

Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

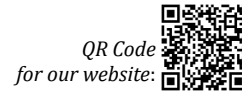
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Parish Priest: Rev Anthony J Doran (Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au)

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 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

13th August, 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,

Our First Reading this Sunday finds Elijah the Prophet retreating from those who seek to hunt him down and make his life a misery. And so, Elijah reaches a cave on Mount Horeb. To renew Elijah's faith, to give him fresh hope and renewed courage, Elijah is granted that rarest of privileges in the Old Testament: he is granted a vision of the Lord.

But where is the Lord? The Lord was not in the mighty wind which tears the mountain apart. The Lord is not in the earthquake, either. And nor is the Lord in the fire. No. After wind and earthquake and fire, Elijah finally hears the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah hears and feels this gentle breeze, he knows that God is present. He goes to the entrance of the cave and covers his face. But not from shame or fear. He covers his face because the glory of God is so great, so powerful that no one can look on the face of the Lord and live. And Elijah is granted to feel the gentle breeze of the presence of the Lord. His faith is renewed; he can go forward with fresh hope and new courage.

The disciples in the Gospel Reading also needed their spirits renewed and some fresh hope in their hearts. After the five thousand had been fed, Jesus sent the disciples across the lake by boat to other side, while he went off to pray by himself. While the disciples were in their boats on the water, a storm blew up. There was a head wind and the sea was heavy. They were in trouble.

And then Jesus comes to them across the water. At first, the disciples do not recognise Jesus: ***It is a ghost, they said, and they cried out in fear.*** You can imagine their fear – people just do not walk across the water. But then Jesus calms them: ***Courage! It is I! DO NOT BE AFRAID.*** Peter asks for some proof that it is Jesus. He asks Jesus to command him to come across the water.

And so, Jesus calls Peter to come to him. And at once, Peter jumps out of the boat and walks towards Jesus across the water. But as soon as he feels the force of the wind, Peter begins to doubt. As soon as he takes his eyes off Jesus, Peter begins to sink. But Jesus reaches out his hand and holds him. In the midst of the storm, Jesus is the still centre who calls to Peter and holds him firm. And this is who Jesus is for us. Like Elijah, we too will find God in the gentle breeze, not in the wind, the earthquake or fire. Like Peter, we too will find Jesus not in the storms which beset us from time to time, but we will see Jesus as the still centre, calling us to have courage and to believe in him.

Jesus' command to Peter in today's Gospel is to have courage and faith. And Jesus gives the same command to us. Especially at this time of restriction and lockdown and uncertainty. Now it is time for us to jump out of the boat, like Peter, and ***to be courageous*** and to walk to Jesus across the sea, in the midst of the storm, in the midst of uncertainty, in the midst of doubt. And just as Peter found as he walked across the water to Jesus, we too will find that this road of discipleship is not always easy. But, with courage and faith, in the midst of the storms we face, ***we too find Jesus:*** the still centre of the storm who holds us firm. Who always, always holds us firm.

With every peace,

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.

MINISTERS ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 20th August 2023 — Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

| Mass Time | Reader | | Extraordinary Minister | |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 8.30 am | B Healey | V Pizzichetta | C Munafo | R Farfalla |
| 10.30 am | J Martin | J Trethowan | A Lim | J Morello |
| 5.30 pm | M Christian | | R Legudi | J Dobson |

CHURCH LINEN

August—Maria Giardina

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 1 - Thursday 18th August at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Marie Barrett

Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Pauline Morello | Caterina Pezzimenti |
| Bill & Millie O'Connor | Anna Spureo |
| Carmine Molinaro | Caterina Bonfa |
| Giovanni Ieria | Margaret Penno |

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.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Tuesday 15th August, is a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at **9.15am** and at **7.30pm**.

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**

St Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen thanks you for the supply of empty egg cartons. Due to your overwhelming support we must suspend the collection for the time being.

Natural Family Planning • This year, 2023, marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective" will be held on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST. As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life. Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddtcreator>

Date Claimer: Our Parish: Past-Present-Future

Over coming months, our Parish will hold a series of fora to reflect on our past, celebrate our present and discern our future directions. In the Symons Centre, beginning at 7.30pm

Present:

Date for daytime 'Present' session to be advised soon

Future: 4th October

Expressions of Interest • Parish Safeguarding Team We are currently seeking expressions of interest from parishioners who would be prepared and interested in joining our Safeguarding Team. This team would meet regularly to promote and coordinate our efforts in relation to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. If you would be interested, please contact Fr Tony by phone: 9370 5035 or email: Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au

St Vincent De Paul Society - Assist A Student •

The Annual Appeal to assist students in third world countries in here again! \$100 assists a student to cover educational costs for one year. This is a wonderful way to give a Christmas gift to somebody you do not know. Your donation can be left in the piety stall or place it in a collection basket in an envelope marked **ASSIST A STUDENT**. If you have any enquiries, please see one of the member of SVdP Moonee Ponds Conference.

A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend is for YOU... "Live Your Best Married Life in Love" Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!! The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. **Please check our website for more details Date: 3-5 November 2023** in Melbourne **BOOK NOW** Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference— Voice to Parliament

As a vote on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament nears, Australia’s bishops have encouraged Catholics to read and discuss the Uluru Statement from the Heart—the document from which the Voice proposal emerged.

During their recent plenary meeting in Sydney, the bishops considered how they might assist Catholics in preparing for the referendum to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, with a vote due in the second half of 2023.

The bishops argued that the fact First Nations Peoples have lived in Australia for many thousands of years but their custodianship of the land isn’t mentioned in the Constitution: *“It is an omission which needs to be rectified...a Voice to Parliament isn’t the only way to achieve that outcome, but it is the way requested by those who gathered at the historic meeting at Uluru...This could be a significant step towards a more just and equitable Australia...we want to encourage all Australians to educate themselves as well as possible concerning the proposal to establish the Voice.*

The bishops call for a meaningful debate on the issue, acknowledging that *‘people may, in good faith, have differing concerns and perspectives...we are an open democracy, and this is a moment to use our democratic institutions to produce a high-quality debate shaped by a genuine concern to do justice and bring healing to First Nations Peoples...we ask those drafting the changes to the Constitution to work together in a spirit of cooperation, so that the proposal presented to the Australian people will appeal to a wide range of the population.’*

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2021, with the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia taking the same step last year. The bishops have encouraged us to read the document and have discussions about our response to its key messages.

[ACBC Statement regarding an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.pdf - Google Drive](#)

[View The Statement - Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)



What do we do to deepen **communion**?

What do we do encourage **participation**?

What do we do to promote **mission**?



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal ● This weekend. Is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your compassionate generosity will help the most vulnerable members of our community – those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your compassion and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. You can donate using the appeal envelope available or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible

Stewardship Corner

“He said, ‘Come.’ Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.”

Matthew 14:29

When you hear Jesus calling, do you responded immediately and trust that He knows what He’s doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say “yes” to Jesus, we feel the power of his presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us!

| 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 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A — 13th August 2023

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ - it is the truth - my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and

the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord,

I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

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: [August 13 - Sunday 19 ORD \(yearaprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)