

Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

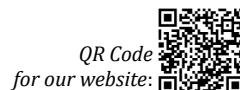
Phone: (03) 9370 5035 | **Email:** mooneeponds@cam.org.au | **Website:** stmonicasparish.com.au

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



Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

16th April, 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

Parish Office Hours

Moonee Ponds Parish Office:

Tue - Thu: 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Worship Timetable—Strathmore

Saturday Vigil: **6.00 pm**

Sunday: **9.30 am**

Tuesday - Friday: **10.00 am**

Strathmore Parish Office:

Fri: 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Dear friends,

Christ is risen, Alleluia!

Our joy at Easter, our joy in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is so great that we celebrate Easter for fifty days. The joy which we have that Christ is truly risen from the dead is so great, so momentous, that this joy cannot be contained in one day. It can't even be contained in one week.

Instead, this joy is so great that it flows out of our celebration of Easter Sunday, into this week. In the Church's reckoning, this last week – the octave of Easter – every day has been celebrated like Easter Sunday. But not even this week of Sundays is enough to contain our Easter joy. Because this Easter joy will continue to flow out into the next fifty days until the Solemnity of Pentecost.

That is why this Sunday is never called the First Sunday *AFTER* Easter, because Easter is certainly not over. Rather, it is called **The Second Sunday OF Easter**. And by the end of this Easter Season, we will have celebrated seven Sundays of Easter, including the great and solemn feasts of Ascension and Pentecost. But why is the resurrection of Jesus so great that we have to celebrate it for fifty days?

We understand little about what actually happened at the Resurrection. But we do know that it was so powerful an event that the Apostles, who had believed that Jesus was **dead**, soon went around proclaiming that Jesus was **now risen**. That the one who **was** dead **is now** alive.

Now, this is pretty unbelievable stuff. In today's Gospel reading, Thomas did not believe it. Thomas was not there when Jesus first appeared to the disciples. And when the disciples tell Thomas that great news – **We have seen the Lord** – Thomas does not believe them. And you can't blame him. People just do not rise from the dead. Thomas wants to see some proof. Seeing is believing, after all, isn't it? **Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.**

Thomas does not think that Jesus could have risen from the dead. According to Thomas, whoever the Apostles have seen, it cannot be Jesus. But then, when Jesus appears again to them, he shows Thomas his hands and side. And so Jesus proves to Thomas that the one who is risen is the same one who has died. The very same one.

And this is why we celebrate Easter for fifty days. This is why at the Easter Vigil we sang **This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave**. Jesus, who **was** dead, **is now** alive. God's steadfast and faithful love is so strong that death has no more power over Jesus. Death is destroyed for ever. And death has no more power over us.

This is why, dear friends, we sing Alleluia. Jesus Christ, our King, is risen. Sound the trumpet of salvation.

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 23rd April 2022 — Third Sunday of Easter

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	S Letcher	V Pizzichetta	C Munafo	B Odachowski
10.30 am	M Baker		M Sequerah	A Briggs
5.30 pm	J Henderson		M Passuello	

CHURCH LINEN

April - Maria Ballato

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 4 - Thursday 20th April at 9.45am

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

Marcia McLean
Francesca Buffone

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.

Clergy Changes

The Archbishop has appointed Fr Brian Muling as Assistant Priest in the Parish of Epping. He has also appointed Fr Joseph Nguyen as Assistant Priest in the Parishes of Strathmore and Moonee Ponds. These changes take effect on 3rd May 2023.

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**

Project Compassion Boxes • Please remember to return your Project Compassion boxes soon.

Young Couples and Family (YCF) Network • Light lunch/coffee at Symon's centre/Queen's park/local cafe (pending weather) followed by focussed faith discussion. **Who:** New couples and families with children interested in growing faith together in their homes. **Next meeting: Sunday 28th May 11.30am-12.30pm** (after 10.30am mass) in front of St Monica's Church. Enquires/RSVP: Jerome and Kylie by email on youngcouple.network@gmail.com

Moonee Valley Alpha for Young Adults is launching at St Monica's Church (Symons Centre) on Sunday nights from the 23rd April 2023! So what is Alpha? Alpha is a series of small group conversations and videos, run over several weeks, that explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly environment. It's a place to connect with people over dinner, where you can say anything you like, or nothing at all. In a nutshell you can expect: delicious dinner + thought provoking videos + good conversation. Please register at <https://bit.ly/42BF1YM>



Thank You to all those people who contributed to our Easter ceremonies last weekend: ministers of the word, ministers of communion, ministers of art and environment, ministers of music...many people commented on how prayerful they found our liturgies and how much they had enjoyed being with us. Alleluia!

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

Past: 7th June
Present: 5th July
Future: 4th October



Catholic Theological College: Biblical Lands Study Tour Journey with the Gospel According to Luke in the Holy Land This tour is focused on the Gospel of Luke engaging the narrative in the contextual landscape:

1. experience being on a boat on the Sea of Galilee
2. walk through the Kidron Valley to the Pool of Siloam and see the steps up to the Temple
3. meditate in the Shepherd's field
4. ponder the site of the Visitation and the Nativity
5. engage the women who followed Jesus among the disciples
6. reflect on Mary Magdalene while staying at Magdala on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Prepare to be captivated and moved to joy or tears and enjoy new food and cultural experiences as we follow Luke in modern Israel and Palestinian Territories. Be immersed in an experience of a lifetime and come home changed. **PLUS:** You can take the opportunity to undertake a study unit through CTC (Catholic Theological College) in conjunction with this tour (conditions and additional cost apply). Journey with me and with Luke in 2023 along with our experienced guide, Gila Yudkin. See the Flyer attached for Itinerary and Costing. For further information or to obtain a booking form contact Dr Rosemary Canavan - rosemary.canavan@ctc.edu.au



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

Voice to Parliament

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) have released their statement, **Relentlessly Pursuing Reconciliation**, in support of a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament as articulated by the **Uluru Statement from the Heart**. This year's national referendum on the constitution gives an opportunity for Australians to support the Statement from the Heart and to embrace the cries of our First Nations Peoples for a just future, a means of recognition and a way forward for healing and learning together. Read the full statement here <https://css.org.au/publications/relentlessly-pursuing-reconciliation/> or click on the QR Code:



Recently, the three living parish priests of Moonee Ponds—past and present—were together...pictured above: Fr Tony Doran together with Mgr Peter Kenny and Fr Tony Feeney

Stewardship Corner

"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"

John 20:19

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too – just as God, Our Father, sees 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
Second Sunday of Easter — 16th April. 2023

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

℟ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' ℟

I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. ℟

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. ℟

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still

without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation: John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me,
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME *(click below)*

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

Children: [April 16 - Sunday 2 Easter](#)
[\(yearaprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)