field: ready to bind up the wounds of those who hurt. When we can be the sort of Church that Pope Francis challenges us to be...when these things happen, as our Gospel Reading tells us: **the Kingdom of God is close at hand**. Indeed, very close.

With every peace & blessing,

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.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 28th January 2024 — The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	B Healey	V Pizzichetta	C Munafo	S Maurici
10.30 am	L Besterwitch	B Smolenaars	C Shiu	L Smolenaars
5.30 pm	S O'Dwyer		J Beckley	M Passuallo

CHURCH LINEN

January—M Giardina

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 4 - Thursday 25th January at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

Francis Low Kim Sua

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 Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 26th January—Australia Day

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 this 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.

Church Cleaners—Volunteers Needed • Have you ever wondered who cleans our church? Each week—usually on Thursday morning after Mass, but we also have one Friday afternoon group—we have volunteers vacuum our church to keep it clean and tidy and ready for the weekend. We would gladly welcome more volunteers to our roster. If you are able to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office.

Order of Malta—Lourdes Day Mass: Saturday 10th February 2024 • For some years now, the Order of Malta has organised an annual Lourdes Day Mass to provide an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm particularly for those who would not otherwise have the possibility of visiting Lourdes. • The Mass will take place again on **Saturday, 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral**, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant. For further information, please contact: Sauro Antonelli AM on 0411 250 288.

Date Claimer: Ashes to Easter: A Sequence of Songs and Stories reflecting on Lent and Easter Themes by Peter Kearney, composer of well-known hymns such as *Fill My House* and *The Beatitudes* • **Thursday 29th February 2024 @ 7.00pm at St Vincent's Church, Strathmore**

Catholic Social Services National Conference, Melbourne, 21-23 February 2024 • All those who work, volunteer or have an interest in Catholic community services (and social justice more broadly) are invited to attend the Catholic Social Services National Conference 2024: *Commons, Commonality, Common Good*. • Come along to be inspired in our shared work together – hear from innovative leaders, participate in thought-provoking conversations, and connect with others who share a desire to create true communities out of a common effort for the common good. • More information on tickets, the conference theme, speakers and the program is available at: <https://css.org.au/css-national-conference-2024/>



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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?



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Stewardship Corner

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

Special Collections 2024	
TBA	Pastoral Care Appeal
Lent	Project Compassion
29th March	Good Friday - Holy Places
TBA	Propagation of the Faith
TBA	SVdP Winter Appeal
23rd June	Annual Collection for the Holy Father
TBA	CatholicCare
TBA	Priests' Retirement Foundation
20th October	World Mission Sunday
TBA	Catholic Deaf
TBA	Melbourne Overseas Mission

Readings at Mass

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B — 21st January 2024

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

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

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life

should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:

believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets, he called them at once, and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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 B \(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [January 21 - Sunday 3 ORD - PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024 \(yearbprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)