

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"



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR A

19TH JULY 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis 12: 13. 16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged
unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is
questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.
This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

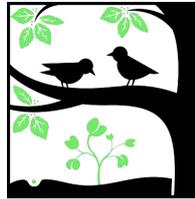
1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R.)**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8: 26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we
cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit
himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put
into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows
perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints
expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.
This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and
earth; you have revealed to little ones the
mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 13: 24-43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of
heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in
his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed
darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new
wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The
owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good
seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel
come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And
the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But
he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might
pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest;
and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the
darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat
into my barn."'

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven
is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his
field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it
is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds
of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like
the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of
flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he
would never speak to them except in parables. This was to
fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.
Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his
disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the
darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the
good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good
seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of
the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest
is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then,
just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will
be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and
they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke of-
fences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing
furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.
Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their
Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

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

When words fail

One loves someone so much – a child, a parent, a spouse or partner – yet when one tries to pray for that person the words seem only a pale shadow of the intensity of feeling and total love one feels. Stop! Simply put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us.

One's heart is breaking with grief for someone close who is very ill or dying. Or one feels a terrible anxiety or anguish. Words don't come easily even though one wants to pray. Stop! Put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us.

Perhaps accentuated by the constant messaging of social media, when trying to pray we can get anxious when there is a lull in the noise and no words come.

We could pause for a moment to relax and to allow the Spirit to express our plea in a way which could never be put into words.

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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

July 22, St Mary Magdalene
July 25, ST JAMES, 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, Tony Iaria

MASS INTENTIONS

Anthony Khalil
Gabriella Wehbe
Joseph Sajih Wehbe
Hind Wehbe
Hasna Takchi
Mouris Takchi
Elias Hkeik
Mary McGettigan

PARISH ACTIVITES



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 on Saturday at 5.00 pm (English) and Sunday at 11.30 am (Cantonese)

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



Christian Meditation

Meditation starting again on the 17th July at the St Monica's meeting room on Fridays, weekly, from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Additionally, Qigong at 6.30 pm to 6.55 pm.

To register contact: 0418 406 661, Patricia (Group Coordinator), or email : pabrown02@gmail.com. Social distancing will be maintained.



NEW Planned Giving Envelopes for the Financial Year July 2020—June 2021 are available at the entrance of the church. Please collect them if you are registered.

Alternately, you can 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

First Holy Communion Program

- Lesson 4/7 1/2 August
- Reconciliation & Rehearsal 7/7 22nd August - 2.00 pm
- Both Compulsory attendance**
- FHC Mass 23rd August - 3.00 pm



S.V.D.P. WINTER APPEAL

The annual S.V.D.P. Winter Appeal envelope collection has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19, however you can still donate to the general Winter Appeal.

1. Donate ONLINE at VINNIES.ORG.AU
2. Phone 13 18 12

All donations of \$2 or over are Tax deductible. With most of our retail shops closed and the cancelled envelope collection, our funds for the less fortunate have decreased accordingly. Being traditional supporters of the Winter Appeal, please use one of the above methods to donate. Thank You **S.V.D.P.**

Collection of Re-Cyclable for St Vincent de Paul charitable works.

Please continue to bring and leave **during weekend Masses ONLY** your plastic/glass bottles, aluminum cans, car batteries, copper & brass at the area where the clothing bin was located for pick up, to provide funding for St Vincent de Paul charitable works.

Enquiries: Ian Goldthorpe on 0414716005

25th/26th July ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Commentators	C. Meleca	C. Cheung	T. Jones
Readers	S. Meleca K. Handcock	B. Hooker J. Jacob	D. Cruz D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock M. Samson	S. Joseph J. Skulander	A. Hernandez
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Joseph Lee	John Hilton
Counting	On Hold	Morning Tea	Yvonne Dreves/ Abby Liu
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera	Children's Liturgy	On Hold

Youth + Corner

Self-Talk

Many people say that they talk to themselves. I guess I do too. I was having a 'self-talk' kind of moment last week as I sat in the dentist chair, having just been examined and told that I had a small hole in one of my back teeth and would need to have it filled. I nodded **nonchalantly**, having accepted this reality of life. Meanwhile, I could hear my mum's disappointed voice telling the dentist "oh dear...she's never had a hole before". Ah well, I guess it's finally time to curb eating chocolate late at night.

Before the hole-filling procedure, the dentist warned me that it might be painful, and that if it became too unbearable I should raise my left hand and she would give me a shot of anaesthetic. Having never had a filling done before, I did not know what to expect, and naturally thoughts of extreme pain crept into my mind after her warning. By the time she started the procedure, I had convinced myself that this was going to be a supremely agonising form of torture. You could say I was in a highly deMOLARised state.



BUT, as it happened, I honestly felt nothing during the procedure; no pain, not even any discomfort! And so, as I sat on that chair, I thought about why we fear physical pain and suffering. It was clear that my own self-talk had persuaded me into a psychological fear that was more crippling than anything I was experiencing physically. As St. John Vianney plainly put it,

"Our greatest cross is the fear of crosses".

He said that "A cross carried simply, and without those returns of self-love which exaggerate troubles, is no longer a cross. Peaceable suffering is no longer suffering. We complain of suffering! We should have much more reason to complain of not suffering, since nothing makes us more like Our Lord than carrying His Cross. Oh, what a beautiful union of the soul with Our Lord Jesus Christ by the love and the virtue of His Cross!" (St. John Vianney).

When our fearful thoughts become our worst enemies, what can we do? In this column we've talked a lot about reading the Bible and introducing new resources to engage with our faith. And the reason for this is simply that we should strive to fill our minds with holy thoughts so as to leave no room left for despair or negativity. No room for the devil to work his antics. God's Word inspires us and fills us with a hope powerful enough to banish the self-doubts that enslave us, and following His ways empowers us to bring light to others still trapped in darkness. Healthy self-talk starts with holy thoughts which in turn, gives us the strength to carry our crosses, whatever they may be.

- Abby

Youth Announcements



St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

St. Monica's youth group gatherings are from 10.45am to 11.25am in the Community Room! Follow our youth group on Instagram @fyrestmonicas for updates! Our instagram is featuring a series of daily faith-inspired insta stories at the moment so check it out guys!

Youth Camp

While our annual July St. Monica's Youth Camp will sadly not be taking place this year, it will be back in July 2021 so stay tuned!