

# ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

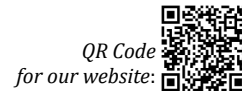
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Parish Priest: Rev Anthony J Doran ([Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au](mailto:Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au))

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

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

Admin Assistant: Mrs Fran Adamopoulos



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

19 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,

This Sunday, our First Reading comes from the Book of Leviticus which is basically a book of the rules and rubrics and regulations for the Levites – the priestly family of Israel.

And because it is a book of rules and rubrics and regulations, we do not read from it very often in the course of our Sunday liturgy, for quite a lot of it is not very exciting or encouraging. Except one part of it. The part from which we read today. Sometimes called the ***Code of Legal Holiness***. Like the other parts of the Book of Leviticus, it ***too*** contains rules and regulations, but more clearly stated than other parts of the book ***is the reason behind the rules*** which the People of Israel were to follow. And that is the connection between daily conduct and worship.

And the connection is clear and simple. The People of Israel were to observe these rules ***in order to*** grow in holiness. And the more that they would grow in holiness, the ***closer*** they come to being like God; the ***closer*** they come to sharing in the holiness of God. For the holiness of the people is a reflection of the holiness of God. ***Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.***

We stand on the threshold of Lent, our season of preparation for Easter. Yes, Lent is penitential...but it is our opportunity to grow in holiness. We can do this through prayer, through fasting, through almsgiving. During Lent, we have extra opportunities for prayer; Project Compassion gives us the opportunity for almsgiving; we can fast from many other things e.g. selfishness and anger, not just food.

Let us grow together in holiness. ***Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.***

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

**MINISTERS ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY** 26th February 2022 —First Sunday of Lent

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	<b>T Mitchell</b>	<b>V Pizzichetta</b>	<b>B Healey</b>	<b>K Sherwood</b>
10.30 am	<b>F Baker RSM</b>	<b>L Besterwitch</b>	<b>L Connors</b>	<b>J Trethowan</b>
5.30 pm	<b>R Young</b>		<b>E McMahon</b>	<b>R McMahon</b>

**CHURCH LINEN**

February - **Connie Munafo**

**CHURCH VACCUMING**

**TEAM 4** - Thursday 23rd February at 9.45am

**For Your Prayers...**

**Recently Deceased**

Jake Allan

**Anniversaries**

Warren Constable

Antonietta Faggianelli

Egidio Laghigna

Gordon Windsor

Tony D'Anna

Domenico & Caterina D'Anna

**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.



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 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 3.30pm**

Where: **St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne**

**Lent 2023**

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

**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!**

**Changes to the Parish Bulletin** • 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](mailto:MooneePonds@cam.org.au) with the subject line **Parish Contact List**



**Thank You! Pastoral Care Appeal** • Last weekend, we conducted the annual Pastoral Care Appeal in our parish. The presence of Catholic chaplains is a crucial witness to our faith, a crucial dimension of our service of love, and a vital testimony to the value of life in all its stages. Thank you to those who have supported this Appeal. If you still wish to donate or if you would like to have more information about the Chaplaincy Services, please visit [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or call (03) 9287 5513.



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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 5333 or 0422 472 567**

[www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)

**True North Young Adults Group** meets on the third Sunday of each month; the night includes food, social, games and faith discussion. Location: St Monica's Catholic Church (Symons Centre), 820 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. • The first gathering for 2023 is this Sunday 19th February, 6:30pm - 8:30pm (after 5:30pm Mass at St Monica's) • Ages 18-40 welcome. More queries: please email [truenorth90stable@gmail.com](mailto:truenorth90stable@gmail.com) • **True North** is for young adults from all our local region, supported by the local parishes.

**Stewardship Corner**

*"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."*

*Matthew 5:44*

Love your enemies, easier said than done. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It changes my heart and actions, allowing for a little more empathy for "my enemy." When we pray for others, even our enemies, it may soften their hearts as well.



What do we do to deepen **communion**?  
 What do we do encourage **participation**?  
 What do we do to promote **mission**?

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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

**First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18**

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*You must love your neighbour, as yourself.*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13**

**R.** The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23**

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

*All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise.

Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: 1 John 2:5**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,  
grows perfect in the love of God.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Love your enemies.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME** *(click below)*

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

Children: [February 19 - Sunday 7 ORD](#)  
[\(yearprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)