

Parish of St Monica

Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

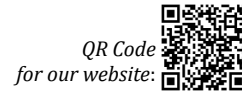
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Parish Priest: Rev Anthony J Doran (Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au)

Assistant Priest: Rev Joseph Nguyen (Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au)

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The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

8th September, 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 recent months, we've become all too familiar with scenes coming out of Gaza and Ukraine: truly heartbreaking for the story of human misery which they tell and which is yet to come. The people of these places know what it is like to be picked up, moved to another place, and deprived of their freedom.

It is to people such as these that this Sunday's **First Reading** is directed. Following the defeat of the Southern Kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians, the people of Judah were carted off to Exile in Babylon. Placed on the lips of the prophet Isaiah, this prophecy was directed to the Exiles. And it tells what the return to the land of Judah will be like. God is coming to save his people. But how does God come?

When God comes, the earth itself is changed. The desert, the homeland of the Judaeans who had been taken into Exile, will be changed: **Water will gush in the desert, streams in the wasteland. The scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.** With the advent of God to save us, the very earth is changed and transformed. The dry desert, so symbolic of the absence of God's generosity and goodness, blooms into life.

But the land is not the only thing that is changed. For when the Lord comes: **The eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy.**

You see, this is what salvation is all about. When the Exiles returned home, they would find their world transformed. But not only their world. People themselves are made whole again. The blind see; the deaf hear. The lame walk; and the mute sing songs of joy. This is what liberation from bondage is all about. Indeed, this is what means to be saved.

And this is what is at the heart of this Sunday's Gospel Reading. The story we read today is, at heart, quite simple. Jesus heals a man who was deaf and unable to speak. But this simple story is more than just a story about healing. It is about being saved. The salvation which comes with the Kingdom of God.

Jesus preached the coming Kingdom in what he said. But Jesus also preached the coming Kingdom by healing all who were sick. And healing from physical ills is one of the hallmarks of the coming Kingdom of God. The Kingdom will not come when there is sickness and death. The coming of the Kingdom of God really is a struggle between the power of God – manifested in the healing ministry of Jesus; and the power of Satan – manifested in sickness and death. When the Kingdom comes, sin and death in all their forms will be overcome. Destroyed. Wiped out. Forever.

And like the man healed in the Gospel Reading, we should not keep quiet about this. The man healed in our reading today **published this good news widely**. We too, should shout about this good news of our salvation. Just as the Exiles were freed from bondage, so too, are we freed from the forces of sin and death when the Kingdom of God is made present. When the Kingdom of God comes, we are freed from the forces of sin and death to the glorious freedom of the children of God. And we should sing and shout about this. We can join with the Psalmist in the Responsorial Psalm and sing: **The Lord will reign for ever, our God, from age to age.**

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.

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	B Healey	M Galियो	R Farfalla	R Gonsalves
10.30 am	S O'Dwyer	A Briggs	S Maurici	T De Fazio
5.30 pm	R Young		M Christian	T Vu

CHURCH LINEN

September — V Pizzichetta

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 2 - Fri 13th September at 2.00pm

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

Rev Desmond Magennis PE
Carmela Di Tizio

Anniversaries

Shirley Doran Gwendoline Besterwitch
Salvatore Triglia

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.

Social Get-Together (Formerly Known as Golden Oldies) The next Parish Social Get-Together will take place on **Thursday 12th September at 11.00am in the Symons Centre**. We will commence with Mass at 11.00am. Mass will be followed by a light lunch—please bring food to share with others; tea and coffee will be provided. **Due to Mass being celebrated at 11.00am, there will be no Mass celebrated at 9.15am on that day.**

School Building Works • Work will commence next week on the refurbishment and extension of the original 1815 school building (closest to Robinson Street). As a result, the yard behind the church will be unavailable for parking for the duration of the project, which is expected to last twelve months.

Priests Retirement Foundation Fathers' Day Collection • Currently, the Foundation looks after 97 retired priests. It currently costs **\$5.635 million per year** to care for these retired priests: to provide accommodation, to cover living costs, to provide health and aged care. Amongst those cared for by the Foundation are our two retired Parish Priests, **Mgr Peter Kenny** and **Fr Tony Feeney**. A number of parishioners have asked for details to be able to contribute to the support of our retired priests which used to take place through the Fathers' Day Collection. Details are as follows:

Name of Account: Priest Retirement Foundation
BSB: 083347
Account Number: 578546990

If you require further information (e.g. receipts), please contact foundation@cam.org.au



**Next Project Circle:
Tuesday 10th September**

Project Circle is a group, a time and a place where you can work on your ongoing project or start something new!

- Time:** 7.00pm to 9.30pm - stay for as little or long as you like
- Place:** St Vincent de Paul Parish Centre behind St Vincent de Paul Church, **Strathmore**. Enter from The Crossway
- Cost:** Gold coins to cover tea/coffee/use of room
- Who:** Anyone wanting to get creative and share experience
- More Info:** Contact Rosa 0412 445 239 or Belinda tompkins.bel@gmail.com

Bring along any easily portable project; it might be sewing, knitting, crochet, painting, embroidery, sketching, designing a photo book, organising, darning or that project you started and haven't finished.



Catholic Theological College

- Upcoming CTC Events**
- Information Session for Educators
 - Information Session for Prospective Students
 - Engaging Your Faith Online Sessions

For more information:
<https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/>
<https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/>

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.



For a synodal Church
 communion | participation | mission

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?



Stewardship Corner

“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?”

James 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

CDF
5.35% p.a. 12-month term investment
5.05% p.a. 6-month term investment

By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a reward greater than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, places of worship for communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable.

It's a way to save while doing good.

Call 1800 134 135 or visit catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer to open an account and for disclosure details, or scan the QR code.

Special Collections 2024	
Lent	Project Compassion
29 th March	Good Friday – Holy Places
5 th May	CatholicCare
2 nd June	SVdP Winter Appeal
16 th June	Propagation of the Faith
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 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B — 8th September, 2024

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10

℟ Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. ℟

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. ℟

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. ℟

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned

yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME (*click below*)

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year B \(weebly.com\)](#)
Children: [September 8 - Sunday 23 Ordinary - PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024 \(yearbprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)