

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"

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

15TH MARCH 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus Ex 17: 3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!'

The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn 4: 5-42.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her,

'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

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

Our Sacred Site

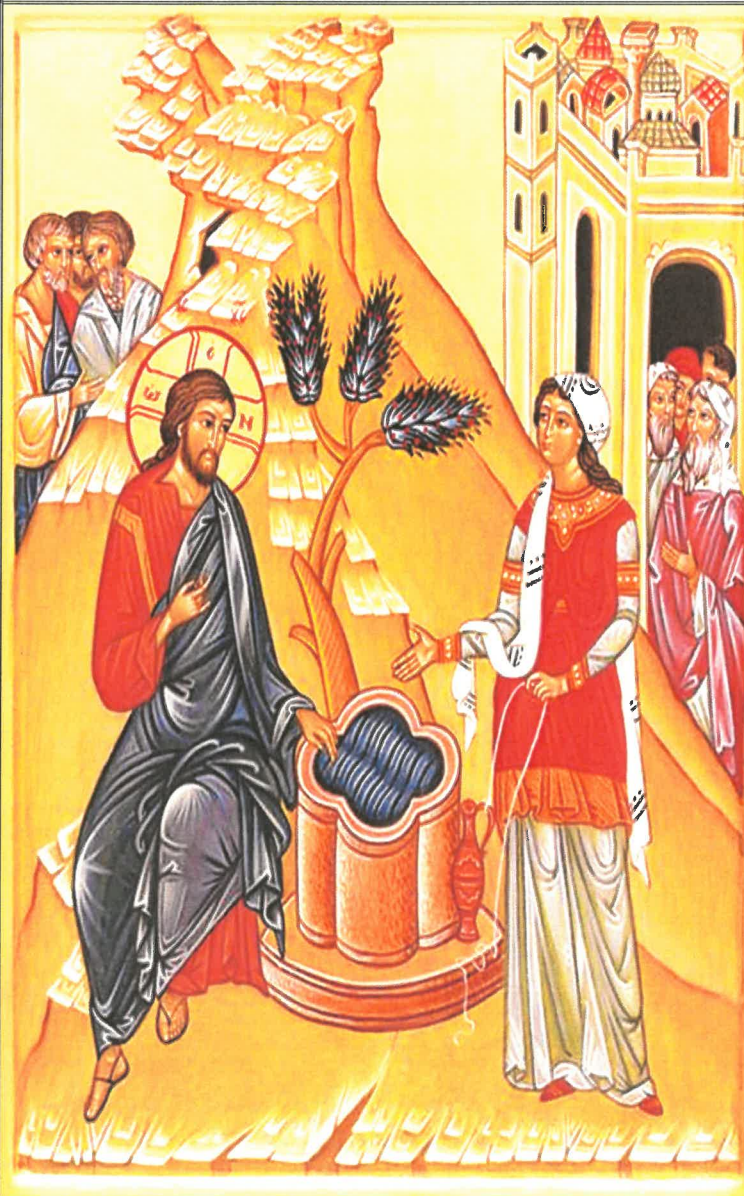
The Jewish people worshipped at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans to the north worshipped on Mount Gerizem. But Jesus says to the woman of Samaria: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem . . . true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.'

We do this by acknowledging Jesus Christ as *our* sacred site. Jesus is where God is to be found. In his earthly ministry this was around places like the well in Samaria. As Risen Lord, he is to be found in those in dire need, and in the Heavenly Bread. In both cases we need to incline the body as an act of worship: in the case of the needy, by doing something practical; in the case of the Heavenly Bread, by genuflecting, bowing, before the Blessed Sacrament.

We could pause for a moment to reorientate ourselves to the Sacred Site who is the Risen Christ, acknowledging him as indeed the 'Saviour of the World'.

© Fr Michael Tate;
mtate@bigpond.com

Samaritan Woman



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

March 17 St Patrick
March 19 ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

Paul Chiu, John Rodrigues,
Dave & Fan Lin Wilson, Fran-
cis 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

Father Les Campion
Gregory Lawton

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 at 6.30 pm—6.55 pm &
Meditation at 7.00 pm—8.00 pm at the Community Centre . Enquir-
ies: 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.



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



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.



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 box provided at the
entrance to the Church.



Sacrament of Confirmation.
Lessons Commence : 21st March 4 pm (Hall)
22nd March 8 am (Parish Centre)
Commitment Mass : 21st March 5pm
22nd March 9am
Email : stmonicasacraments@gmail.com



"A GIFT IN YOUR WILL"
The foundation stone for the first St Monica's Church
was laid on 24 July 1888 at North Parramatta, then
known as the District of Waitematta. Since that time
many people and families, often through generations,
have developed a special connection with our Church/
Parish. This connection has been founded on faith and
friendship developed through mass, the school and Church functions. You
may greatly appreciate the role of our Parish in your life and the lives of your
family. This appreciation can be acknowledged by you leaving a gift to the
Church in your Will which may not be possible during your lifetime. A Will gift
(bequest) may allow the Church to attend to much needed maintenance and
improvements to our beautiful historic Church and other Parish property."

(Please contact the Parish Office for further information).

21st/22nd March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Commentators	C. Maxwell	S. Joseph	A. Dsa
Readers	K. Handcock T. Webhe	B. Hooker A. Dolahenty	A. Dsa J. Woodbury
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge L. Iemma	A. Falamich J. Skulander	A. Bentley
Acolytes	P. Senjak	J. Lee	J. Hilton

Counting	Deninis & Joy	Morning Tea	Thessa & Sanchia
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera	Children's Liturgy	Jesuina/Thessa

Youth Corner

Alpha Youth Series #13 | What is the Church? (FINAL EPISODE)

In modern society, the word 'church' tends to either conjure up images of stone buildings where people gather to worship and pray, or images of organised institutions headed by the clergy and supported by lay people who adhere to doctrines and liturgical practices. However, the last Alpha session invited us to reflect on the meaning, significance and purpose of the Church, and to look beyond the Church merely as a place of worship, or an organised institution.

The first image of the Church discussed in Alpha was one comprised of friends. Christians should strive to build communities where friendship amongst each other and with Jesus is fostered and encouraged. The kind of friendship that is authentic, genuine, where people find acceptance, forgiveness and feel comfortable to be themselves. Our friendships should also enable us to support one another in strengthening our relationship with God and maintain a passion for fulfilling God's mission.

The second image of the Church is on of God's family, united around our faith in Jesus. God's family should be a source of support for those who need it the most and should be a place where people feel safe and welcomed. For many people, friends and family members are where their most important relationships lay; these relationships are important because healthy relationships enable a person's emotional needs to be fulfilled. These needs might include having a sense of being loved, appreciated, feeling supported in difficult times, or a sense that their life and the work they do, the ideas and good attributes they contribute, have a purpose and is valued. A church should be constructed on the basis that every person's needs are important, that their needs can be fulfilled through Jesus Christ, and that their purpose can be found in the mission God created for them. In this way, the Church becomes a genuine source of friendship and a true family for all Christians. A person who finds all these things in the Church ultimately has a more fulfilling, enriching experience with God and the Christian community.

Finally, the predominant purpose of the Church is to be the hands and feet of Jesus, since the Church, as St Paul writes, is 'the body of Christ, and every one of you is a part of it.' (1 Corinthians 12:27) In 1 Corinthians 12, St Paul further emphasizes how everyone is given different gifts, but everyone works through the same Spirit. Everyone's role, as members of Jesus' body, is important, and no one's work or gifts is less important than another's. The purpose of each member of Jesus' body, with their different skills and gifts, is to show God's unconditional love to those who need it, and to be proactive in the community by addressing the needs of the community, whether they be health-related, material, or emotional. In this way, Jesus acts through the Church, and the Church becomes the embodiment of God's presence in the lives of ordinary people.

Youth Announcements



Good Friday Night Walk (10th April)

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!