

ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

Phone: (03) 9370 5035 | **Email:** mooneeponds@cam.org.au | **Website:** stmonicasparish.com.au

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

Assistant Priest: Rev Brian Muling (Brian.Muling@cam.org.au)

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

Admin Assistant: Mrs Fran Adamopoulos

QR Code
for our website:



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

12 FEBRUARY, 2023

MASS TIMES

Sunday: **8.30 am** (*Italian & English*); **10.30 am**; **5.30 pm**

Tuesday - Friday: **9.15 am**

Saturday: **8 am**

Reconciliation: Saturday 8.30 am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Moonee Ponds Parish Office:

Tue - Thu: 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Strathmore Parish Office:

Fri: 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Dear friends,

It seems like a thousand years ago – it was just before the pandemic hit us - I was lucky enough to go to the Elton John's **Farewell Yellow Brick Road** Concert at Hanging Rock. It was a great experience. One of the world's truly great performers singing and playing the piano and talking to us for just on three hours. Five thousand people, maybe more, all absolutely captivated by the performance. Five thousand people singing and dancing. Five thousand of us all there for a common purpose.

Because the experience of this concert was so profound, it led me to think...what is this experience is like, to what is it similar? And I wondered if the people who first heard Jesus preaching the **Sermon on the Mount** experienced something similar?

This week, what Jesus teaches us in the Sermon on the Mount, is that the path to authentic holiness does not lie in the grand, life changing choices we make. Most of us – especially if we are sitting in church this Sunday – have already made the fundamental choice to walk **something** of the path of holiness. But we give expression to this fundamental choice much more in the small, everyday choices which we make.

In the section of the **Sermon on the Mount** which we hear today, Jesus challenges us to holiness that is deep and authentic rather than shallow. Jesus reminds his hearers – those gathered on the Mount and those gathered in this church – that he has come not to abolish the Law, but to complete it. As we will see in next week's First Reading, the Law is never an end in itself. It is always (and only ever) a means to growth in holiness.

All the examples which Jesus uses in today's Gospel revolve around the decisions and choices which we make in regard to our personal relationships, around our interactions with others. In six examples – four of which we hear this week and two further ones which we will hear next week – Jesus teaches us. Each begins with **You have learnt how it was said...**and followed by Jesus stating, **But I say this to you...** Rather than abolishing the Law, Jesus is completing, deepening, and strengthening his disciples' understanding of the Law in the new way of life of the Kingdom.

In the new way of life of the Kingdom, anger towards our brother or sister has no place. In the new life of the Kingdom, where honesty and respect for the individual are the hallmarks of the disciple, oaths have no place any longer either.

All of these examples are concerned – most of the time – with how we treat those closest to us. And surely it is these most intimate of relationships which test us. Which show how deep or otherwise our virtue really goes.

Again and again, the Sermon on the Mount offers to us the charter for a new way of living. A way of living that is radical, yes, but very simple. It is the way of life of the Kingdom. Will you sing and dance when you hear these words? Will you let these words change your life? Will you let these words change your world?

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

MINISTERS ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 19th February 2022 —Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	S Letcher	L Matthews	M Ballato	M Galioto
10.30 am	J Trethowan	T Vu	C Shiu	L Butler
5.30 pm	C Taylor		J Dobson	R Legudi

CHURCH LINEN

February - **Connie Munafo**

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 3 - Thursday 16th February at 9.45am

RECENTLY DECEASED

Ellen-Nora Connors
Juanito Pluma
Polquerio & Juanita Besandre

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

ANNIVERSARIES

In faith, hope and love, we pray for all whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:

Rosa Caruana **Solomon Abanes**

Lent 2023

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, 22nd February 2023.

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



Triumph—Lenten Program 2023 · Copies of **Triumph**, 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.

SELLING FAST!

St Monica's Prayer Group • The Charismatic Prayer Meeting has commenced for 2023. Starting on Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.00 pm. The meeting comprises songs of praise and worship, scripture sharing, testimonies, and prayers for personal needs. Let us remain open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, which is the focus of the prayer meeting. All welcome. Enquiries: Adrian 0403 512 936



Caritas Australia has launched an appeal to assist those affected by the devastating earthquakes in for Türkiye and Syria. You may donate online [Donate Turkey Earthquake Appeal | Caritas Australia](#) or call **1800 024 413**



REMEMBER
CELEBRATE
IMAGINE



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
of DIVINITY

Please join Catholic Theological College to celebrate 50 years of theological education at the

Sung Celebration of Evening Prayer
 Guest Speaker Dr Graeme Blackman AO
Chancellor of University of Divinity

When: **Sunday 5th March 2023 at 3.30pm**
 Where: **St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne**

Changes to the Parish Bulletin • This Sunday, you will notice some changes to the Parish Bulletin which it is hoped will make it easier to read. There are also some changes to the distribution of the Bulletin. Recent diocesan software changes to our Parish Administration & Communication System (PACS) means that we are no longer able to send the bulletin out via this system. We are still a while away from implementing a new method of distributing the Bulletin via email. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. If you have not already done so, please make sure you subscribe to the new system—simply send an email to MooneePonds@cam.org.au with the subject line **Parish Contact List**



Mission: Change their lives ... and yours

Palms Australia Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

RING: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567

www.palms.org.au



**Special Collection this Week:
Pastoral Care Appeal**

This weekend is the **Pastoral Care Appeal** (previously known as the Chaplaincy Sunday Appeal). Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to be the messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion. We are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing, illness, pain, loneliness, grief and death. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513



Stewardship Corner

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:20

The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of being a modern day Pharisee.

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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

R Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **R**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of you law. **R**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

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

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity:
not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of
our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of
God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God
predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a
wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known,
or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach
what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear
has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has
prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through
the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even
the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation: cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: ' Do not imagine that I have come to
abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish
them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and
earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear
from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man
who infringes even one of the least of these commandments
and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least
in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and
teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of
heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the
scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of
heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must
not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before
the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his
brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his
brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and
if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire.
So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there
remember that your brother has something against you, leave
your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with
your brother first, and then come back and present your
offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while
you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand
you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will
be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out
till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit
adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman
lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his
heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and
throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of
you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your
right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away;
for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have
your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give
her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who
divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her
an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman
commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You
must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the
Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by
heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is
his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great
king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot
turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if
you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this
comes from the evil one.'

SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME *(click below)*

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year A](#)
[\(weebly.com\)](#)

Children: [February 12 - Sunday 6 ORD](#)
[\(yearaprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)