



ST. MONICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Moonee Ponds

Presbytery: 22 Robinson St., Moonee Ponds 3039

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Parish Office: Sonya Bading Pastoral Assistant: Abygaile Cukavac

Principal: Mr. Peter Moore Deputy Principal: Ms Christine Lo Giusto

School Phone No: 9375 1132



Green

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

23rd January 2022

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.

**WELCOME
BACK TO
CHURCH**

ORDINARY MASS TIMES
Saturday: 8am & 6pm (Vigil for Sunday)
Sunday : 8.30am (Italian & English); 10.30am; 5.30pm
Tue-Fri : 7am; 9.15am
Reconciliation on Saturday: 10am & 5.30pm or by Appointment

**WE ARE SO
GLAD TO SEE
YOU**



POPE FRANCIS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



"The word became flesh and dwelt among us"

Pope Francis has declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.

"This **Sunday of the Word of God** will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity."

"The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people."

"A profound bond links sacred Scripture and the faith of believers. Since faith comes from hearing, and what is heard is based on the word of Christ (cf. Rom 10:17), believers are bound to listen attentively to the word of the Lord, both in the celebration of the liturgy and in their personal prayer and reflection."

"The Holy Spirit, makes sacred Scripture the living word of God, experienced and handed down in the faith of his holy people."

Pope Francis

SUNDAY LITURGY @ Home;

For Adults:

For Families with Young Children:

PLEASE PRAY FOR: our elders and the sick

Marius Fernando; Dantina Frederico; Stella Mammone; Gino Salvo; Rosa Di Pietro; Lucia Bordin; Justin Diviny ; Stephanie Jouhari; Anna & Garry Henneken; Leo Gillman; Jillian Eolzella; Loretta Bastian; Sally O'Farrell; Caterina Timpano; Charlie Tiang; Lena Savoia; Anne Ryan; Margaret Whelan; Geraldine Macken; Giuseppina Mammone; John Morello Snr.

RECENTLY DECEASED

*We remember in prayer,
Fr. Noel Mackay;
Giuseppina Farina
May they rest in peace.*

ANNIVERSARIES

*In Faith, Hope and Love, let us pray for repose of the souls of
Margaret Kavanagh; Peter Tonge; James H. Butler ; Hugh Leslie;
Kevin Grant; Frank Hillas; Allan Shallue; Josie Amott; Ted Mathias;
Lou & Pauline Portelli
whose anniversary occurs at this time*

Funerals this week

✠ Tuesday 25th January
11.00am Funeral Mass for Giuseppina Farina

BAPTISMS



This weekend we welcome into our Parish Community

Finnian Vincent O'Dwyer

Weddings this week

Joseph David & Ebony Lo Piccolo
We pray for them as they begin their married life together.



CHURCH VACUUMING

Team 4 – 10.00am
Wednesday January 26
(Australia Day)

CHURCH LINEN

January
Maria Giardina

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



From 11:59pm Thursday 23 December 2021, face coverings will be required for gatherings indoors (except in the home) for people aged eight and over, or for those with medical exemptions.

A reminder this will mean:

The Reader: may lower his/her face covering for the readings. This applies as well for the Universal Prayer.

Cantors and Singers: when a cantor is singing, the face covering may be lowered. It must be worn at all other times. Distancing between singers is recommended.

Communicants: Each communicant comes forward and removes one side of their face covering and sanitises their hands at a sanitation station provided nearby. Following reception of the Blessed Sacrament they step to the side to place the host on their tongue. The communicant replaces their face covering and returns to their seat

QR Check-In: QR code check in is required for all Places of Worship. For those who do not have a device, provision must be made to assist with a check in or to capture name and contact details.

Vaccinations: There will not be any vaccination requirements nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship. Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be fully vaccinated

Numbers: There are no limits on participants at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, and general Worship – including the opening for private prayer.



New to the Parish and want us to send you a Welcome Pack?

Please fill in the [online form](#) or ring the Parish Office on 9370 5035 and leave your details and we will send you one.

Sometimes I just want it to stop. Talk of Covid, protests, looting, brutality. I lose my way. Become convinced that this “new normal” is real life.

But, then I meet an 87 year old who talks of living through Polio, diphtheria, Vietnam, protests and yet is still enchanted with life.

He seemed surprised when I said 2020 must have been especially challenging for him. “No”, he said slowly looking me straight in the eyes, “I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines, I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big.

Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines. “Husband loves wife today.” “Family drops everything to come to Grandmas bedside.” “He patted my hand” “Old man, makes new friend”. His words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit. My headline now reads “woman overwhelmed by the spirit of kindness and the reminder that our Capacity to love is never ending”.



On 28th November Archbishop Comensoli made an announcement for Parishioners of St. Monica's and St. Vincent de Paul's Strathmore. Some hard copies are still available in the Church or read the full electronic letter from the Archbishop [here](#).

St. Monica's is a Child Safe Parish. We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.



AUSTRALIA DAY 2022

The story of Australia.....

begins 60, 000 years ago

new chapters are written every day



On Australia Day,

We reflect on our history, its highs and its lows

We respect the stories of others and

We celebrate our nation, its achievement and most of all its people

We are all part of the story

Wishing everyone a restful holiday on Wednesday 26th January

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10



Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here's the hard part – to share all we have without expecting anything in return.

St. Monica's Sacrament Statistics 2021

Baptisms **112**
Confirmations **81**
First Communions **83**
Marriages **30**
Funerals **73**



These statistics are reported to the Archdiocese and sent to the Central Statistics Office at the Vatican in Rome. Due to Covid-19 many planned bookings from 2020 and 2021 were postponed and rescheduled.

Support My Parish

In these challenging times the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) and the Archdiocese of Melbourne have partnered to build an online parish payment portal, *CDFpay for Parishes*. This site enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving payments – you can set-up a recurring payment, if you haven't done so already, or you can choose a one-off offering.

The Moonee Ponds site is live and found at <https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=96>
We thank you in advance for supporting our parish.

January

23rd 3rd Sunday in Ordinary time

24th St. Francis de Sales Memorial

25th The Conversion of St Paul
the Apostle Feast

26th **Australia Day Public Holiday-
8.00am Mass**

28th St. Thomas Aquinas Memorial

30th 4th Sunday in Ordinary time

31st St. John Bosco Memorial

* School students return



PARISH ZOOM MOBILE SCRIPTURES REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

with Fr. Tony

Friday at 7pm

[Click here for Link](#)

(Meeting ID: 914 0120 3888)



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES | CANADA
APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

JANUARY REFLECTION – TRUE HUMAN FRATERNITY

Fraternity is a marriage of love and faith. It calls us to be compassionate and drives us forward to recognize our brothers and sisters to the fullest capacity regardless of religious, socioeconomic or other status. A call not only to recognize God given dignity but to honor it. In Galatians 5:13 Christ compels us to use our freedom to serve one another through love. A love that is made manifest in fraternal love and mutual respect.

In an introduction to *A Document on Human Fraternity* signed by Pope Francis in 2019, it reads, "Faith leads a believer to see in the other a brother or sister to be supported and loved. Through faith in God, who has created the universe, creatures and all human beings (equal on account of his mercy), believers are called to express this human fraternity by safeguarding creation and the entire universe and supporting all persons, especially the poorest and those most in need."

Practicing compassionate and true fraternity calls us to suffer with those who face persecution, poverty, and isolation. A call to be present to the body of Christ in a world rife with indifference. Let us pray that God enlivens our hearts and unites us in our common humanity.

For Coronavirus Information in your language
click on

[SBS Multilingual Coronavirus Portal-](#)



This week we have the readings for next Sunday the 30th January for Parishioners to make some time during the week to read and reflect on.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jer 1:4-5. 17-19

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you –
it is the Lord who speaks.’

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) I will sing of your salvation .

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. **(R.)**

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. **(R.)**

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help.

My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. **(R.)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing

everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Gospel Lk 4:21-30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’ And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, ‘This is Joseph's son, surely?’ But he replied, ‘No doubt you will quote me the saying, “Physician, heal yourself” and tell me, “We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside.”’ And he went on, ‘I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.’

‘There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.’

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ