

St. Monica's Parish

North Parramatta



"Our mission is to build up an active parish community with the Eucharist as the centre, foster deeper prayer and spirituality and reach out as a witnessing community"

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

08TH MARCH 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 12: 1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

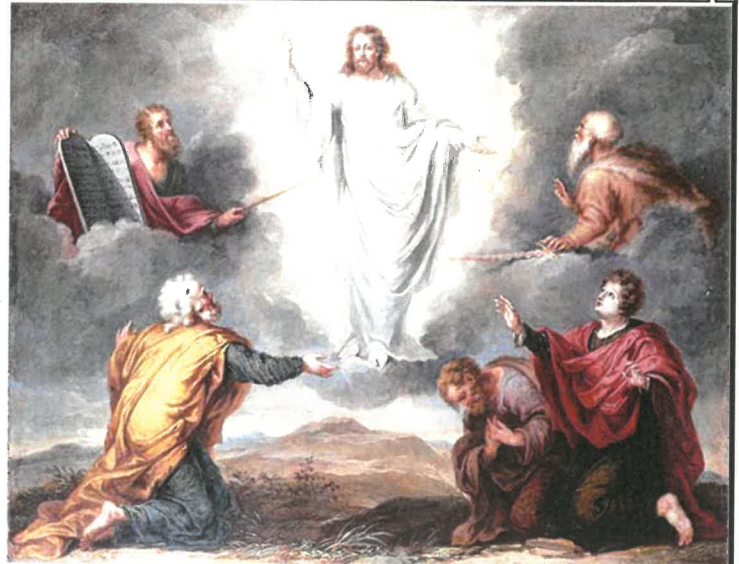
SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

2 Tm 1: 8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 17: 1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

SUNDAY MASSES:	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm	
WEEKDAY MASSES:	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am	
EXPOSITION:	Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,	
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday - 4-4.40pm or on request	
MARRIAGES:	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior	
BAPTISMS:	1st Sunday of the month at 2 pm by arrangement	
ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951	
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:	Fr. Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
POSTAL ADDRESS:	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151	Website: http://www.stmonicanp.org.au
OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm	Phone: 9630-1951 Fax: 9630-8738 Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School

School Principal: Lisa Howell

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 9683-4984

Email: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

REFLECTION

Transfigured Bodysouls

We have to get rid of the idea that the soul is a dot of energy in some hidden core of our body. In fact, the body is in the soul. There is no part of my body which is not immersed in my soul. It is my whole person, bodysoul, which needs to be saved. As Thomas Aquinas says: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.'

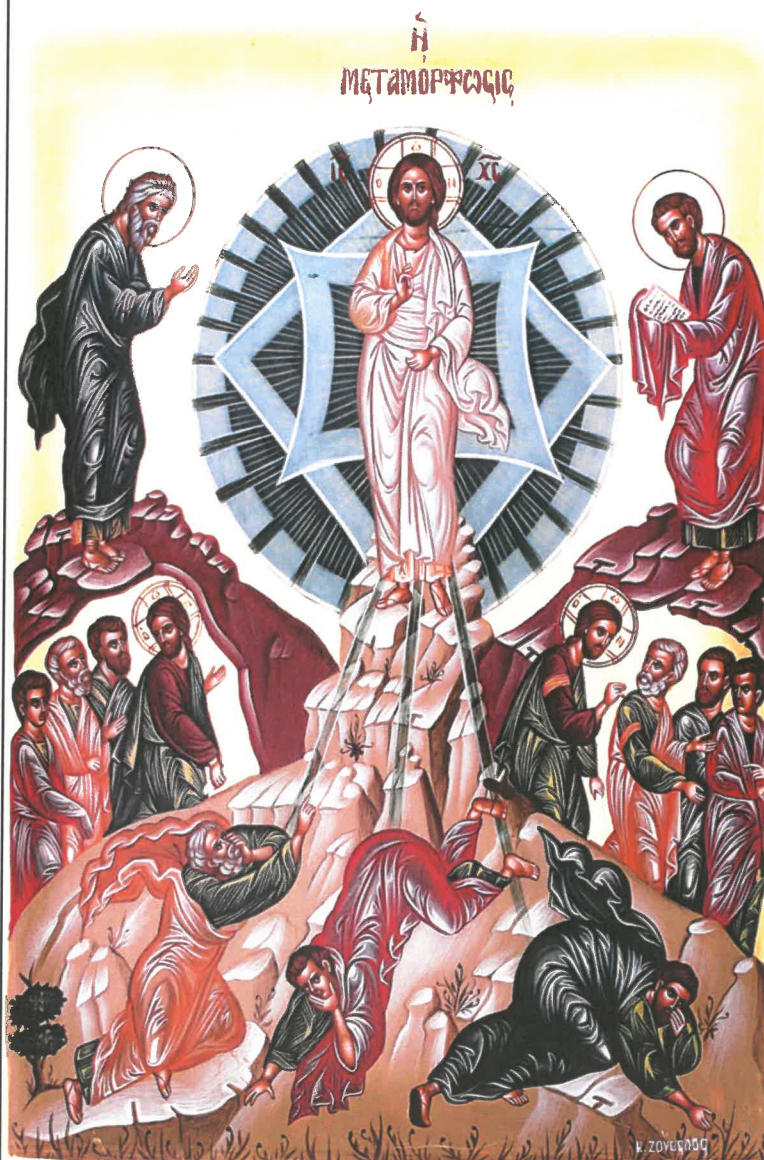
Today's Gospel does not portray an out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Further, this transfiguration was not a solitary experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it precisely because it told them what our Heavenly Father desired as their destiny beyond martyrdom, if only they would listen to Jesus.

Heavenly salvation will involve my whole person, bodysoul, being transformed. But could a person, during their earthly existence, share in the transfiguration experience of Christ?

We could pause for a moment to 'Google' or otherwise get hold of my favourite story of a saint - St Seraphim of Sarov - and pray that we may share with his disciple the bodily experience of 'immeasurable wellbeing' - 'infinite joy in our hearts'.

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mtate@bigpond.com

Transfiguration of Jesus



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK. ESPECIALLY

Paul Chiu, John Rodrigues,
Dave & Fan Lin Wilson,
Francis Lee, Jerry A, Michelle Barnes,
Levi Bell, Grace Boitano,
Gesualda Borg,
Monica Teresa
& Fernanda Carigliano,
Veronica Coorey, Antoinette Coorey, Margaret Dorahy,
Heidi Ellich, Josie Estera,
Philippe Kalife, Tim Kelly,
Mary Korunic, Lillian Leigh,
Monique Malouf,
Tina de Larrazabal, Rosa Santos, Maria Itang Tagle,
Llave Family,
Sheila Watts, Gloria Cherote

MASS INTENTIONS

Gabrielle Wehbe
Casiano Corpin
Uy Lin Suy
Johann Stauner
William & Erica Schlieper

PARISH ACTIVITES



Catholic Women's League
Next meeting will be on the
23rd March at 10.30 am



St Monica's Parish Rosary Group
Every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish
Centre. All are welcome.



Christian Meditation
Every Tuesday. Qigong 6.30pm pm—6.55pm & Meditation
7.00pm—8.00pm at the Community Centre . Enquiries:
Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661 or pabrown02@gmail.com



Remember the Deceased There is an open diary and pens
next to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue and you are
welcome to write down the names of your deceased loved
ones or family members on the day of their anniversaries
and we will pray for them.



Stations of the Cross
every Friday night 7pm (English), 8 pm (Chinese)
Confession available.



The Solemnity of St. Patrick
Mass will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 9.15 am



**The Solemnity of St Joseph,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Mass will be held on Thursday 19th March at 9.15 am



The Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord
Mass will be held on Wednesday 25th March at 9.15 am



Project Compassion 2020 Please collect your compassion
boxes at the entrance to the Church and return them by
Easter Sunday to the Parish Office or place them in the
green metal box provided at the entrance to the Church.



Catholic Appeal—The Bishop's Good Samaritan appeal will
commence on the weekend of the 21/22. We have been
given a quota of \$5478.00 to raise during this appeal. All
donations over \$2 are Tax Deductible. We will have the
envelopes on the pews next weekend and the special 3rd collection
will take place following weekend.
We appreciate and are thankful for all of your generosity.



Sacrament of Confirmation.
Compulsory Parent Meeting : 10th March - 7 pm (Hall)
Lessons Commence : 21st March 4 pm
22nd March 8 am
Commitment Mass : 21st March 5pm
22nd March 9 am
Email : stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

14th/15th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Commentators Readers	K. Handcock T. Webhe G. Basha	A. Espiritu J. Jacob C. Cheung	T. Jones R. Wong-Nasara D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson J. Knight	P. Lineham B. Hooker	A. Hernandez
Acolytes	K. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
Counting	Peter & Kris	Morning Tea	Jacob Payra & Family
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera	Children's Liturgy	Leanne/Sarita

Youth + Corner

'Liturgy' - what does this word actually mean? If you happen to look up the meaning behind the word, the themes of public worship and charity quickly emerge. Liturgy was the topic at youth group last month and what a rich topic it was. As noted by a well-respected French monk named Dom Gueranger, liturgy is 'the entirety of symbols, hymns and actions by which the Church manifests and expresses its worship of God'. Sounds simple enough you may say, but what you must recognise is that liturgy is a gift from God. Whilst mass and our many sacraments are conducted by our devout clergy, we must acknowledge that all these amazing gifts of grace and knowledge are given to us from God and God only.

Just as the year is divided into certain seasons and months, the liturgical calendar is used in the Catholic Church to help us celebrate and understand the important events of Jesus' life, from his incarnation and birth to his ascension through different time periods. Scattered throughout the year are special feasts and commemorations, of which solemnities are of utmost importance. Often these solemnities are a Holy day of obligation, a reminder that you must attend mass on this day, even if it were not a Sunday (which is a Holy day of obligation in itself). Lucky you (or unluckily), Australia only has two such days, Christmas Day and The Assumption.

The Liturgy of the Word is also of utmost significance in our mass. Having attended mass week in and week out, you may have noticed that the First Reading is almost always obtained from the Old Testament. The Responsorial Psalm follows, of which the psalms are often obtained from the Book of Psalms. The Second Reading usually consists of a letter from the New Testament while the Gospel Reading is taken from one of the 4 gospels and is read by the priest. What is interesting is that there is often a common theme shared between the First Reading and the Gospel reading so keep an eye out for it! And remember, just as Pope Francis often encourages us on Twitter to do, we should consistently be reading the bible because it is through the bible that God speaks to us.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the high point of our mass. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we are consuming Christ himself. The smallest piece of the Eucharist contains Christ's blood, body and soul and it is something we should and must believe wholeheartedly. Deciding to put an interesting perspective on the topic, I played devil's advocate and likened the Eucharist to cannibalism. But know that this is heresy, and the reason for this is because not only is Jesus alive, He gives us strength and life when we partake in the Eucharist. In a sense, He consumes us and we abide in Him. If you have not read anything but this, I must stress that the whole point of liturgy is to lead you and others closer towards God. If it does none of this, or even the contrary, it is advised you take a moment to reflect on your current situation - ask yourself, *why* do you come to Church every week? Pray to God and ask for His love and guidance.



Youth Announcements

Good Friday Night Walk (10th April)

The Diocese of Parramatta is holding the annual Good Friday Night Walk which takes place overnight from 10pm on Good Friday till 6:30am the following day. There will once again be two route options: Blacktown to Parramatta, and Guildford to Parramatta. A \$5 cash donation is to be paid upon arrival at the respective starting points. A hot breakfast will be provided to St. Monica's pilgrims after the walk so if you are interested in walking with St. Monica's Youth Group, please make your interest known to Cheryl (0481 507 169) by 27th March.

St. Monica's Youth Group (Every Sunday From @10.45am-11:20am)

This month at Youth Group we are exploring all things to do with the Bible! All youths from Year 7 upwards are invited to join. For more info please contact Cheryl (0481 507 169). Follow us on Instagram @fyrestmonicas for all the latest updates on upcoming events!