

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 EASTER

19TH APRIL 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2: 42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

SECOND READING

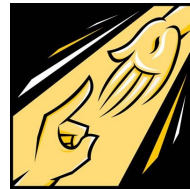
A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1 Pt 1: 3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jn 20: 19-31**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

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

Undoubtable Wounds

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

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FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

March 25 Anzac Day

**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



St. Monica is on Facebook!
Please join and get regular updates of the Parish during this current period.

Please like our page :
St Monica's North Parramatta



Sunday Mass is live streamed!
Please check our Facebook.

English Mass Live Streaming:
18th April 2020 (Sat) 5pm
25th April 2020 (Sat) 5pm

粵語彌撒直播

4月18日(星期六) 6:30pm

4月25日(星期六) 6:30pm



"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).

For Donations (Sunday Offerings) to our Parish please call the Parish office on 9630 1951

What is Mercy?

We all hear that God is merciful, but what does it mean to be 'merciful?' A dictionary definition of mercy might describe it as 'compassion, pity, benevolence or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy or other person in one's power.' This implies that this kindness, compassion or benevolence is a quality or emotion, manifested in a discretionary act or behaviour directed towards a person by another person who has power or authority over the person being shown mercy. One aspect of God's power and authority over humanity is His ability to determine the fate of souls of humans; that is, decide which souls are brought to heaven, or sent to purgatory or hell. John the Baptist references this power when he prophesies about the coming of Jesus in Matthew 3:12, 'His (God's) winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor, gathering His wheat into His barn and burning the chaff with unquenchable fire.' At the time of the harvest a winnowing fork would be used to toss the stalks and heads of grain into the air, usually in the face of a breeze. The wheat would fall to the ground to be collected, but the chaff would blow away to be collected and burned. The wheat and the chaff, therefore, clearly symbolise the separation of souls who would be saved, and those who would face eternal punishment. This may sound like a grim prophecy, but God did not leave humanity in the dark on how to find salvation in eternal life. God gave humans guidance on placing their faith in His saving grace and how to demonstrate the 'fruits' of that grace through good works. Since humans, being born with original sin, can never make themselves worthy, on their own merits, of being brought into God's presence in heaven, God's grace must in a sense, 'remit' our condition of original sin so that we can become worthy of eternal life. This is the essential nature of divine mercy, or God's mercy.



Jesus explained to St Faustina Kowalska how strong His desire is to save souls by giving them this mercy should they be willing to trust in it. *[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion...* (Diary of Faustina Kowalska 1146). God's delight in saving sinners is also expressed in Luke 15:7, when Jesus says '...there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine righteous persons...' God's nature is to always seek to save as many souls as possible since He desires eternal happiness and peace for the humans that He loves and creates. That is why God is willing to withhold punishment to those who freely trust in His mercy, a powerful form of divine grace.

- Rachel

St Monica's Youth Group wishes you all a Happy Easter and hopes everyone is looking after themselves and each other in this difficult time of the COVID-19 outbreak. May we as a community band together through this difficult challenge. In the meantime, may your faith continue to be strong. We will continue our youth corner columns so feel free to read, reflect, discuss and share!



Youth Announcements

St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

St. Monica's youth group will not be congregating at 10:45am on Sundays until further notice. Follow our youth group on Instagram @fyrestmonicas for more updates.

Although all masses are cancelled until further notice, online masses will be posted on Facebook on Saturday evenings (join the group on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/105707033257/>). If you wish to watch the live streaming of the mass, please add Fr Lam (Shing-man Lam) on Facebook as a friend and spread the news!

Furthermore, Confession will be available by calling the Parish office on 9630 1951.