

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"



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

03RD MAY 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 2: 14, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1 Pt 2: 20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn 10: 1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, 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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

REFLECTION	Act of Spiritual Communion	FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS
<p>Accompanied by the other apostles, Peter addresses a large crowd of Jewish people. He declares that God has made Jesus Lord and Christ. Lord (kýrios), a term of respect, was also the Greek word used as a substitution for YHWH, the personal name of God. Christ (christós) is the Greek translation for messiah, anointed one. The people who hear Peter are cut to the heart with remorse. They realise that they put to death the Holy One, God's anointed. Peter calls them to repentance (metánoia), a total change of heart, an interior disposition that will call for a new way of life. The Spirit is the promise of this change, and baptism is the rite that marks it.</p> <p>The psalm opens with a metaphor that sets the tone of the entire song. It is the responsibility of the shepherd to find pastures that will provide enough grazing and abundant water for the entire flock, to lead them there without allowing any of the sheep to stray and be lost, to guard them from predators or dangers of any kind, and to attend to their every need. Such a characterisation of the Lord implies trust that God will discharge all of these responsibilities. The psalmist is confident of the Lord's protection. This image also suggests a host who prepares a lavish banquet. The psalmist has been under the loving guidance of the Lord and will remain there forever.</p> <p>The author of 1 Peter discusses the implications of following Christ. First he exhorts the disciples to imitate Jesus' manner of suffering. He knows that it might take a special grace from God to be patient when one suffers for having done good, but he believes that the Christian calling requires just such a disposition. The innocent suffering of Christ is then described in terms that recall a passage from one of the Suffering Servant Songs of the prophet Isaiah. Finally, the image of the shepherd is used to indicate that Jesus is the shepherd and his Christian disciples are the flock. Although at times they wander away from him, they will be safe and will prosper only if they follow his lead.</p> <p>In the gospel, Jesus uses several features from sheep herding to characterise the relationship between himself and his followers. First he identifies himself as the shepherd and contrasts the way he guides, guards and nurtures the sheep with the way others might regard the sheep only as potential objects of immediate ill-gotten profit. For their part, the sheep will recognise the sound of their shepherd's voice and will follow him. Jesus then uses the technical phrase 'I am' in his characterisation of himself as the gate. Those who go through this gate will be safe within the pen. As both shepherd and gate of the sheepfold, Jesus is concerned with the welfare of the sheep.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">© Dianne Bergant CSA</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">My Jesus, I believe you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I love you above all things and desire to receive You into my soul.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually to my heart.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Never permit me to be separated from you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Amen.</p>	<p>PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK. ESPECIALLY</p> <p>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</p> <p>MASS INTENTIONS</p>



Like

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
02nd May 2020 (Sat) 5pm
09th May 2020 (Sat) 5pm
16th May 2020 (Sat) 5pm

粵語彌撒直播

5月2日 (星期六) 6:30pm
5月9日 (星期六) 6:30pm
5月16日 (星期六) 6:30pm



Sunday Offering:

If you would like to continue supporting the Parish during this time, through the Sunday Offering as before, with the 1st Collection going toward the support of the Parish Priest and the 2nd Collection for the upkeep of the Parish, you are welcome to drop off your planned giving envelopes at the Parish Office.

Alternately, you can also join the monthly planned giving via credit card by submitting your credit card details by calling us at the office. If there is no answer please leave your name and contact number or email us and we will get in touch with you.

We appreciate and thank you for your continued support and prayers during this time.

Parish Office Telephone No: 9630 1951
Parish Email address: stmonicanp@bigpond.com



St. Monica's sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Confirmation : We hope all Children who are registered for the Sacrament of Confirmation is following the schedule and continue with their lessons at home. Once a new date for the Confirmation Mass is finalized by the OFW we will notify everyone. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to email me.

First Holy Communion : Registration scheduled for the 23rd/24th May weekend will occur via email as we are currently adhering to the Covid 19 rules & regulations. Once you register, resource packs will be ready for collection from the Office.

"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."

Witnesses Bring Hope At Easter

The readings from last Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter) had a common theme, which was how the witnesses to Jesus' death and resurrection had faith in God's power to fulfil His promises, bestow grace and free people from sin; this gave those witnesses hope. In the first reading from Acts of the Apostles, Peter tells the Jewish people that Jesus' resurrection means that God did not abandon Jesus to physical and spiritual death and corruption, but raised Jesus and exalted Him to God's right hand, fulfilling a promise He made to King David that one of his descendants would be given a throne. The key point in Peter's message is that the disciples are witnesses to God fulfilling His promise to David, and this is important because this means God will also be faithful to His promise to offer forgiveness of sin and to bestow on believers the Holy Spirit as a path to salvation. (Acts 2:38)

In the first letter of St Peter, Christians are encouraged to have faith and hope in God because He ransomed the souls of sinners from their condition with Jesus' blood, and Jesus' resurrection reveals to humanity Jesus' role in the salvation of mankind and magnifies God's glory. In other words, Peter says that Jesus' death and resurrection is a sign of God's saving grace, His desire to free humanity from the condition of origin sin and to give them life even after the physical death of their bodies. Jesus' role in this plan of salvation is emphasised by the symbolic placing of Jesus at God's right hand, as Peter describes to the Jews. Being seated at the right hand is symbolic of Jesus being in the favour of God the Father since Jesus had fulfilled the Father's plan perfectly, and is by nature perfect and holy. It also symbolises His authority, since all of humanity is saved through Jesus.

Furthermore, the role of witnesses are vital in the story of Jesus' resurrection as demonstrated in the story of the men walking to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke. The two men, once they realised



Jesus had accompanied them on their journey and broke bread with them, return to Jerusalem where they find the eleven apostles gathered and tell them the story of Jesus' appearance. Jesus appears in resurrected form to His disciples for a specific purpose; that is, so that the

disciples can tell other people that Jesus has been raised from the dead and ultimately, share with people God's plan for salvation. The disciples' witnessing of Jesus' resurrection, along with them receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, becomes the catalyst for them to spread the message of salvation from God to Gentiles and Jews throughout the Roman Empire, which is a message that is characterised as one of hope, and which is inclusive of people from all ethnic groups and nations. Ultimately, the importance of witnesses in last week's readings reminds all people that Christianity is built on the testimony of the witnesses to Jesus' death and resurrection, and those who trusted in those witnesses to tell the truth that was inspired by not only what they saw and experienced, but also by the Holy Spirit.

Rachel

Youth Announcements



St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

St. Monica's youth group gatherings are on hold until further notice. Follow our youth group on Instagram @fyrestmonicas for updates!

Online mass is live streamed on Facebook on Saturday evenings at 5pm (join the group on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/105707033257/>). If you wish to watch the live please add Fr Lam (Shing-man Lam) on Facebook as a friend and spread the news!

Confession is available by calling the Parish office on 9630 1951.