

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"

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

01ST MARCH 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 5: 12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all

from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 4: 1-11**

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

REFLECTION

It is Written

Jesus was offered three shortcuts for his ministry. Firstly, exceptional powers to satisfy his own needs (bread out of stones). Secondly, when he needed to take risks, angels to keep him safe. Thirdly, when he wanted to change the world, absolute political power.

These were the Temptations of Christ, but also for us. If you or I are tempted to sin, we will find the marks of this threefold pattern. We want the whole world to change to satisfy us, or we want to take stupid risks and come out unscathed, or we want to exercise total power over others.

How can we try to follow Jesus without the shortcuts of the fantasy world which the Devil may offer? Note that Jesus resisted each temptation with: 'It is written'. The forty days of Lent are a perfect opportunity to read what 'is written' in the Gospels about the episodes and pattern of the life of Jesus Christ.

We could pause for a moment to find what is written and to imitate what we find. That is how the Devil is defeated.

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Temptation 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

Tony Tabet

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Youth + Corner



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–6.55pm & Meditation 7.00pm–8.00pm in
the Parish Centre. Enquiries: Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661
or pabrown02@gmail.com



Stations of the Cross
every Friday night from 28th February.
7pm (English), 8 pm (Chinese)
Confession available.



Sacrament of Confirmation.
Parish Sacramental Program registrations take place
this weekend. 29th Feb/01st March **ONLY** for children
who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
For further details email :
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com



Project Compassion 2020
Please collect your compassion boxes at the entrance to
the Church and return them no later than Easter Sunday
to the Parish Office or place them in the green metal box
provided at the entrance to the Church.



**Relics of St Therese of Lisieux & her parents
Ss Louis & Zelig Martin**
will be visiting St Patrick's Cathedral
(1 Marist Pl. Parramatta)
March 4 9.30pm Arrival of Relics at Cathedral
March 4-5 9.30pm–6.15am Veneration
March 5 6.15am Relics Depart Cathedral for
Diocese of Broken Bay

Mass will follow at the usual time of 6.30am

St Monica's Primary School North Parramatta

An **Open Morning** will be held on **Thursday 5 March 2020**
Principal Talks at 9:15am and 9:45am
followed by School Tours for new families.
Enrolment for Kindergarten 2021
will open on 5 March 2020.

Please register your attendance at the Open Morning
by calling the school office on 8832 4100.
Enrolment forms are available on our website
or from the School Office.

For more information please contact the school on 8832 4100
or visit our website. www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au

Lisa Howell, Principal

7th/8th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Commentators Readers	C. Meleca K. Handcock S. Meleca	M. Falamich A. Dolahenty B. McGettigan	R. Boidin M. Ellis T. Jones
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson K. Handcock	A. Dolahenty A. Falamich	J. Cruz
Acolytes	A. Kurkcu	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Counting	Peter & Judy	Morning Tea	Jacob Payra & Fam
Cleaning	Group 1 Chinese Chapel	Children's Liturgy	Sanchia/Jesuina

Be the Silver Lining

With the recent downpouring of rain we've experienced here in Sydney it may be easy to forget the bushfires that recently ravaged, and in some places are still ravaging, vast tracts of land. In a lot of these areas, people have lost homes, livelihoods, and in some cases, even their loved ones. To some, it may seem as if everything they had was burned away. It is no easy feat to face such a seemingly hopeless situation and decide to move forward and rebuild, and for most, it is probably too daunting a task to begin on their own.

However, even amongst all this pain and suffering, there is a silver lining, one which comes in the form of all those who have put aside their time and money to help those who need it more. There are those who go above and beyond to help others cope with loss, and through their generosity and kindness the love of God shines bright for all to see. And each and every one of these people is just like us.

While it is amazing to see the lengths people have gone to to help their brothers and sisters who have been impacted by the bushfires, kindness to the less fortunate is something we can and *should* show in our everyday lives. Ever heard of the Corporal Works of Mercy? There are seven of them; Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead.

In them is a template by which we can practice faithful and love-filled lives. While it may not be possible to do these things all the time, there will always be opportunities to practice them, and in doing so, you will not only help others, but also yourself, as you allow yourself to grow closer to the person Jesus wants you to be.



Youth Announcements



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!