

# 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"*



**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**24TH MAY 2020**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts 1: 1-11**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

**Eph 1: 17-23**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of  
the world.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**  
**Mt 28: 16-20**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm	
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am	
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,	
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Saturday - 4-4.40pm or on request	
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior	
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	1st Sunday of the month at 2 pm by arrangement	
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151	Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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/COMMENTARIES

### Where is the Body?

Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ could have continued to appear to groups of followers, century after century – until now!

But, he didn't, because the disciples had to be weaned of his Risen-mode of appearance among them lest they think that the victory over Death is meant for human beings alone.

But, as St Paul says, the Risen Lord is the One who 'fills all creation' with His power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

However, dis-appearance is not the same as absence. We believe that Our Risen Lord is present in many modes, including as St Paul says '... the Church which is His Body'.

That is why the figures in white rebuke the disciples: 'Why do you stand looking into Heaven?'

The Disciples had, rather, to ready themselves to be the Spirit-filled body of Jesus Christ in their own time and place. As we do.

We might pause for a moment to stop staring into Heaven, to ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost in order to be 'The Church which is His Body.'

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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 into 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 25 Our Lady Help of Christians,  
Patron of Australia  
May 26 St Philip Neri  
June 1 Mary, Mother of the Church  
June 3, St Charles Lwanga &  
Companions  
June 4 St Boniface

## 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

# PARISH ACTIVITES



## 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 add Fr Lam (**Shing-man Lam**) as a friend on Facebook to watch the Live stream Mass.

## Mass Live Streaming Timetable May to June 2020

Date	Event	Time
25 <sup>th</sup> May (Mon)	Our Lady Help of Christians (Patron Saint of Australia)	7:30pm (English)
30 <sup>th</sup> May (Sat)	Pentecost Vigil	5pm (English) 6:30pm (Chinese)
31 <sup>st</sup> May (Sun)	Pentecost Day	9am (English) 10:30am (Chinese)
6 <sup>th</sup> June (Sat)	The Most Holy Trinity	5pm (English) 6:30pm (Chinese)



## 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 24th May, which will be the final day for collection, between the hours of 1pm to 2 pm.

**All donations above \$2 is Tax Deductible**



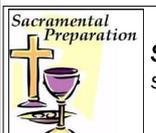
## Sunday Offering:

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.

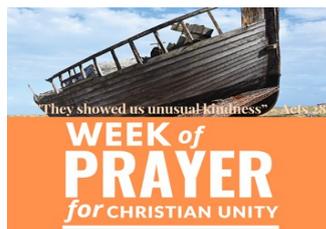
**First Holy Communion** : Registration scheduled for the 23rd/24th May weekend will occur via email as we are currently adhering to the Covid 19 rules & regulations.

If you have completed First Reconciliation with us, you do not need to fill in a new registration form. Please inform me via email stating the Full name and address/contact details of the child that you wish to register in the program. Once you register/email, resource packs will be ready for collection/dispatch from the 2nd of June.

# Youth + Corner

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (14 -31 May 2020)



It runs for 8 days each year in what is known as an octave of prayer with a core focus of increasing Christian unity around the world. Although this week is traditionally celebrated in January, in the Southern Hemisphere it happens in the

week between Ascension Sunday and Pentecost (that means this coming week!). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first proposed in 1908 by Fr Paul Wattson, a Roman Catholic Franciscan Friar. The week invites Christians of every denomination to recognise that we all share a common evangelical spirit which coordinates our work here on Earth. As Pope Benedict XVI once said in a 2012 address regarding New Evangelisation, 'How can we give a convincing witness if we are divided?'. The materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is prepared by the faithful community from different countries every year. This year, the people of Malta and Gozo have chosen and prepared the 2020 theme:

## "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 18:2)

This bible passage tells the story of when Paul, having been taken prisoner, is being carried away to Rome. At one point he is onboard a ship carrying 276 people which becomes besieged by the powerful forces of the sea. Throughout all of this, Paul is unwavering in his belief in God's salvation of all people, trusting in divine providence. The ship is eventually shipwrecked in Malta where the passengers on board, safe and unharmed, are met with "unusual kindness" from the native people on the island.

"Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It is a practice that calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, important though this is, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith". - extracted from Resources for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Throughout the Year, 2020. For the full resource, visit: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/faith-and-order/xi-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/worship-and-background-material-for-the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2020>

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!

### Youth Camp

This year our annual July St. Monica's Youth Camp has been postponed until further notice. Please watch this space for the latest news :)

### Online Mass Continues!

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 please continue to spread the news!