



THE MONICA

MARCH 2016

ST MONICA'S PARISH MOONEE PONDS

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Greetings from the Editorial Team



This Easter we welcome some new volunteers to the editing team. They are: Andrea Medic, with daughter Chloe in Yr. 3 at St Monica's and son Cameron in Foundation K. Loan Tran, with son Ethan in Foundation T, Mikhaela Delahunty, with daughter Ruby, Foundation T and new parishioner Steve Gentikoglou.

Wishing everyone in St Monica's Parish a happy and holy Easter enjoyed with family and friends.

Fr Tony, Joanne Barrett & Jacqueline Le Grand-Condello

ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
 820 MOUNT ALEXANDER ROAD, MOONEE PONDS

EASTER CEREMONIES 2016

HOLY THURSDAY - 24TH MARCH
 Mass at 7:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY - 25TH MARCH
 Solemn Ceremonies at 3pm

EASTER SATURDAY - 26TH MARCH
 Easter Vigil Ceremonies with Mass at 7:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY - 27TH MARCH
 Masses at 8am, 9am (Italian), 10:30am

After Easter (from Monday 28th March to Friday 1st April)
 the 7am and 9.15am Mass will be replaced by a single 8am Mass.
 Mass Times will resume as normal on Saturday 2nd April.

A Pastoral Letter



Easter is a truly important time for Christians because it is when we remember that although Jesus died, he rose from the dead and is present in our lives today.

The beautiful mystery of Easter is the final act of God expressing his love for us and Jesus establishing the pattern of eternal life through his suffering and dying on the cross. But it is also a time to remember that because we belong to him we have a responsibility to spread the message of his love, not just by talking but by our actions.

And so, we have to keep in mind all those people who need our help, it might be someone in our personal life: a neighbor or a family member who is struggling at the moment.

This Easter my mind is filled with thoughts of the thousands of people in our world today who are homeless as they flee from war and from persecution, seeking refuge and the opportunity for a new life; seeking a future and peace for

themselves and their children.

Here let us also not forget the men, women and children stranded on Nauru and Manus Island facing a future of not being accepted into our own country as refugees – no future, no peace for them and their children!

The Easter message is not just about happy time, not just about Easter eggs and holidays, it is about remembering the God who humbled himself to share in our life, and was humbler yet to accepting death on a cross, so that we might know how much we are loved and that, knowing this truth, our hearts would be open to loving others, especially the unloved, as much as the Lord loves us.

On behalf of Fr Minh, myself and all in the Parish Office I extend a Happy Peace-filled Easter to one and to all.

- Fr. Tony Feeney

St Monica's Parish Profile:

Lesley-Ann Wilson



In her own words, our wonderful and very busy Parish Secretary Lesley-Ann, shares some insights into this most important role and unravels some of the mysteries of the Parish Office.

My role in the Parish Office

This chat with *the Monica*, marks my first year as Parish Secretary, and it's been an amazing year with a sharp learning curve and a need to tap into many of my computing and project management skills.

What has struck me as the most significant part of the role is simply the energy I observe, seeing the work which is done by volunteers... from the simplest of acts to the constant support of those who step up time and time again - these people are the legs on the altar table so to speak and without them I cannot imagine where the parish would be, it's really wonderful to bear witness too.

In my own role I have simply tried to do an honest and meaningful days work each and every day and to try and make it count towards incremental improvements which over time will hopefully bring benefit to St Monica's Parish.

The role of the Parish Secretary is in many ways a complex one, far busier than most would be aware. It is also a role that is in another sense so simple in its purpose – "to see all people as equal before God and to see the face of God in all".

I am acutely aware that any material objects I put in place such as new systems, a new folder or computer here or there, or fresh paint on the walls will fall by the wayside in comparison to how my motivation to do the best by each parishioner who approaches me regardless of age, status or temperament, will probably be the more lasting legacy that will be remembered during my time in the role of Parish Secretary.

My Previous Work

When asked if I was ever a Parish Secretary before, the answer to that is definitely no! I began my working life with a large IT company, as a trainee and went on to become their manager of Contracts Administration, I spent a lot of time travelling with my role, reviewing agency agreements with software companies. The software was called MIMS, an information management system used a lot in mining and utility companies around the globe.

I was with the company for over 15 years until my husband and I moved to Ireland, (he is Irish and I am an Irish Citizen) and I was appointed into a Govt role in Human Resources with *An Bord Iascaigh Mhara* (The Irish Sea Fisheries Board) in Dun Laoghaire in Dublin, I still maintain many great friendships from my time with BIM, and there was great 'craic' as the Irish would say, on many a day at work.

I still enjoy that 'craic' often times in the Parish House. Fr Minh and Fr Tony are certainly never short of a smile or a laugh that serves to alleviate the intensity that can develop when managing such a diverse tapestry of life events throughout the day.

I admire their ability to be wholly present for the gamut of emotions experienced by the people they meet, from baptismal arrangements to a funeral and all in between, yet their inner calm and strength shines through and brings warmth to each of those also in their presence.

The duties undertaken by the staff of the Parish Office

The Parish Office is most often the first point of contact for people wishing to celebrate a Baptism or Marriage in St Monica's and as a Parish we do conduct a large number of Baptisms and Weddings it is a real juggling act with all the other priorities of each week. I also look after funerals bookings, indeed any church and Symons Centre bookings, plus administering the weekly bulletin for the weekend masses, which has many elements within it; also the rosters for Reader and Eucharist, the housekeeping role of blocking out calendar dates going forward to create new baptism schedules and preparation nights.

On a daily basis I have varying levels of interaction with volunteer groups to help sustain their own work in the parish community. In the midst of this I am also managing the transition of the Parish Office into a current technology environment and documenting all work processes online to help the Parish House with its own work practices and data archiving going forward.

Yet even on the busiest of days I go back to my other home, to my lovely husband Jim and two daughters Holly and Clare and thank the Lord for another day given that hopefully I made count as best I could.

And we, the parishioners of St Monica's, thank Lesley-Ann and supporting staff for their dedication and hard work in assisting Fr Tony and Fr Minh, and also the many volunteers who come together with the assistance of the Parish Office to enhance the St Monica's community



A Warm Welcome to Deacon Justin Glyn

St Monica's Parish is currently hosting Jesuit Deacon Justin Glyn SJ.

Justin's story is truly inspirational. He hasn't let significant physical challenges impede a distinguished career in law and his journey to God is shaped partly by a childhood in the shadow of apartheid. Here is his story.

I was born in Windhoek (in what is now Namibia, on the South West coast of Africa) and grew up in South Africa - living in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. My family, while very close and loving, has a very diverse range of faith expressions, from devout Catholic to equally devout Anglican (my aunt is an Anglican priest) to agnostic to atheist. My father is an engineer and my mother a psychologist. I have two younger sisters: one is a surgeon at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne while the other is studying a doctorate in clinical psychology in Auckland.

Growing up in a society stained by apartheid (racial discrimination built into the law) as well as having experienced discrimination myself as a result of my blindness made me sensitive to the needs of people who are marginalised for whatever reason. They also gave me an awareness of the moral choices which lie behind the laws organising society. It is therefore no surprise that I felt called to two possible vocations when I left school - law and the priesthood. Wisely, I was warned by an older priest that I should come back to religious life when I had a bit more experience of the world. I practised law in South Africa and, after our family moved to New Zealand, in that country as well. I also discovered choral music and have sung in choirs for most of my life (including at Nelson Mandela's inauguration as South Africa's first democratically elected president).

After having worked as a lawyer in South Africa and New Zealand and done a doctorate (focussing on international law and the rights of refugees), I felt drawn to reopen the question of the priesthood. Jesuit spirituality, with its understanding that God is in all things, drew me very strongly and I explored the closest branch of the Jesuits I could find (Australia). There I felt right at home and joined in 2009.

As a novice, especially in the 30 day silent retreat doing St Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises*, I came to discover a much more personal and less intellectual relationship with God, while still keeping my strong interests in the law and in the needs of the most marginalised. After finishing the novitiate, I studied theology and philosophy in Melbourne before doing a year's regency (pastoral work) with asylum seekers with Jesuit Refugee Service in Sydney. I am now finishing

off my theology before being ordained a priest in Auckland in August.

I am loving my time at Moonee Ponds. The community is very diverse and the people (especially the school and parish priests and staff) have been wonderfully welcoming. I hope that you enjoy having me here half as much as I enjoy being here. Thank you so much for having me!

[We wish Deacon Justin all the very best as he continues his studies in preparation for Ordination. May God bless him.](#)



Deacon Justin
Glyn SJ



The true meaning of Easter : Deacon Justin

We are coming up to Easter and the Easter eggs and hot cross buns have been out in force for several months already. We call ourselves "an Easter people". Easter is obviously something important to us, but what is it all about?

But everyone knows that! It's about the dying and rising of Christ. True, but what does that mean to us? How does a 2,000 year old death and miraculous resurrection in the Middle East – that hotbed of both civilisation and conflict – translate for us, today?

When we say that Jesus is both God and human and died for us, we are not simply reciting ancient formulae. Still less are we claiming that God somehow demanded that he die for the life of others. Our God is not a bloodthirsty tyrant who demands the bloody sacrifice of his son to turn his anger away.

Instead, we are talking about a God who walks with us. So much so that God not only became one of us but also lives in each one of us. We find statements about God's solidarity with us and sharing our lives in Christ all through the New Testament: "For as much as you did (good things) to the least of these, you did it to me," (Matt 25:40) or Christ's question to Saul on the road to Damascus, "Why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9:4).

Easter is therefore about the way Christ continues to suffer and die at our hands – in Syria, Afghanistan or Libya, through the actions of governments or private citizens, in shootings in the United States or in Australia's offshore and onshore refugee detention centres. The Cross is shorthand for all of this.

But this is not the end. It is also about the way in which God continually brings life and resurrection out of suffering and turns the worst of our nature into good. "Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life" is, as we say in the Mass, a great mystery of our faith. It is the story of the empty tomb and the joy which comes as a result.

We are not left to our own devices. In dying and rising so long ago in Jerusalem, Jesus has entered all of our stories and connected them to his. Easter is here, it is now, it is all around us and its promise is for all of us.



ST. MONICA'S TENNIS CLUB COMMITTEE.

The Committee welcomed back the Members to the first Meeting of 2016 all refreshed after the holidays. There is always lots of work, planning and time going into organizing the Teams and Maintenance of the Courts.

Megan Bourke and Loretta Joyce do a marvellous job selecting the junior teams, which can be very trying.

Rob Chapman looks after and manages 12 night teams, where seniors enjoy competition teams in the NSNTA.

Jerry Cresp runs the Senior Club Championships, while Christian Mooney is our legal advisor.

Margaret Mogg and Liz Bergin are delegates for the Mid Week Ladies

Thursday Competition where we have 4 teams playing each week. Russell Mogg runs our only Social Fund raising Event for the year, the Trivia Night.

Mark Stephens and Peter Stevens do a wonderful job on restoration of the Courts over the Summer with many of the Members assisting. The Club House was also given a spic and span clean to make sure it was all ok to start the Season.

The Executive Committee, President Peter Clarke, Secretary Kath McNeill, Treasurer Bec Sicilia are kept very busy with Administration duties.

The Committee wishes all Members a happy and successful Season.

St Monica's Tennis Club



The Committee
Left to right Back Row J. Cresp. P. Clarke
(President) R. Chapman M. Stephens P.
Stevens. R. Mogg.
Front Row. B. Sicilia (Treasurer) L.



On Dec. 8, 2015, the Holy Doors in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome swing open for the first time in 15 years.



From that day until Nov. 20, 2016, the Church invites us to encounter God's grace during an extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. We invite you to make your own mark of change.

THE MERCY PLEDGE BOX IS LOCATED HERE IN ST MONICA'S AT THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHAPEL TO THE LEFT OF THE ALTAR

MY PERSONAL PLEDGE

WORKS OF MERCY

On this day _____ the ____ of _____ 2016

I pledge to be more "Merciful like the Father". I shall do the following work of Mercy
"As God is my witness"

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Amen



St Monica's Pastoral Council

After seeking expressions of interest, and the holding of a consultative meeting, a formation meeting of our new Pastoral Council was held on Saturday 30 January. Sr Bernadette Keating, a Presentation nun, facilitated the session.

The members of the council are: Fr Tony, Fr Minh, Peter Moore, Franco Priscoglio, Joe Cerritelli, Kimberley Morgan, Mark Ripper, Philip Lane, Therese Wilson and Pauline Duggan.

A mission statement for our parish was created with input from all the members of the council: "St Monica's Parish is a Eucharistic Community of hope and love, formed by the Word to reach out and welcome all."

A number of initiatives were identified and prioritized, including obtaining a demographic profile of our parishioners, increasing the involvement of secondary students in the parish, increasing the profile of parish groups, and designing an organizational chart of parish groups. We also discussed future goals, such as parish working bees, improvements to the church facilities and gardens, welcome to mass initiatives, and the development of a calendar of social events for the parish.

A beautiful 3 course lunch was prepared by members of the Italian community and was a highlight of the day. We were very appreciative of the support of the Italian community towards the Parish Council.

The formation meeting was followed up with the first general meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 23 February, where the commissioning of the members of the parish council was discussed and Kimberley was elected chair of the council. The council will meet monthly going forward and welcome ideas and suggestions of goals and actions for our parish.

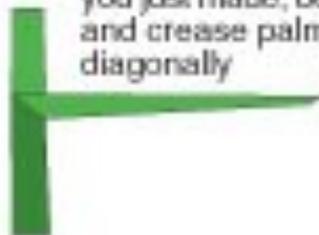


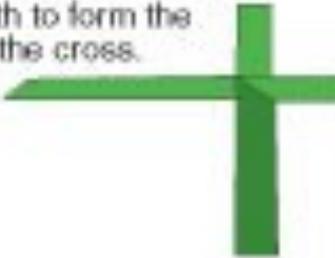
How to make a palm cross

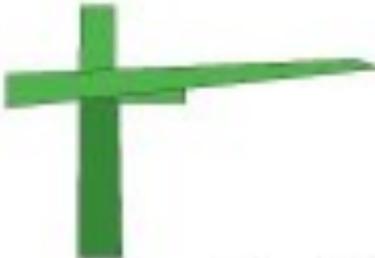
- 1** Take a palm that is about 2 feet long and 1/2" wide (if it tapers at the top, this is good). Hold the palm upright, so the tapered end points toward the ceiling.


- 2** Then bend the top end down and toward you


- 3** About a third of the way from the bend you just made, bend and crease palm diagonally

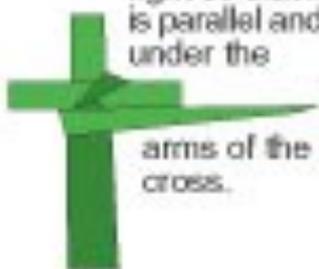

- 4** About an inch away from the stem of the cross, bend the palm back behind the stem so that it is now facing to your left. Make the bend at a good length to form the right arm of the cross.

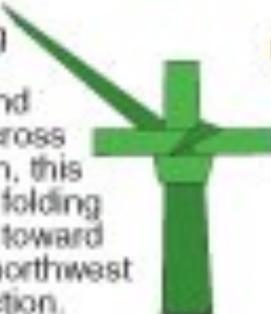

- 5** Fold that same section at a point that equals the length on the right side, bend it on the left side and bring the end forward.


- 6** From the center of the cross, fold to the upper right so that it can wrap around where the "stem" and the right arm intersect.


- 7** Fold down and to the left behind the cross ...


- 8** and then fold it toward the right so that it is parallel and under the arms of the cross.


- 9** Bring it up behind the cross again, this time folding it up toward the northwest direction.


- 10** Tuck in the end to finish


- 11** Turn over!



Easter



EASTER WORD SEARCH

S U E X I W R K Y B C
 I A C I D B X V U R S
 B D V E J K T N O R E
 J N P I B V N S E T G
 M E J H O Y S W E Q L
 R Y M E V R O K V X S
 N G C D I L S T N A U
 C C L S F A E G G S S
 I S E H B J A U D W E
 D N V Y Y A D N U S J
 D O S W T T O M B X S

RISEN
 CROSS
 TOMB
 JESUS
 SUNDAY
 FLOWERS
 EGGS
 BASKET

EASTER EGG BIKKIES

Ingredients

- 200g white chocolate melts
- 25 milk arrowroot biscuits
- Coloured sprinkles, to decorate

Method

Step 1

Place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water (make sure the bowl doesn't touch the water). Use a metal spoon to stir for 5 minutes or until the chocolate melts and is smooth.

Step 2

Use a small palette knife or butter knife to spread chocolate over 1 biscuit. Transfer to a wire rack. Carefully sprinkle 1 colour of sprinkles across the centre of the biscuit to form a wide stripe. Carefully sprinkle 2 other colours over either end of the biscuit to form 2 more stripes. Repeat with the remaining chocolate, biscuits and coloured sprinkles (if the remaining chocolate starts to set, repeat step 1). Set aside for 20 minutes or until the chocolate is completely set.

<http://www.taste.com.au>



alleluia!
Christ has Risen!