

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"



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10TH MAY 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 6: 1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

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. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For 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.)
3. 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.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1 Pt 2: 4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the

man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth,
and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father,
except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jn 14: 1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
bears fruit in plenty, 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/COMMENTARY

The first reading for this Sunday paints a picture of the early Christian community quite different from those of preceding Sundays. Earlier we saw a community that was of one mind and one heart. Today we observe tension. Hellenists and Hebrews are divided over the lack of care given Greek widows. This was a practical matter, not a point of doctrine. The reading draws the lines of authority that existed within the community. Peter does not stand as sole leader. Instead, the entire group of apostles addresses the problem. They distinguish between various ministries and they appoint members who will meet the needs brought before them. Furthermore, the community selects those who will exercise the ministry, and the apostles commission them.

Today's responsorial psalm opens with an invocation to praise God for the blessings of creation and the care shown to human beings. God is acclaimed as trustworthy and God's word is as firm as is God's own self. It was by this word alone that the universe was created. The psalmist moves from consideration of covenant commitment to that of divine providence. God cares for all who fear the Lord, who stand in awe of and wonder at God's great power and majesty. The Lord looks upon the people, presumably with eyes of compassion and love. Finally, God is characterised as a saviour, one who will deliver them and preserve them in the face of great need.

Using an image from construction, the author of 1 Peter develops both a Christological theme and an ecclesiological one. He characterises both Christ and Christians as living stones. He seems to be saying that by coming to Christ, the living stone, Christians, as living stones themselves, are built into a spiritual house. Despite being the living stone that gives life, Christ was rejected by human beings. Though so rejected, Christ was chosen by God to be the cornerstone of the building that is constructed out of the living stones that are the Christians. As such, Christ becomes the focus of judgment. Those who believe in him are not put to shame, but those who reject him will stumble in darkness.

In the gospel Jesus develops two major theological themes: eschatology and Christology. First, Jesus seeks to strengthen his followers, who appear to be troubled at the thought of his departure. He does not conceal it, but he interprets it in a very positive way. He is indeed leaving, but he is going to the dwelling place of God and he promises to return to get them so that they can be together again. Jesus does not focus on the end of his life, only on the joyful events that will follow it. If his death is his departure and his resurrection is his return, then his union with his followers is the mutual indwelling enjoyed in this life by those united with him.

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Act of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus, I believe you
are present in the most
Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all
things and desire to
receive You into my
soul.

Since I cannot now
receive You
sacramentally, come at
least spiritually to
my heart.

I embrace You as if You
were already there, and
unite myself wholly to
you.

Never permit me to be
separated from you.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

May 14 St Matthias, Apostle

**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.

Like

Please like our page : **St Monica's North Parramatta**



Sunday Mass is live streamed!
Please check our Facebook.

English Mass Live Streaming
09th May 2020 (Sat) 5pm
16th May 2020 (Sat) 5pm
23rd May 2020 (Sat) 5pm

粵語主日彌撒直播
5月9日 (星期六) 黃昏6:30
5月16日 (星期六) 黃昏6:30
5月23日 (星期六) 黃昏6:30



Project Compassion 2020

Please return your compassion boxes to Father Lam who will be there to collect them, via the car park drive through on the 17th and 24th May between the hours of 1pm to 2 pm.



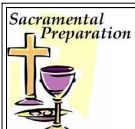
Sunday Offering:

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."

(Please contact the Parish Office for further information).

Mary, Mothers and the Month of May

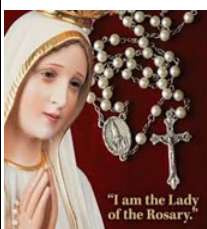
As you may have guessed from the title, this week we will be talking about mothers! Mother's Day falls on Sunday, 10th of May this year, and is a time-honoured celebration alongside Father's day in September. May has also traditionally been the month to which special Marian devotions take place in the Church.



Jesus definitely loved his mother a lot, and his respect for her was clear. He listened when she asked for his help at the Wedding of Cana, and he made sure that she would be taken care of even as he lay dying on the cross. It has been said before

that "honour is the currency of Heaven"; so too are we therefore called to "honour our mother and father" in the ten commandments. As we continue to face the unprecedented challenge of staying connected whilst maintaining appropriate physical distancing, this Mother's Day and indeed throughout all of the month of May let's keep it special by honouring our mothers (including our Heavenly Mother~) with gifts from the heart. Here are some ideas!

♥ # **Flowers** - for both our mothers here on Earth (if allergies are not an issue of course) and for our Mother in Heaven. Laying down some flowers in front of your Mary statue/picture is one way you can celebrate the month of Mary. And if you don't happen to have an image of our blessed Mother, consider getting one to remind you that she is always here for you.



♥ # **Pray the rosary** for your mum/grandma/special mother in your life, and for those who have already passed from this life as well.

♥ # **Pray a novena** to Mary - a novena is a special prayer recited for nine consecutive days for a particular intention. You can find a novena dedicated especially to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary and pray it for your mum, yourself, or for someone else.

♥ # **Talk to them** - we don't tell them enough how much we love and appreciate them. If they aren't living with you and hugging them isn't an option, pick up the phone, give them a ring and tell them you're thinking of them :)
Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there! Thank you for your enduring care, love and support.

Abby

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.