

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)

Seminarian: Mr Andrew Tran

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Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

5th May, 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,

Even if you have not listened particularly carefully to the readings which have just been proclaimed, you should still be able to pick up that **love** features very heavily in these readings. Nine times it is mentioned in the Gospel, and nine times in the second reading.

Central to this treatise on **love** are the words of Jesus in the Gospel: **Love one another as I have loved you**. Like some of the scriptural readings we have heard during this season of Easter, it sounds like an unreal and impossible request. First it was the early Christian living in harmony and sharing all that they had in common. Now, we must love others as Jesus has loved us. But we ask the question, **How do I do this? I don't even like some people, how on earth am I meant to love them?** Jesus never asks us to do something without showing us the way to do it. How does he show us the way?

The Second Reading today reminds us that God is love. So, to go about loving as Jesus did, we must remember, first and foremost, that God is the source of love. Next, we are called to keep the commandments. Now, is this keeping a set of laws, or living by the rule of the Gospel? No, the commandment of the Gospel is the commandment to love. And if it is still unclear, Jesus gives one more example: **you can have no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends**. More of this unreal Easter stuff? Sounds like it, doesn't it? Until we remember that Jesus did exactly that – gave up his life for those he loved – his friends. And that is what **we now are** precisely because Jesus did lay down his life for us. His friends. Friendship implies equality. Through his death and resurrection, we are brought into a new relationship with Jesus. As friends. We are no longer servants.

This relationship of friends, however, carries with it an obligation. Because we are now friends of the Master – because we know **his** business – we have a mission. And our mission – should we choose to accept it – is to go and bear fruit – to pass the Good News of Salvation on to others. For to claim the name **Christian**, is to be a missionary. To proclaim this good news of salvation to others.

I don't know whether any of you have seen the slogan **WWJD**. I think it comes from some of the Protestant Pentecostal-type Churches in America, and can be found on jewellery, on bookmarks, coffee mugs, probably even on boxer shorts. **WWJD** stands for **What Would Jesus Do**. I suppose the idea behind this slogan is a good one: by having the letters **WWJD** in front of our eyes all the time, it is a reminder of being a Christian. But I think people who have **WWJD** jewellery, coffee mugs etc have missed the point. In some senses, it is no good asking what would Jesus do. Because Jesus is not here. We are. In this season of Easter, we are reminded of our Baptism. We are baptised into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. **We** are called to be the Christ in the world today. So, it is no good asking **What Would Jesus Do?** We know what he did. The question is **what will we do?** And Jesus has given us the answer: **love one another as I have loved you**.

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.

ROSTER FOR NEXT SUNDAY 12th May 2024 — The Ascension of the Lord, Year B

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	S Letcher	M Giardina	M Ballato	A Savino
10.30 am	S O'Dwyer	L Connors	J Morello	S Maurici
5.30 pm	J Fernando		D Fernando	J Fernando

CHURCH LINEN
May— Sr Loretta Bani RSC

CHURCH VACCUMING
TEAM 2 - Friday 10th May at 2.00pm

Please remember in your prayers...

Recently Deceased

June Sullivan Valentino M. Adami

Anniversaries

Pietro Chiera Sebastiano Angelico
Phyllis Perry Elizabeth Lavars
Carmen Interlandi Maria Lazzara

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.



Easter Offerings • Easter Offering envelopes are available in the church. Easter Offerings make an important contribution to the stipend of the priests of the Parish and in meeting normal household expenses. They also contribute to the support of sick and retired priests, and to support priests in needy parishes.

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.



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



Catholic Theological College
Sign up for one of 9 online sessions.

Engaging Your Faith
May 2024

Theology, Scripture, Meditation, Spirituality, Science & Faith.

Choose what interests you from \$25 per session.

For more information and to register:
ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

Visiting Choir: Chorus Ecclesiae • Next Sunday, we will have a visiting choir *Chorus Ecclesiae* at the 10.30am Mass, singing some choral music and chant. More details can be found at www.chorusecclesiae.org.au

First Sunday of the Month—Cuppa • This Sunday, being the First Sunday of the month, there will be cuppa after both 8.30am & 10.30am Mass. All are welcome to come and spend some time with your fellow parishioners.

Assist A Student - An education program which assists in breaking the cycle of poverty by the St Vincent De Paul Society ☒ The Annual Appeal to assist students in third world countries is here again! \$100 assists a student to cover educational costs for one year. This is a wonderful way to give a Christmas gift to somebody you do not know. Your donation can be left in the piety stall or simply fill out a Assist-A-Student form and send it off. If you have any enquiries, please see one of the member of SVDP Moonee Ponds Conference.

CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal • This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August).

CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your generous donation will help the most vulnerable members of our community - those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your compassion and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. You can donate using the appeal envelope available, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

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.



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?

New Life in God's Spirit presented by St Monica's Prayer Group, is your opportunity to deepen your Baptismal Graces and increase the Gifts of The Holy Spirit conferred on you at your Confirmation. This eight-week seminar begins Thursday 4 April, 7-9pm, Symons Centre, Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds.

Contact: Gerald 0415275446, Frank 0415144916, Adrian 0403512936

Stewardship Corner

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:12-13

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. Does your giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B — 5th May 2024

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-4

R The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **R**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **R**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **R**

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

God is love.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son

to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Acknowledgements • Scripture Texts: The Scripture texts are from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Inc. Psalm texts from *Psalms: A New Translation*, published by HarperCollinsReligious by permission of A.P. Watt Ltd on behalf of The Grail, England. Psalm Responses from *The Lectionary for Mass* © 1981, William Collins Sons and Cassell Limited.

SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME (click below)

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year B \(weebly.com\)](#) Children: [May 5 - Sunday 6 Easter - PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024 \(yearbprayingwithchildren.org\)](#)