

Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

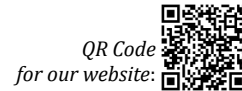
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Parish Priest: Rev Anthony J Doran (Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au)

Assistant Priest: Rev Joseph Nguyen (Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au)

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

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The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

4th February, 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,

It is difficult not to feel some sympathy for Job in this Sunday's first reading. For Job, life has become nothing better than slavery. As he lies awake in bed, he wonders **When will it be day?** When he is awake, he ponders **How slowly evening comes.** Job observes that his eyes **will never again see joy.**

The story of Job presents an age-old problem. Job had been a good man. He was wealthy, and enjoyed a good position in society. And then his world is turned upside down. He loses his wealth. Then he loses his children. Job himself is then stricken with a hideous disease, and he is reduced to the state of a beggar. For the person who believes in God – as Job did – this situation presents a problem. Job's companions sum the situation up for him with the usual explanations. Either God has punished you for your sins, or, or else he has abandoned you. We know that Job was a righteous man. So he could not be punished for sins he did not commit. It must be, then, that God has abandoned Job. **If God has abandoned you,** say Job's companions, (which, by the way, seems very cruel of God) **why not give up on God altogether and just get on with life.** The story of Job makes us ask the question: **Why do good people suffer?**

Often enough, we too, ask the same question. Why do innocent people die as the victims of cruel murder? Why do good people lose their jobs? Why do thousands of innocent people suffer in natural and human disasters all around our world? Why does God let this happen?

Job found that the so-called comfort given by his friends, was really no comfort at all, and certainly no answer to the problem. At the time that the Book of Job was written, belief in an afterlife was sketchy. And even today, it would be unwise to answer the question of the suffering of the innocent by resorting to such statements as **Think of heaven and the reward that this present suffering will earn you there.** Or **Have patience; you will have a prosperous future.** But these were the sorts of answers which Job's companions gave him as answer for his predicament.

Our human experience tells us that those sorts of answers are just too glib. They do not make sense of the present suffering which so many people today experience. These sorts of answers do not take away the fear which many people experience as they seek to live in our modern world.

In the end, we must confess that we just do not have answers to some of these questions. Job's response was always to place his trust in the Lord, and to praise God for his goodness. Job knew that glib answers were not adequate. Job knew that the answer to the problem lay in placing his life in the wider context of the plan of God.

Perhaps the only thing we can do to answer these questions is to remain silent, and to raise our eyes to Christ. **To place our life in the context of Christ.** For in Christ, we see one who was innocent. In Christ, we see one who knew suffering. When he took on our human flesh, Christ also took on the suffering of all humanity. This is the Christ who, takes us by the hand and helps us up, just as he did for Simon's mother-in-law. This is the Christ who heals all those who are suffering when they come crowding around the door. This is the Christ who spends time in quiet prayer.

The suffering of innocent people is truly for us a mystery. Not just some puzzle that we can explain away or perhaps work out if we apply ourselves to it. It is something which is beyond our human comprehension. We are simply unable to make sense of it. The only way we can make sense of it is to place it, and ourselves, in the context of Christ. This is not easy. But it is what we must do.

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 11th February 2024 — The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	B Healey	M Galioto	R Farfalla	R Gonsalves
10.30 am	S O'Dwyer	L Connors	C Shiu	S Maurici
5.30 pm	T Wilson		E McMahon	R McMahon

CHURCH LINEN

February—R Farfalla

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 2 - Friday 9th Feb at 2.00pm

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Maria Catalano Leo Gillman

Anniversaries

Kath Nicol Kathy Jergens

Teresa Di Pietro

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**.

Volunteers Needed—Church Cleaners • 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.

Volunteers Needed—Church Linen • We are in desperate need of volunteers who can assist with washing the church linen used at Mass—purificators and finger towels. If you are able to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February 2024.

Ash Wednesday is a day of **Fast** (from food) and **Abstinence** (from meat). On all other Fridays, the law of

the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following: Prayer, Self-Denial, Helping Others

Lent

Ash Wednesday Masses

9.15am Moonee Ponds
10.00am Strathmore
7.30pm Moonee Ponds & Strathmore

Way of the Cross—Fridays

3.00pm Moonee Ponds—Italian
7.00pm Moonee Ponds—English
7.00pm Strathmore—English



Pietà—Lenten Program 2024 Copies of Pietà, the Diocese of Wollongong Lenten Program is now available from the Piety Stall for **\$5.00** each. They contain a reflection for each day of Lent; and for Sundays, a prayer outline and reflection on the Sunday Gospel. They are ideal for both individual and group reflection - why not gather together a group of friends each week to pray and reflect on the Sunday Gospel readings for Lent? For each Sunday, there's also a reflection on a piece of art depicting the theme of that Sunday's Gospel Reading.



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.



Order of Malta Australia
In collaboration with
Mercy Palliative Care



Mercy Health
Care first

Palliative Care Volunteers • A meeting of willing parishioners will be held at **7.30pm on Thursday 8th February** in the **St Vincent de Paul Parish Centre, 2 The Crossway, Strathmore** to learn about the Order of Malta-Mercy Palliative Care volunteering program. **Jim Creaner**, Mercy Volunteer Coordinator, will discuss the range of roles, training and supervision that is possible for parish groups. Learn more about how to help the sick with respite support, accompaniment, biography and legacy activities, communion for the sick and bereavement support. All welcome. If you wish to receive more information please contact: jcreaner@mercy.com.au

Stewardship Corner

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'

Mark 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus takes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we are given the graces needed to do what He wishes us to do. Praying before acting is a great habit to develop.

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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B — 4th February 2024

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Job

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than
pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have
passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:1-6

R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

or

R. Alleluia!

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. **R.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
he fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **R.**

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

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

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you

know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME *(click below)*

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year B \(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [February 4 - Sunday 5 ORD - PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024 \(yearbprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)