

Titles for Jesus

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- PRINCE
- MESSIAH
- MEDIATOR
- ALPHA
- TRUTH
- TEACHER
- EMMANUEL
- OMEGA
- LIFE
- WAY
- TRINITY
- I AM
- COUNSELOR
- POTTER
- ROCK
- LAMB
- CHRIST
- SAVIOR
- KING

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/243/>



The Monica June 2017

St Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds

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A Pastoral Letter



Greetings from the Editorial Team

In this edition we pay tribute to the dedication of Maria Giardina and the Italian Prayer Group who give their heart and soul to the Church. At our school, year 3 students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, ahead of their first Holy Communion next term. Year 6 students made their Confirmation as fully-fledged members of the Catholic community.

On the editorial front, we welcome new contributors Eleanor Colonico, Lisa Mammola and Nisha Chandy who have joined us to cover topics including World Refugee Day, the Feast of the Ascension, and profiles on St Mark and Our Lady of Fatima.

A special mention to our self-taught publisher wizard Jacqueline Le Grand-Condello who spends hours putting all our words together into an artistic and readable format. Thanks also to our regular contributors, without you, there would be no newsletter. New contributors always welcome.

Happy reading!

Welcome to another edition of 'The Monica' and a special note of 'Thanks!' goes to our editorial team Jacqueline Le Grand-Condello, Joanne Barrett and their team of helpers.

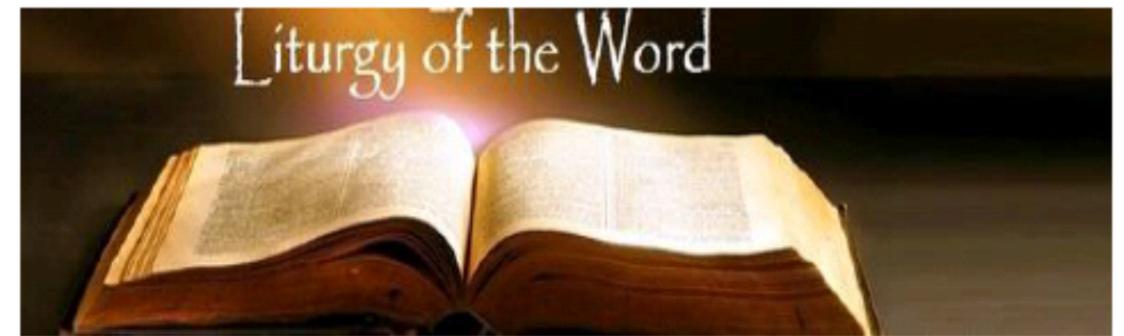
The first week in June Fr. Minh and I were away at a Melbourne Clergy Conference along with 140 other priests, 2 Bishops and our own Archbishop Denis Hart. The theme of the Conference was 'The Parish – Our Mission'. Whilst at the Conference, (which was very good), the Archbishop approached me to tell me that (1) he would be at St. Monica's on Monday 31st of July to celebrate Mass with and for the priests who are, this year, celebrating 50 and 25 years since their of Priestly Ordination - he being one of the 50 years! (2) Whilst the Archbishop was telling me this and inviting myself and any Parishioners who would like to attend the Mass to come along, he informed me that the coldest Church in the Archdiocese was our own St. Monica's!

Ours might well be a cold church but that cannot be said about our Parish and our Parishioners, who are 'hot to trot'! Just look at the support you give each year to the Good Friday Appeal and Project Compassion and the generosity shown each year by our many school children and church goers in support of our St. Vincent de Paul Society 'Winter Appeal' and 'Feast of the Sacred Heart Appeal'! So many helping our Parish of St. Monica's put into direct action the Beatitudes of when I was hungry you fed me, when I was thirsty you gave me something to drink, when naked and cold you helped clothe me. (cf. Matthew's Gospel Chp.5:2-12 and Chp.25:31-40)

May we continue to live and put our faith into action, as we grow in our knowledge and love of the God who loves each one of us with a love beyond telling; a love so graphically made real for us in Jesus his Son who was prepared to die for us, a love that we celebrate and invited to share in at every Mass!

- Fr Tony Feeney

P.S. I did thank Archbishop Hart and the Archdiocese paying for the hydronic heating that has now been installed in the presbytery!



Important Evening for all Lectors/
Proclaimers of the Word-
(or those interested in joining this ministry)

Wednesday 16th August 2017
St. Monica's Liturgy Formation
Workshop
7pm - 9pm

St. Monica's Church
820 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds
Conducted by The Archbishop's Office of
Evangelisation
RSVP by 7th August at Parish Office : 9370 5035
or mooneeponds@cam.org.au

“The quality of the reader's proclamation determines whether his or her service will help or hinder the assembly in its listening and faith response to God's word. This workshop explores liturgical principles and techniques of proclamation to assist those in this ministry.”



Forum for Parishes Strengthening Asylum Seeker and Refugee Support



Tuesday 11 July 2017

9.30am for 10.00am start; concludes at 1.00pm

Recent developments continue to highlight the importance of a response at parish level to the needs of asylum seekers. The Forum aims to share information among parishes and agencies about the needs of asylum seekers and the ways that parishes can support them.

Workshops:

- Starting Parish-based support
- Providing Material and Financial Aid

Guest Speaker:

- Paris Aristotle AM, CEO, Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House)

Watch our [website](#) for further details

Venue: St Monica's Primary School, 20 Robinson Street, Moonee Ponds
 Cost: \$15 (includes Refreshments and Resources) – *please advise of any special dietary requirements*
 Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/QDNB>
 RSVP: 4 July 2017
 Enquiries: Lucia Brick: Tel: 9287 5566; Email: lucia.brick@css.org.au

Parish Profile :

MARIA GIARDINA AND THE ITALIAN PRAYER GROUP - Jo Barrett

Once upon a time a nineteen year old girl followed her newly-married sister from Italy to start a new life in Essendon. Three years later, in 1962, the young woman was married at St Monica's Moonee Ponds and so began a 55 year relationship with the Parish that has grown stronger with every passing year.

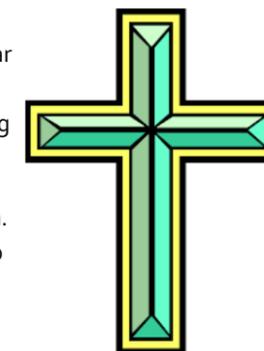
To call Maria Giardina a pillar of St Monica's Italian community is something of an understatement. For 34 years she has guided and supported the Italian Prayer Group in their activities and today that 'little Church within the Church' as Fr Tony fondly refers to it numbers over 60 members and growing.

The Italian Prayer Group meets every Tuesday morning from 10 – 12pm. Maria and friends assist with set up of the Symons Centre and volunteers bring a plate of food to share. Arrival begins with freshly brewed coffee then a song of praise, the gospel in

English followed by an explanation and interpretation in Italian, prayers dedicated for loved ones, the departed and other causes, concluding with a hymn sung in full and robust voice.



I was blessed to attend Italian Prayer group last week and warmly welcomed despite my dismal lack of Italian. After enjoying delicious coffee and biscuits, details were highlighted to me such as the bouquet of home grown blooms provided by one of the ladies from her garden, the hymns translated into Italian and the silk banner rejoicing our Santa Monica. Fr Minh informed me that the group was becoming increasingly popular and attracting members from as far away as Altona which is a testament to the dedication of its founding members, including Maria.



On the first Tuesday of the month the Italian Group celebrates Mass led by Fr Tony or Fr Minh. Prayers and the Gospel are read in Italian and the homily in English. This Mass is in addition to the weekly Italian Mass celebrated every Sunday at 9.15am.

Aside from her enthusiastic participation and support of the Italian groups at St Monica's Parish, Maria also finds time to tend to the floral arrangements at the Church, maintaining the stock of prayer tapers and candles and taking exceptional pride in the laundering and ironing of Church linen. An eyewitness says of Maria's linen folding: "it is PERFECTION! She puts all her love in. It's truly a dying art."



Indeed Maria's linen story goes further – not only does she wash and iron it – (describing her ironing duties as "like a prayer"), Maria also re-purposes donated linen and cotton haberdashery into the altar-ware in daily use at Mass. If you see Fr Tony holding the chalice aloft with a linen cloth, or wiping it clean of wine residue you may be touched to know that many of those cloths have been cut, hemmed and embroidered with a cross by Maria herself. The cotton she says proudly is of the highest quality and made in Italy – much like Maria herself!

The Feast of Ascension - Nisha Chandy

In the Christian faith, the word "ascension" means the bodily departure of Jesus Christ from this earth into a different place and sphere which we call heaven. It is a movement and a change of position which is of the utmost importance both to God and to mankind. Through His Ascension He deified this human nature by taking His Body to heaven and giving it a place of honour at the right hand of the Father. The Ascension of Jesus is one of the accepted doctrines of Christianity and is documented in the Nicene/ Apostle's Creed and also establishing its position as one of the Glorious mystery in the Rosary.

So what happened during Ascension? Acts 1:1-11

On this day, Jesus appeared to His Disciples and gave them His last commandment - to preach the Kingdom of God and the repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations, beginning with Jerusalem. Then He led them out of Jerusalem toward Bethany to the Mount of Olivet. He told them that when they receive the Holy Spirit, they will be filled with power, and they will be witnesses for Him in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. He lifted up His hands and blessed them. As His Disciples were looking on, He was lifted up - or "ascended" - and a cloud took Him out of sight. While they were looking up, two angels in white robes appeared and said to them: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into Heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into Heaven."



In the Bible, a cloud is often the expression of God's power, glory and His Divine presence. We have come across many instances, as in the book of Exodus, where a pillar of cloud guided the Israelites in the desert, and also during the epic encounter of Transfiguration of the Lord in the mountain, during which a bright cloud enveloped Peter, James and John the brother of James and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" During Ascension, the cloud took Him out of sight, which clearly means He is one with God.

The role of the angels plays an important part at this stage. The disciples were still in a trance-like state looking into Heaven probably still in a state of awe and joy or expecting Him to return soon. It is very clear that the angels were calling to the disciples' attention to get along with the next step of fulfilling His mission. The angels' testimony that He was "taken up" into heaven also reveals the fact that Jesus has already reached heaven.

Perhaps the most important perception we can get from the ascension is how it personally transformed His disciples. Up until then, the disciples were puzzled and feared about His departure from them, which He had been talking about all the time before His death and after His resurrection. The ascension, however, brought tremendous joy and hope in them as they now believe Him and know that he is going to His Father for His coronation and the promise of the Holy Spirit is going to be fulfilled.



Speaking of coronation; it is a coronation which nobody has seen but we know that it exists because Jesus said He is going to sit at the right Hand of God. Christ's exalted position is projected in many areas of the Bible. A thousand years before the Saviour's birth, David prophesied the ascension of Jesus when he announced the Lord's enthronement at the Father's right hand (Psa. 110:1). And when, Stephen before being stoned, when he looked up into Heaven and saw Him in His throne (Acts 7:55-56).

St. Monica's Tennis Club Trivia Night— Margaret Mogg

On Saturday 17 June St Monica's tennis club held its annual Trivia Night. One hundred adults and forty children attended and both young and old were well catered for by the wonderful efforts of Meghan Bourke, Bec Sicilia, Loretta Joyce and Cath McNeill.

Talented Journalist/Broadcaster John Harms entertained the crowd as Master of Ceremonies. Not only did he keep the night moving but he impressed those present with his great general and sporting knowledge. The tennis children were not left out with their own set of questions and a Boys v Girls Team.

The main raffle prize of \$500 entertainment at Crown was won by Wendy Bethune. Two bingo game prizes of dining vouchers were won by Sonia McDonald and Margaret Mogg. Table No. 3 captained by Ben Rose were crowned Quiz Champions. Congratulations to our Social Secretary Christian Mooney and his team of helpers who ensured the evening was a great success in every way.



Celebrating Reconciliation - Lisa Mammola

During June (20, 21 and 22), our Year 3 students have shared in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

As children raised in Catholic households, we are all familiar with the concepts of sins and forgiveness. As we prepare for Reconciliation, it is often with great delight that many Christians learn that we can speak directly to God to seek his forgiveness. Unlike prayer, Reconciliation allows a dialogue with a disciple of God (Father Tony or Fr. Minh), to reflect upon and discuss choices that we have made. The aim is to help us better explore and understand our behaviour, so we will continue to grow and be the best we can be! Reconciliation is a uplifting experience and an important step on our spiritual journey.



When asked about her First Reconciliation, Madeline Jansen said...

"It was very calming and peaceful. We got a necklace with a handmade pendant made from a seed and painted with a bird, mountainside, houses and a butterfly from El Salvador (funds used to raise money for medicine for the medical clinic run by the parish of San Antonio Abad to help the poor). The necklace is very beautiful. It was good to have a chat with Fr. Tony."

St. Monica's Reunion Mass— Andrea Medic

On the 18th June at 5.30pm it was my pleasure to celebrate a Reunion Mass of the 2016 Graduated Students from St. Monica's.

The Church and Hall was buzzing with excitement and happy faces throughout the evening. More than 50 previous students and more than 150 family and friends came to celebrate the Eucharist during mass.

Afterwards the Fathers and Mothers manned the BBQs and the kitchen for refreshments in the Symons Centre. Activities for the Past students included: Sharing their experiences since leaving St. Monica's and a fun Trivia game about memories of their time at Primary school.

It was a great opportunity for parents, youth and friends to catch up ; Showing our wonderful community spirit and unity.

A big thank you to the Class Captains and their parents for making this a successful evening.

Fr Minh



Earlier, Jesus had spoken about His ascension and how He is going back to His home to prepare a place for us in heaven (John14:1-4). He instilled upon His disciples a sense of mercy and hope. The ascension therefore completes His earthly mission beginning with the incarnation, teachings and salvation through the death on the cross, and the resurrection. He is going back to His heavenly throne to be glorified and end His earthly humiliation. The Feast of Ascension is therefore a spectacular event in every Christian life as this is the Day our King completed His Mission on earth as the Saviour and regained His glory in Heaven giving His last commandment to His disciples with the promise of His presence through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Above all, Jesus said to His disciples "Love one another as I have loved you. By this all men will know that you are my disciples." (John 13:34)

Reflection: As Christians we all have received the power of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, a powerful grace that was first given to His disciples and Mother Mary 2000 years back at Pentecost. By bearing witness doesn't mean we ought to be a professional preacher. Using this wonderful grace, all of us can spread the Good News by simple gestures even from home. Become a preacher at home, educating our children by engaging them in daily family prayer, taking them to Church every Sunday. Also steps that include in building the Church, sharing the Good News through article writing and engaging in Church activities, volunteering and forming a good and peaceful Catholic Community are just a few ways how we can achieve this.

Saint Profile: St Mark - Eleanor Colonico

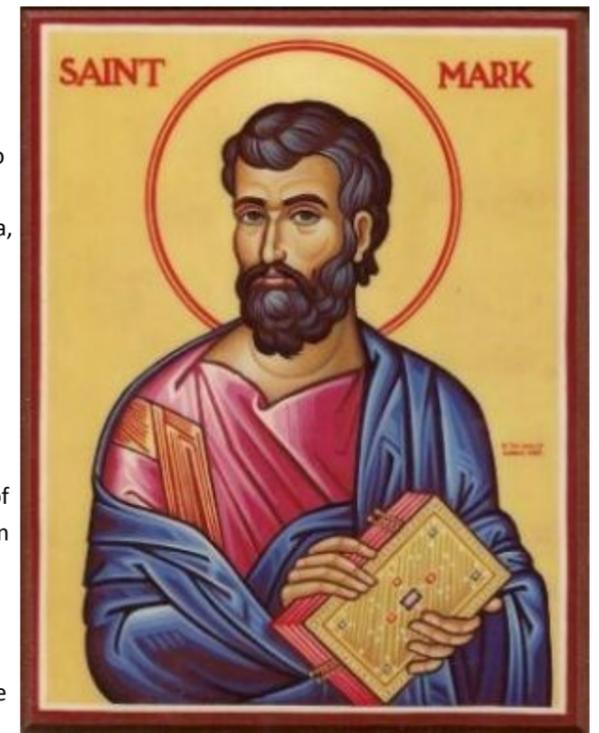
These days we take for granted how easy it is to communicate the word of God across borders using modern technology, but imagine how difficult it would have been back when Jesus Christ was born. That is why we must thank and reflect on the work of early Christians that authored the Gospels which are still so important for us today, as well as those who travelled to new lands to spread the word of Christianity.

St Mark the Evangelist was one of these authors and missionaries. Born in the Pentapolis or Qairawan (now Libya) around 15 years after Jesus Christ was born, St Mark was the author of the earliest Gospel, which was written in Greek. It is thought that that St. Mark was one of the attendants who served at the feast in Cana of Galilee at which Jesus Christ turned the water into wine.

In his Gospel, Mark wrote, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15) and that is certainly what he did. When he was young, Mark went with Saints Paul and Barnabas as missionaries to Cyprus. Mark also became a beloved disciple and was like a son to St. Peter, the first pope. St. Mark was made a bishop and sent to Alexandria, Egypt in approximately 48 AD and is credited as being the founder of Christianity in Egypt. Many people heard him preach and he founded the first famous Christian school in Alexandria.

He was martyred in 68 AD when pagans of Serapis (the Serapion-Abbis Greek Egyptian god) tied him to a horse's tail and dragged him through the streets of Alexandria's district of Bokalia for two days. The Church celebrates his martyrdom on the 8th of May each year.

His head is in a church named after him in Alexandria, and parts of his relics are in St. Mark's Cairo's Cathedral. The rest of his relics are in the San Marco Cathedral in Venice, Italy. He is the patron Saint of that famous city.



Parish Office : Update Three

8/6/2017

At St. Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds much work has been and continues to be done to make our community more aware and a safer place for our children.

Please visit our new website at www.stmonicasparish.com.au. Under Parish Life we have recently updated Parish and Child Safety policies: St. Monica's Parish Child Protection— Reporting Obligations Policy and our Code of Conduct and Parish Privacy Statement . There is also information on how to apply for a Working with Children Check and Police Check. St. Monica's Church Policies and Procedures are continually being reviewed to comply with Victorian Child Safety Standards and Archdiocese Guidelines.

The 7 Victorian Child Safe Standards

Here at St. Monica's we are striving to create and maintain a child safe organisation. We are compliant with Seven Victorian Child Safe Standards by having:

1. strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements (Child Safety on Agenda and having action outcomes at Leadership Team Meetings)
2. a child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety (Using the Archdiocese's Commitment Policy and Child Safe Policy with St. Monica's own one being worked on currently)
3. a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children (on our Website and in the Church Foyer)
4. screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel (Ongoing and continually improving)
5. processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse (St. Monica's Reporting Policy Documents and CAM Policies on our Website)
6. strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse (A risk register set up by Parish Council)
7. strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.(Free NAPCAN leaflets at back of church on empowerment of children, Church leaders soon to attend training in this area)

In complying with the child safe standards an organisation must include the following principles as part of each standard:

- promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- ♦ promoting the safety of children with a disability.



Any questions or concerns please contact Sonya Bading: St. Monica's Parish Child Safety Officer on 9370 5035 or at mooneeponds@cam.org.au

Sixth and last apparition of Our Lady (Miracle of the Sun)

On October 13, 1917, 70,000 people came to the Cova to witness the miracle that the Lady had promised. It was a rainy day. But Lucia asked the people to close their umbrellas. The rain stopped. The Lady appeared to the children. Suddenly, the clouds left the sky and the sun came out. The crowds saw it spinning and shooting out flames like a fireworks display. One by one the sun took on all the colours of the rainbow. This happened three times and the scene lasted for ten minutes. Then the sun seemed to fall from the sky toward the earth. The people fell to their knees. Many thought it was the end of the world. They wept and asked forgiveness for their sins. Suddenly the sun stopped its fall and returned to its normal colour and its usual place in the sky. Many sick persons were cured during this Miracle.

While the sun had been spinning and changing colours, only Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta had seen our Lady appear as Our Lady of the Rosary, with St. Joseph beside her holding the Child Jesus. Then Jesus alone appeared and blessed the crowd. She also appeared as Our Lady of Sorrows and then dressed as Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Mary told the children what she wanted: She asked that people pray the Rosary and change their lives. They should ask forgiveness for sins. She also asked that a chapel be built at the Cova da Iria.

Mother Mary continued to appear to Sr. Lucia many times, these particular instances stand out.

1. Request for the 1st Saturday devotion – December 10th 1925. The Holy Virgin showed her a Heart surrounded by thorns which ungrateful men pierce at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Those in need of the graces should:
 - for five months, on the first Saturday, confess,
 - receive Holy Communion,
 - recite the Holy Rosary
 - and keep the Holy Virgin company for 15 minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, in a spirit of reparation,

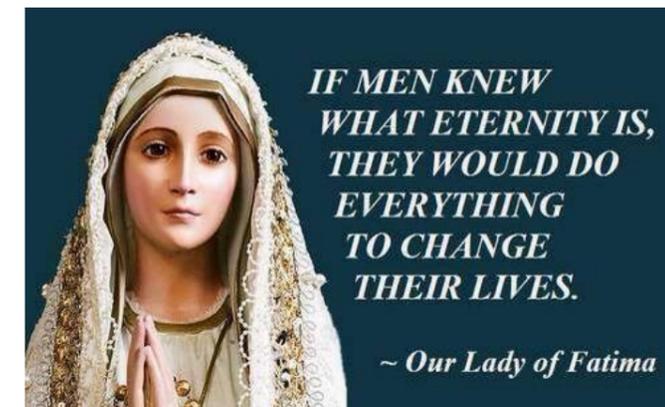
She promised to assist them at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls

2. Request for the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary – June 1929

Reflection:

Our Lady came to Fatima as a loving mother. She wants us to be truly happy and reminds us that this can only happen when we live as Jesus taught us. She showed the visions which speaks of dangers and how we might be saved from them. This, as she repeatedly urges can only be achieved by great devotion to prayer. As we mark 100 years of the Lady of Fatima (The Lady with the Rosary), let's all unite and pray daily with great devotion the powerful weapon of prayer, the Holy Rosary, for the salvation of all the poor sinners and the whole world.

“Before Jacinta died, she revealed a remarkable statement made by Our Lady : that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; and to venerate the Heart of Jesus together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary”



Our Lady of Fatima—Nisha Chandy

Our Lady of Fatima is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in connection with her apparitions to three shepherd children in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal. Our Lady continued to appear once a month for 6 months to the three children, ten-year-old Lucia dos Santos, and her cousins, nine-year-old Francisco and seven-year-old Jacinta Marto.

Before the six apparitions of our Lady of Fatima, the children had encountered three apparitions of an Angel who prepared the little children to become messengers of the Mother of God.

Apparitions of the Angel (1916):

The apparitions of the Angel appeared three times to the children in spring, summer and in autumn of 1916. During the apparitions, the Angel of peace demonstrated to the three children the attentive and composed manner in which we should pray, and the reverence we should show toward God in prayer. In the second visit, the Angel reveals himself as the Angel of Portugal and motivates the children to continue praying and to offer as a sacrifice their suffering to the Lord. In the third and final apparition, the Angel gave them Holy Communion and offered the Host and Chalice which depicts the Body and Blood of Christ.

Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima (1917):

On May 13, 1917, the three children were watching their sheep in a valley called the Cova da Iria, near the town of Fatima, in Portugal. A flash of lightning suddenly startled them. The children thought a storm was coming, so they quickly began herding their sheep toward home. A second flash made them look around. They saw a beautiful young woman standing above a small oak tree. "Don't be afraid," she called reassuringly. "Come closer." The woman wore a robe and mantle of white, with gold trim. Her hands, joined in prayer, were holding a rosary. She shone with a light that was brighter than the sun. Lucia asked the woman, "Who are you? What do you want?" She answered, "I am from heaven. Come here on the thirteenth of each month for five months. On October 13, I will give a sign that will make everyone believe." Our Lady said, "Pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world and for the end of the war!" She also told them that they will suffer much, but will eventually reach Heaven.

The Lady kept her promise and appeared to the children on June 13 urging them every time to pray the Rosary and to pray for peace. She also said that Jacinta and Francisco will go to Heaven sooner, but Lucia is to stay a while longer.

During the third apparition on July 13, the Lady provided a secret in three parts to the children. The first part of the secret, the Lady showed them the vision of Hell, where all the poor souls were shrieking and groaning in pain and despair in a great sea of fire. Again urging the importance to pray the Rosary daily, the Lady told them to add the following prayer at the end of each decade of the Rosary, "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have the most need of Thy mercy." This is also called the Fatima Prayer. The second secret showed a prediction of the end of WWI and a prediction of the beginning of WWII as well as a request to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The third secret, which was revealed much later, is a vision of the Pope, along with other bishops, priests, religious and lay people, being killed by soldiers.

The mayor of the nearby town of Ourem didn't like this story of a heavenly Lady appearing to children. On the morning of August 13, he offered Lucia and her cousins a ride to the Cova, where they were supposed to meet the Lady again. But once he had them in his car, he brought them to the police station instead, and kept them in custody for two days. But the Lady simply appeared to the children several days later!

Likewise the Lady appeared on September 13, urging to continue praying faithfully. The crowd witnessed white rose petals falling from the sky and disappearing. Lucia also asked the Lady about requests they received for cure of the sick persons. The Lady said she will cure some, but not all and will perform a miracle in October. She also said that our Lord will also come, as well as Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Saint Joseph with the Child Jesus, to bless the world!

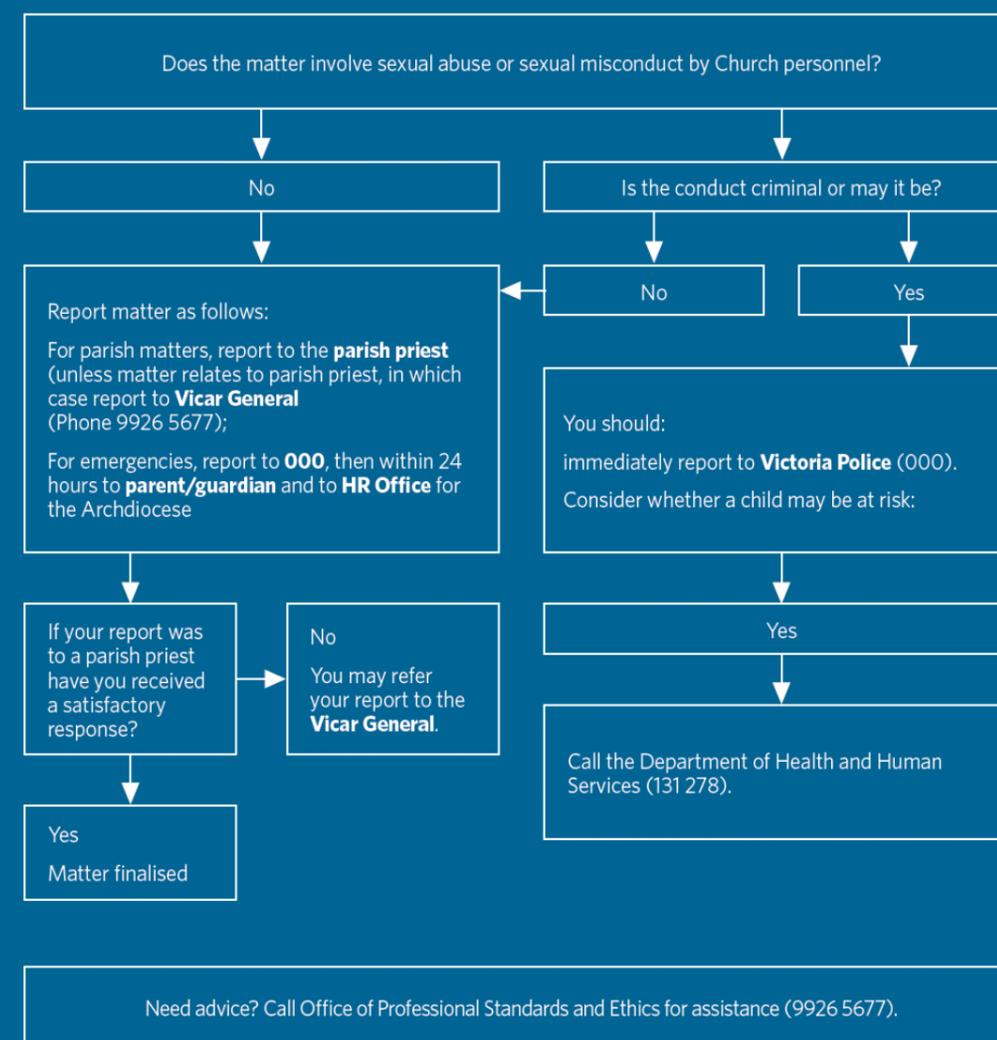


May our children flourish

ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN OUR CARE



If you **see something** that concerns you, **say something**



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

* "May our children flourish - Code of Conduct for Caring for Children" is available from the Parish Office or www.cam.org.au.

St Monica's Bereavement Support Group— Jo Barrett

Grief touches us all in profound ways. When we see someone hurting through the loss of a loved-one it touches us deeply. Often we want to reach out and help but we have no idea how. We may find it difficult to find the right words to give comfort but nevertheless we strive to ease the burden of loss.

This is the common element uniting the parishioners who offer their time and talents to the St Monica's Bereavement Group. Volunteers frequently say that they gain far more from their experience than they provide. The men and women who make up the Bereavement Group come from all walks of life; there are psychologists, police officers, editors, accountants, business owners, musicians, intensive care and neonatal nurses, school teachers and those who have lost their own loved ones.

The group is testament to the adage of strength in numbers; each member in their own way demonstrates to those that are grieving that our community that we acknowledge their grief and that we truly care.

Compassion is one of the central tenets of our Catholic faith. In the 12th Century St Bernard said that we should look to Christ to teach us compassion because he willed His passion so that we should learn compassion. And in the words of our Pope Francis: 'this capacity of empathy enables a true human dialogue in which words, ideas and questions arise from an experience of shared fraternity and shared humanity'.

The most recent Bereavement Mass took place on Wednesday 17 May. Despite the cold weather, Mass was well-attended. Once again the team from 'Music for Funerals' volunteered their time to ensure a feeling of reflection and reverence for the bereaved. The Bereavement Group did an excellent job participating in all aspects of the service and in preparing and serving supper in the Symons Centre.

If you would like to volunteer with the Bereavement Group please contact Kelly Maltman on 0439 949 244. New participants are warmly welcomed.



Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation— Lisa Mammola

Confirmation is a special occasion for all Catholics. On Friday, May 12, we at St Monica's celebrated Confirmation with our Year 6 students and a number of individuals from the wider Parish Community.

Confirmation is an opportunity for young individuals to stand proudly and say, I am a child of God and I want to be a member of this Christian Community. I want to confirm and strengthen my faith and my soul for the years and the journey ahead.

We hope all the St Monica's parishioners who recently made this sacrament, thoroughly enjoyed their special day!

Our sincere thanks to Bishop Terry, Fr Tony, Fr Minh, Gaye and Mary (our Religious Education Leaders), the St Monica's Staff and all the families and community present to ensure this was a truly, joyous occasion.



"On Friday the 12th May I made my Confirmation. It was a pretty cold night and there were a lot of people in the Church. Bishop Terry Curtin was there and he was really nice. I was feeling nervous but he made me feel calm. My sponsor was my Aunt Lorelle. I chose her because she always supports me and I know she will continue this through my life. We were well prepared by our teachers and we had learnt a lot about Confirmation at school. Afterwards we went home and had a celebration with lots of my family."



Thank you, Millicent Christian



World Refugee Day — Eleanor Colonico



World Refugee Day recognises the contribution of refugees

What is a refugee?

Every minute, twenty-four people across the globe leave everything in their country behind to escape war, persecution or terror. There are now 21.3 million refugees worldwide.

A refugee is someone who fled his or her home and country owing to a "well founded fear of persecution because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." Many refugees are also in exile to escape the effects of natural or human-made disasters.

The United Nations has been championing the rights of refugees ever since the 1951 Refugee Convention was signed by member nations.

World Refugee Day

Every year World Refugee Day is held on June 20, to draw international attention to the plight of refugees and the important contribution they have made to their host countries.

This year, the UN Refugee Agency will launch its #With Refugees petition on June 20 to "send a message to governments that they must work together and do their fair share for refugees."

The #With Refugees petition will be delivered to UN headquarters in New York ahead of the UN High Level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants, scheduled for September 19.

You can sign the petition or donate to the UNHCR at the following website address: <http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/>

Refugee Week in Australia

Since Federation, Australia has welcomed more than 800,000 refugees.

Refugee Week in Australia is held from Sunday June 18 to Saturday June 24, coinciding with Refugee Day on June 20. The theme of the week was "With courage let us all combine" and many events were held in Melbourne and across Australia.

Events can be found here: <http://www.refugeeweek.org.au/events>