

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)

Seminarian: Mr Andrew Tran

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The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

11th 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,

In this Sunday's Gospel a **leper**, hearing that Jesus was in the area, had come into the village where Jesus was. To say that it was an embarrassing situation would be an understatement; parents would have been hauling children off the streets, the main street would have been deserted and the well-known rabbi Jesus of Nazareth left standing alone (perhaps with a few curious and brave onlookers) in the square.

Keep in mind what the leper represented: both physical and spiritual, **uncleanness** and **unholiness**. He was the ultimate bogey-man.

And yet coming to encounter him is Jesus, the Messiah, the all-holy one, the very presence of God – the one who is **clean** in every sense. Not that the townspeople knew all of that at the time. But at least they knew Jesus to be a young rabbi with a growing reputation and a man of principle. Undoubtedly what they expected as they hid in their doorways was to see Jesus firmly put this leper in his place.

And it seems that the **leper himself** more than half-expected the same, coming towards Jesus on his knees and asking tentatively, **If you want to...**, as if the chances of him wanting to do such a thing were remote. At this point, everyone is waiting for Jesus to say **Well, yes, I certainly can cure you – but you're clearly a wicked sinner and deserving of your punishment, and in the end you'll be better for it. Now you're upsetting people here, so push off.**

But instead, Jesus does something most horrific, something no sane person in the ancient world would have done: he **touches** the leper! And in the touch, in the re-establishment of contact with the rest of the human race, is the sacrament of the cure.

It's interesting that in some very ancient copies of Mark's Gospel, it doesn't say that Jesus was **feeling sorry for him** as our version has it, but rather that Jesus was **feeling angry**. And it would make sense too: Jesus' anger, first of all at the townspeople, and, then also a sort of fed-up frustration at the sick man's almost resignation that he is beyond help. **If you want to... Of course, I want to** – what a question!

Many people that we pass on the street or line up with in the supermarket everyday feel something of the leper's sense. Feel that they are beyond help, and beyond God's sphere of interest if God is even there at all. It might be something as simple but as devastating as the inability to see any worthwhile meaning in living, it might be living with addiction or with mental illness. And very often the sense of helplessness is fuelled by the fear and isolation which the rest of the village – the rest of us – impose. Perversely, having a few **public** lepers enables the rest of us to keep our own spottiness away from public view.

Most of us don't wear our leprosy on our sleeves, so to speak. But I believe that for most human beings who have any sense at all of wanting to live well and in harmony with God and neighbour, there is something which we've convinced ourselves is not only beyond the pale of human forgiveness and healing, but is in fact beyond the pale of God's mercy. Perhaps the memory of past failures, even very remote ones, or a sense that I haven't really done very much good with my life. For **all** of us, those words of Jesus **Of course I want to** should be reassuring when we contemplate and get bound up in our own unholiness and unwholesomeness. God does not take rifles even to rabid dogs and lepers but reaches out, touches them and heals them.

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 18th February 2024 — The First Sunday of Lent, Year B

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	S Letcher	L Mathews	M Ballato	A Savino
10.30 am	L Besterwitch	A Cukavac	A Briggs	C Chiu
5.30 pm	A Mathews		P Duggan	B Mathews

CHURCH LINEN

February—R Farfalla

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 3 - Thursday 15th Feb at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

Solomon Abanes George Raviola
 Josefa Macina Ellen Nora Connors
 Maria Catalano

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.

Pastoral Year Placement • This year, our parishes have been asked to host a seminarian, **Andrew Tran**, for his year-long pastoral placement. Andrew is in the fourth year of his seminary formation. Born in Melbourne, of Vietnamese heritage, after secondary school Andrew completed a degree in chemistry and worked as a laboratory technician in the health industry for several years. **Welcome Andrew!**

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.



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

Date Claimer: Ashes to Easter: A Sequence of Songs and Stories weaving songs and stories and reflections on Lenten themes and looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter 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.** Mainly for adults though upper-primary and older students could also enjoy.

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.

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.

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 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?



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Stewardship Corner

Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "I'm I going this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"

Special Collections 2024	
Lent	Project Compassion
29 th March	Good Friday – Holy Places
5 th May	CatholicCare
TBA	Propagation of the Faith
2 nd June	SVdP Winter Appeal
30 th June	Annual Collection for the Holy Father
18 th August	The Archbishop's Campaign
20 th October	World Mission Sunday
10 th November	Pastoral Care Appeal—Prison Ministry

Readings at Mass

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

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 31:1-2, 5, 11

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.

I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **R.**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

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

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever

you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to 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 HarperCollins Religious 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. · Clip-Art: Artwork by Martin Erpsamer OSB, *Religious Clip Art for the Liturgical Year*, © 1997, Matthew James Publishing Ltd & Liturgy Training Publications, Archdiocese of Chicago.

SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME (*click below*)

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year B \(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [February 11 - Sunday 6 ORD - PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024 \(yearbprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)