

# 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](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au) | **Website:** [stmonicasparish.com.au](http://stmonicasparish.com.au)

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

**Assistant Priest:** Rev Joseph Nguyen ([Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au](mailto:Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au))

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

**Admin Assistant:** Mrs Fran Adamopoulos ([mooneeponds@cam.org.au](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au))



## The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Year A

21st May, 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

**Moonee Ponds Parish Office:**

Tue - Thu: 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

**Strathmore Parish Office:**

Fri: 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Dear friends,

If we are to be honest, we must admit that we human beings struggle to talk about God. We use lots of words. We spill lots of ink. But we really do struggle to talk about God. This problem with human language is perhaps no more evident on this solemn feast of the Ascension of the Lord. For in this solemnity, we use human words and concepts to try and explain what is happening to Jesus. The best way that we can attempt to understand the Ascension of Jesus is as a *metaphor* for his return to his place at the Father's right hand.

The Ascension frees Jesus from the constraints of this world. The Ascension also inaugurates *the end days*. For even though Jesus has gone from the time and space of this world, he is now present *at all times* and *in all places*. For the promise he makes in today's Gospel holds true: *I am with you always; yes, to the end of time*.

But Jesus is with us in a radically different way. His physical presence is gone. *WE* are now his presence.

So, we no longer hold the *physical* presence of Jesus Christ here in this world. But whenever and wherever the Good News of the Resurrection is preached, Jesus Christ is present. Whenever and wherever men and women are baptised in the name of the Trinity, Jesus Christ is present. Whenever and wherever God's Holy People are nourished with the Body and Blood of the Victorious Lamb of God, Jesus Christ is present. *He* is no longer here; he is wherever *we are*.

With every peace,

Fr Tony.



**MINISTERS ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY** 28th May 2022 — The Solemnity of Pentecost

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	<b>A Savino</b>	<b>M Giardina</b>	<b>A Stivala</b>	<b>B Healey</b>
10.30 am	<b>A Briggs</b>	<b>A Cukavac</b>	<b>D Storace</b>	
5.30 pm	<b>R Young</b>		<b>R Legudi</b>	<b>M Passuello</b>

**CHURCH LINEN**

May—L Bani RSC

**CHURCH VACCUMING**

**TEAM 1** - Thursday 25th May at 9.45am

*Please remember in your prayers...*

**Recently Deceased**

**Anniversaries**

Michelina Barravecchio      Lorna Farmer

**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.

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

**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](mailto:youngcouple.network@gmail.com)

**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

**Moonee Valley Alpha for Young Adults** meets on on Sunday nights in the Symons Centre. 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>



**Sacramental Preparation for Children Attending Non-Catholic Schools—First Holy Communion**

Classes to prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will commence on **28th May**. Please contact the Parish Office or one of the priests for an information pack & enrolment form.



**Recycle your old Egg**

**Cartons** • Your old egg cartons can be used by Vinnies Soup Vans to help provide food for homeless and disadvantaged people. Rather than throw them

into your yellow recycling bin, bring them to church or the Parish Office and we can pass them on to Vinnies to help others.

**Masses this Week**

**There are some changes to the Mass Timetable for the coming week:**

Tuesday	9.15am	Moonee Ponds
Wednesday	10.00am	Strathmore
Thursday	9.15am	Moonee Ponds
Friday	10.00am	Strathmore
Saturday	8.00am	Moonee Ponds



## 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**?



# Heart of Life

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

## ‘Passion on the Big Screen – A Day @ the Movies with Peter Malone msc’ (in-person event), Saturday 17 June 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm (AEST)

We often refer to Jesus as the Word made Flesh. But Colossians I proclaims Jesus as the Image of the Invisible God. Religious images have always been part of spirituality, The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw moving images emerging on screens, cinemas, television and new modes of streaming. How can we relate to these images as vision for our spiritual lives? Images, symbols, visual metaphors, Christ-figures? We appreciate Lectio Divina. Here we respond to Visio Divina, movie clips, their challenge. Facilitated by Peter Malone msc ~ author, lecturer, founding member of The Film Critics Association and priest. Cost: \$60 (BYO lunch). Book and pay via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 03 9890 1101.

## Stewardship Corner

*“I am praying for them...”*

John 17:9

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation - not just our last resort. Pray for friends and family, and especially for those that don’t treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. Teach others how to pray. It has been said that teaching someone how to pray is the best gift you can give someone.



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 Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord — 21st May, 2023

**First Reading: Acts 1:1-11**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9**

**R.** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

*or*

**R.** Alleluia.

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 28:19, 20**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



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

Adults: [Sunday Readings 14 May 6 Easter - Sunday Readings](#)

[Year A \(weebly.com\)](#)

Children: [May 14 - Sunday 6 Easter](#)

[\(yearaprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)