

# Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

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

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

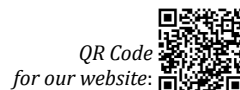
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**Parish Priest:** Rev Anthony J Doran ([Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au](mailto:Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au))

**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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**24th 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,

In today's First Reading, we find King David finally at peace. After years of struggle and war, David has finally reached a point where the Lord has given him rest from his enemies. And when this happened, David started to notice the things around him. One of the things he noticed was that while he was living in a wooden house, the ark of God was still living in a tent. The ark was the golden box in which were kept the tablets of the Law which had been given to Moses on Mount Sinai. During their forty years of wandering in the desert, the Israelites had carried the ark with them. But the ark was more than just a box. The Israelites believed that – wherever the ark was – the Lord was present in a special way. And the glory of the Lord would fill this earthly dwelling place of the Lord – symbolised by the cloud that would come down and cover the tent with its shadow.

And so, with Israel at peace, David decided it was high time for the ark to be given a more permanent home. To this end, David seeks the advice of Nathan, the prophet. And Nathan assures King David that the Lord is with him, and that he should build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant. But the Lord had other ideas. Speaking to Nathan in dream, the Lord declared that David is not the one to build the Lord a house. And furthermore, the Lord promises that David's royal house will be established forever. Long after David is gone – and perhaps forgotten – people will remember this promised son of David. This theme is taken up in the Responsorial Psalm: ***I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty forever.***

So, when and how is this prophecy fulfilled?

It is fulfilled in the most unlikely of ways. And we read about the fulfilment of this prophecy in today's Gospel Reading. The fulfilment does not come in the person of another great warrior king like David. And it does not come straight away. No. It comes much later when God sends his angel Gabriel to Nazareth. To Mary, a young virgin. Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive and bear a son. This son will inherit the throne of his father David, and will be called Son of the Most High.

Then Mary asks a most logical question, ***But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?*** Just as the glory of the Lord filled the earthly dwelling place of the Lord in the Ark of the Covenant, so too, Mary is told, will the power of the Most High cover you with its shadow. And this son, Jesus, will be holy and will be the Son of God. Mary, in fact, becomes the ***Ark of the New Covenant*** – a new dwelling place for the presence of the Lord. I think we can be certain that Mary was unsure about what all of this might mean. Could not possibly have known the full import of what Gabriel was asking of her. But Mary said **YES!**

In the Church, we have always honoured Mary for her simple and uncomplicated acceptance of God's plan for her. Mary makes no conditions when she says **YES** to God. She is the exemplar of discipleship: one who listens to the Word of God, and makes a place for that Word in her heart. But if we read on in Luke's Gospel, we learn something else. We learn that Mary goes to visit her aging cousin Elizabeth, who herself is expecting a child. Mary does not sit back content in the knowledge that she was to be mother of the Son of God. Mary is the one whose faith in God issues forth in action and service. In these last hours of Advent, perhaps the focus of our prayer could and should be Mary. Mary, Ark of the Covenant & Model of Discipleship, pray for us as we prepare for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ

With every peace & blessing for Christmas,

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** 31st December 2023 — The Feast of the Holy Family, Year B

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	<b>S Letcher</b>	<b>M Galioto</b>	<b>S Maurici</b>	<b>R Farfalla</b>
10.30 am	<b>J Martin</b>	<b>K Martin</b>	<b>J Morello</b>	<b>L Butler</b>
5.30 pm	<b>J Henderson</b>		<b>J Dobson</b>	<b>R Legudi</b>

**CHURCH LINEN**

December—L Bani RSC

**CHURCH VACCUMING**

**TEAM 4** - Thursday 28th December at 9.45am

*Please remember in your prayers...*

**Recently Deceased**

Bernadette Schmidt

**Anniversaries**

Fr Fred Chamberlin Jim & Nell Connors  
Giuseppa & Franco Di Pasquale Jack Frewen

**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**.

**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.

**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.



**DONATE NOW**  
[www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza)  
1800 024 413

**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!

**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

**Masses this Week**

Tue 26th Dec	No Mass
Wed 27th Dec	No Mass
Thu 28th Dec	9.15am @ Moonee Ponds
Fri 29th Dec	10.00am @ Strathmore
Sat 30th Dec	8.00am @ Moonee Ponds



**Dear Friends,**

**May you and those close to you know the peace and joy which the new-born child, Jesus Christ – our God-with-us – brings during this holy season.**

**May your New Year be filled with many blessings.**

**Fr Tony & Fr Joseph.**

**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.



**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**

*...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive*

Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B — 24th December 2023

### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

**R.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established  
as the heavens. **R.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

### Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

**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: [December 24 - Sunday 4 ADVENT -](#)

[PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024](#)

([yearbprayingwithchildren.org](#))