

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"



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR A

26TH JULY 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of the Kings

1 Kgs 3: 5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

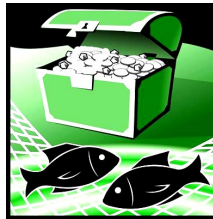
SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8: 28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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: 44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

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

The Language of Heaven

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is John Henry Newman's image.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There is lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a life-time.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

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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 29, St Martha
July 31, St Ignatius of Loyola

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

Oswald & Phyllis Herbert
Antonio Defreilas Silva

PARISH ACTIVITIES



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.

Weekend Mass Timetable August 2020

Saturday Evening :	5.00 pm (English)	<i>Live Streamed</i>
	5.30 pm (English)	
Sunday :	9.00 am (English)	
	9.30 am (English)	
	11.30 am (Cantonese)	<i>Live Streamed</i>
	12.00 pm (Cantonese)	
	6.00 pm (English)	



Christian Meditation at the St Monica's meeting room on Fridays, weekly, from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm. 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.



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	
First Holy Communion Masses	23rd August - 3.00 pm

Please keep in mind there may be changes to the First Holy Communion Mass due to the ongoing situation with Covid. Updates will be conveyed via email.



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

Youth + Corner



Debating with Irreligious People

In today's world, religion and the role it plays in society is often a politically controversial issue. In secular societies in particular, the emergence of atheistic, agnostic and irreligious ideas and perspectives have led to criticism of organised religion becoming a more prominent aspect of public discourse. These criticisms can range from views that organised religion doesn't treat men and women equally, religion requires believers to believe assertions about reality without evidence, and religious beliefs and ideas are unnecessary, all the way to how religions have been a tool used by people to prevent necessary, desirable social progress, and that religions have caused social divisions and conflict. These criticisms can be difficult to address if someone raises them to you, particularly since addressing these criticisms can require an in-depth understanding of religious theology and beliefs, good knowledge of sacred texts, historical events and the ideas, philosophy and principles of various irreligious perspectives such as humanism. If you wish to actively engage in debates and discussions with irreligious people, in person or online, here are some ways you can ensure you are well-equipped and prepared to participate:

- 1) *Take the time to familiarise yourself with the arguments and ideas that form the basis of atheistic, agnostic and humanist worldviews. Understand why they don't believe in God, and how they try to counter arguments that theists often put forward to justify a belief in God. Understand why they are critical of organised religion, and the examples and evidence that they may put forward to justify this criticism. The best sources for understanding irreligious perspectives may be reading books written by atheists about these topics, watching debates about the existence of God, the role of religion and morality between theists and atheists, or paying attention to the content that atheist bloggers, youtubers and broadcasters produce.*
- 2) *On the flip side, Take the time to also understand the moral principles that underpin Catholic values, as religious moral issues and values are often a source of debate between Christians, including Catholics, atheists, people of other religions and irreligious people. Make sure you understand Catholic theology accurately, so that you can not only point out instances where an atheist may misunderstand or misrepresent Catholic theology, but you can base your arguments about the Catholic church, its beliefs and values though having a good understanding of what the Church actually teaches. It is also crucial to understand the Bible well, and how it should be interpreted. Read the Bible, particularly passages that atheist may frequently use to criticise Christian morality and familiarise yourself with what Christian and Biblical scholars and theologians have said about various passages.*

Some Christians may balk at the idea of discussing religion and God with irreligious people. However, engaging with irreligious people gives Christians an opportunity to learn more about their faith and also to consider the reasons for holding the beliefs and values that they profess. Faith is never blind but should be well-informed.

- Rachel

Youth Announcements



St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

St. Monica's youth group gatherings are moving online! Starting from next week onwards, we will be connecting via Zoom. Follow our youth group on Instagram @fyrestmonicas for the latest update on when and what time! Our instagram is also featuring a series of faith-inspired insta stories at the moment so check it out guys!