

ST. MONICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Moonee Ponds

Church: 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

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

Phone: (03) 9370 5035 | Email: mooneeponds@cam.org.au | Website: stmonicasparish.com.au

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

Assistant Priest: Rev. Andrew Choi (Andrew.Choi@cam.org.au)

Parish Office Manager: Mrs. Sonia Cavallaro (mooneeponds@cam.org.au)



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

18 December 2022

ORDINARY MASS TIMES

Sunday: **8.30 am** (*Italian & English*); **10.30 am**; **5.30 pm**

Tuesday - Friday: **9.15 am**

Saturday: **8 am**

Reconciliation: Saturday 8.30 am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Moonee Ponds Parish Office:

Tue - Thu, 9 am - 3.30 pm

Strathmore Parish Office:

Fri, 9 am - 3.30 pm

Dear friends,

Isaiah is our great Advent prophet. This is perhaps not unusual. For the book which bears his name majestically and powerfully sweeps through all the great themes of the Bible like justice and redemption. But perhaps he is our Advent prophet *par excellence* because he contains all the *great* prophecies of the coming of the Messiah. The most famous of all of these prophecies is our First Reading today: *the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-with-us"*. This is the sign. It all sounds so deceptively simple.

Matthew's Gospel reading today is also deceptive in its simplicity. *This is how Jesus Christ came to be born...* The simplicity and starkness of Matthew's text belies the importance of the story which follows. But more than that, Matthew's simple statement doesn't really give us a clue of how things are never really the same again after the birth of Jesus Christ.

God-with-us. When God takes on our human flesh, nothing can ever be the same again. For not only is humanity forever changed, but surely God is forever changed, too. We are called to recognise and to love our God with us. And to know that nothing can ever be the same again.

With every blessing,

Rev Anthony J Doran PP

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

First of all, on behalf of our Parish Community, we thank you for your volunteer works for our Parish over the year. Your dedication has made all liturgies that we celebrated fruitful and prayerful. Much appreciate it.

Regarding the Rosters for Christmas Masses and the first three months of the next year, you will receive them via email by 20 December. Please keep on your eyes on the email inbox, and if you need to swap your schedule(s), please do it yourself as you did during this year. Many thanks again to you all.

CHURCH VACCUMING

TEAM 3

Thursday, 22 December 2022, 9.45am

CHURCH LINEN

in December

J. Trethowan

We are grateful for your volunteering works for our parish community.

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.

RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

As the Season of Advent is a time of preparation for our celebration of the coming of Christ, we are encouraged to have Reconciliation with God, especially in Advent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following the extra timetable below:

St. Monica's, Moonee Ponds

- Tuesday 20 December at 9.45 am;
- Wednesday 21 December at 9.45 am;
- Thursday 22 December at 9.45 am and 7.30 pm;
- Friday 23 December at 9.45 am.

St. Vincent de Paul, Strathmore

- Tuesday 20 December at 9.30 am;
- Wednesday 21 December at 9.30 am and 7.30 pm;
- Thursday 22 December at 9.30 am;
- Friday 23 December at 9.30 am.

Please note that there is NO RECONCILIATION on Saturday 24 December.

MASS TIMETABLE FOR CHRISTMASS 2022

We are pleased to announce our Christmas Mass Timetable for this year. There are quite a few Masses, including a Midnight Mass, in Moonee Ponds and Strathmore. Please see the timetable below:

Saturday, 24th of December

- 6 pm Mass at Moonee Ponds and Strathmore
- 9 pm Mass at Moonee Ponds and Strathmore

Sunday, 25th of December

- Midnight Mass at Moonee Ponds
- 8.30 am Mass at Moonee Ponds
- 9.30 am Mass at Strathmore
- 10.30am Mass at Moonee Ponds

Christmas Carols will commence 30 minutes before each Mass - only 6 pm, 9 pm on 24 December and Midnight Mass.

Please note that there is NO MASS on Saturday 24 Dec at 8 am and on Sunday 25 Dec at 5.30 pm.

FR ANDREW'S NEW APPOINTMENT

During the week, the Archbishop Peter Comensoli appointed Fr Andrew as Assistant Priest in the Bayside Mission – comprising the Parishes of Gardenvale, Brighton, Hampton, Hampton East, Sandringham, Black Rock and Beaumaris. Fr Andrew will commence his new appointment in mid-January 2023.

There will be opportunities for a formal farewell and thank-you in the New Year.

We thank Fr Andrew most profoundly for his three years of ministry with us, and wish him every blessing for this next chapter of his priestly ministry.

RECENTLY DECEASED

May the perpetual light shine upon those who have died recently, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARY

In Faith, Love and Hope, we pray for all whose anniversaries occurs at this time, especially:

Sam Ferraro	Jenine De Castro
Giuseppe Ballato	Dean Savoia
Nora E. O'Dwyer	Marie & Noel Murray
Cordelia D'Cruze	Gordon Windsor
Andrew & John Bastian	Anna & Giuseppe Spureo

ANNIVERSARY & MASS OFFERINGS

Please note that if you ask one of our priests to offer Mass for your loved ones who have died, the priest will say Mass for them, but **we are only able to include in the Bulletin those whose actual anniversaries are actually occurring at the time.** If you wish to have an anniversary mentioned in the Bulletin, please phone or email the Parish Office **by 1 pm on Thursday.**

If you wish to have a Mass offered for a specific intention, special Mass offering envelopes are available in the church and from the Parish Office.

PRAY FOR: OUR ELDERS AND THE SICK

Marius Fernando	Dantina Frederico
Stella Mammone	Gino Salvo
Rosa Di Pietro	Lucia Bordin
Leo Gillman	Stephanie Juhari
Jillian Eolzella	Loretta Bastian
Caterina Timpano	Charlie Tiang
Lena Savoia	Anne Ryan
Margaret Whelan	Geraldine Macken
John Morello Snr	Anna Vogl
Andrew Pike	Anna Henneken
Paul Duffy	Giuseppina Mammone
Antoinette Parrella	Giovanni Galioto

PLEASE OFFER
HOLY MASS



DATE _____
NAME OF PERSON/S _____
INTENTION _____
(ALL HEATH, ANNIVERSARY, DECEASED ONLY)
FROM _____
FOR PUBLICATION YES NO

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.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS



Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the church. Christmas Offerings make an important contribution to the stipends of the priests of the Parish, and in meeting normal household expenses. They also contribute to the support of sick and retired priests, to support priests in needy parishes, and also to support the Archbishop. Thank you for your generosity.

RECRUIT ITALIAN READERS

We are looking for volunteers who can read Italian readings on Sunday at 8.30 am Mass. Usually, the second reading and the Gospel acclamation of Sunday are read in Italian. If you want to put your name on the rosters as an Italian reader from now on, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Parish Office by calling or emailing and leaving your details. Then we will get back to you.

If you have any enquiries, please see Fr Tony or Fr Andrew or call to the Parish Office.

CERCASI LETTORI ITALIANI

Siamo alla ricerca di volontari che siano in grado di leggere le Sacre letture in lingua italiana durante la messa domenicale delle 8.30am. Solitamente, solo la seconda lettura e l'acclamazione al Vangelo vengono letti in Italiano. Se vuoi offrire il tuo tempo libero al servizio della parrocchia e di tutta la comunità italiana di St. Monica, non esitare a contattare l'ufficio parrocchiale telefonicamente o via email lasciando i tuoi dati personali (nome e numero di telefono).

Ti ricontatteremo appena possibile!

Per ulteriori informazioni, puoi rivolgerti a Fr. Tony o Fr. Andrew, oppure telefona re all'ufficio parrocchiale di St. Monica.

TEMPORARY MASS TIMETABLE AFTER CHRISTMAS

The temporary Mass timetable affects only Weekday Masses **from 27 December 2022 (Tue) to 13 December (Fri)**. Saturday and Sunday Masses (*including Vigil Mass*) will be celebrated at the usual time. Please see below:

	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun
<i>St. Monica's</i>	9.15 am	NO MASS	9.15 am	NO MASS	8.00 am	8.30 am, 10.30 am, 5.30 pm
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>	NO MASS	10.00 am	NO MASS	10.00 am	6.00 pm (Vigil Mass)	9.30 am

2023 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR & CHRISTMAS CARDS

Available in the piety store NOW.

2023 Columban Art Calendar
\$10 each

NEW Christmas card design
\$3 for a packet of 5 / \$5 for a packet of 8

GIVING TREE

Advent is the liturgical season that precedes and prepares for Christmas. It is a season of hope and of longing, of joyful expectation and of peaceful preparation.



During our Advent preparation, we remember those for whom Christmas can be a time of sadness and a struggle. And so to bring some joy and love at Christmas to our brothers and sisters in need you are requested to take a tag from the Giving Tree, which is located in the Narthex, and purchase **the item marked on the tag**. Your contribution can then be left at the base of the tree. The Moonee Ponds Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will then make up food hampers from your generous contributions and distribute them to those most in need.

At Christmas, we recall the great gift that God has given to us in sending His Son Jesus Christ bringing love and peace to all. Our imitation of this even in a small way helps us appreciate this ongoing gift from God in the lives of us all.

OFFICE CLOSED

Parish Office will be closed **from Friday, 23 Dec 2022 until Monday, 9 January 2023**. If you have any matter to contact the Office, please do so before we close the Office.

Please take a bulletin home and read though.
Have a blessed week in Christ.

Readings at Mass
4th Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

FIRST READING | Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. *Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING | Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL | Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*