

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"



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR A

02ND AUGUST 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 55: 1-3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have
good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING

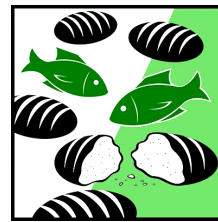
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8: 35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ,
even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted,
or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even
attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph,
by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel,
no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not
any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can
ever come between us and the love of God made visible
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 14: 13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's
death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they
could be by themselves. But the people heard of this
and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he
stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity
on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said,
'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so
send the people away, and they can go to the villages to
buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no
need for them to go: give them something to eat your-
selves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five
loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He
gave orders that the people were to sit down on the
grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish,
raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And
breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who
gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they
wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve
baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thou-
sand men, to say nothing of women and children.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

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

Feeding of the Hungry Crowd

Note the disciples' reaction to the plight of the hungry crowd: 'Send the people away so that *they* can buy.' The disciples have gone for the fix which puts no responsibility on them. They are willing to entrust the hungry crowd to market forces. Those with money can eat: those without, can't. For the disciples, money and commerce are the answers to hunger.

Jesus rejects that solution. 'There is no need for them to go; give them something to eat yourselves.' The solution to the hunger of that crowd was to give generously what little the disciples had. What they could have kept for themselves was to become gift. Once the disciples were in Jesus' frame of mind, the hunger of the crowd was satisfied. How did this come about? The answer lay in human cooperation with the impulse of Divine generosity which knows no limits. The story simply says that Jesus blessed and broke the loaves 'and handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd.' Jesus depended on the disciples to obey him: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'.

Jesus still looks with gut-wrenching compassion on those who are hungry in our own society and throughout the world. If we answer that market forces will suffice, Jesus will reject our answer as decisively as he rejected the answer of his earliest disciples. We have to take responsibility to share what we have, to be generous with what we have. After all, Jesus, Our Lord and Master, *commands* us: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. Note how Jesus blessed those loaves and broke them before they were distributed, which reminds us of the words of Pedro Arrupe, former General of the Jesuits, 'Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in the world.'

We could pause for a moment at Mass to ask: Who are those hungry people crowding in on us, and then pray that we may respond to them as our Lord commanded, so that the hungers of the crowd, and our hunger to really follow our Lord, *will be satisfied*.

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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

August 3, St Dominic
August 4, St John Mary Vianney
August 6, TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
August 8, ST MARY OF THE CROSS, VIRGIN

**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

Gabriella Wehbe
Joseph Sagih Wehbe
Hinid Wehbe
Hasna Takchi
Mouris Takchi
Elias Hkeik
Cyril & Florence Rodrigues



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)	Live Streamed
	5.30 pm (English)	
Sunday :	9.00 am (English)	
	9.30 am (English)	
	11.30 am (Cantonese)	Live Streamed
	12.00 pm (Cantonese)	
	6.00 pm (English)	

Special Masses in August

Assumption of Our Lady 15th August (Saturday)
Mass in English at 9.15 am and in Cantonese at 10.00 am

St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of First Holy Communion



Lesson 5/7	8/9 August
Reconciliation & Rehearsal 7/7	22nd August - 2.00 pm (Group 1)
Both Compulsory attendance	2.30 pm (Group 2)
First Holy Communion Masses	23rd August - 3.00 pm (Group 1)
	3.30 pm (Group 2)

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

Sacrament of First Reconciliation



Registrations will take place via email on the 15th and 16th of August. Please email the Sacraments email for a copy of the registration form. Once completed & signed, return email with a copy of your child's baptism certificate by the 22nd of August.

Lessons Packs will be available from the 01st of September for those who register on time. Lessons will commence on the 5th and 6th of September.



Christian Meditation

Cancelled till further notice.



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.**

Making Your at-Home Prayer Space
by **Nick Bernard**

We as a Church know the importance of creating beautiful spaces in which to meet God. But, in this season, many of us are not able to worship in the spaces of our home parishes, and even praying privately in those spaces might look rather different. Making a space to pray at home then becomes all the more important. Below, I give some inspiration for creating an at-home prayer space.

Make It Quiet - God speaks to us no matter what, but we can make it easier on ourselves to hear His voice if we find some quiet. For me, that quiet space is my room – if I were to pray at the kitchen table, I'd meet the noise of cooking and TVs and my dogs barking. In the quiet of my room however, I can read silently, pray out loud, or just sit and listen for the Lord's voice. Finding some quiet might also require you to pray at a certain time. **Make It Beautiful** - The Catholic Church in building her cathedrals and shrines knows that beautiful spaces help elevate one's soul to heaven. You probably can't create a beautiful cathedral in your house – if you can then lmk – but, maybe you have a favourite religious icon or small statue, or illustrated scripture verse. These things are pretty simple, but, adding them into your prayer space can help to set apart an area where you'll speak to God on purpose. Having some simple religious art also helps you to turn your mind to heaven.

Make It Yours - When architects build a church sanctuary, they take into account the people that will worship there and the kind of community that will use the space. Your at-home prayer space is for you and/or your family. So, it's totally appropriate to make a kind of space that is helpful for you and your specific style of prayer. If you like to pray with reading, make sure your prayer space has enough light to read. If you like to pray by listening to music or recorded reflections, make sure you find a quiet space that allows you to hear well. I pray in the morning with a mug of coffee, so, in finding my own at-home prayer space, it was important for me to have a place to sit my coffee down so I don't burn myself! Think of what will be most helpful to you and your particular prayer life, and bring that into your own prayer space.

Go Easy on Yourself - The circumstances we're living in right now are frustrating! I want to go out to dinner, I was hoping to attend my college graduation ceremony this semester, and I get bored doing the same thing every day. Even so, I'm called to prayer. But, within that call, the Lord has realistic expectations. I don't pray the full Liturgy of the Hours every day – instead, I've tried to find a rhythm of prayer that matches the kind of life I'm living right now. As we all continue to navigate our current season, let's lean into God's invitation to prayer, trusting that, if we do our best to make a space for the Lord, He will meet us where we are.

This article was first published on 14/05/2020 and has been revised for the purposes of including it into the Youth's Corner. To read the full article please visit: <https://lifeteen.com/blog/making-home-prayer-space/>. Lifeteen is a Catholic Youth Ministry organisation dedicated to leading youths closer to Christs. Check out their website for more blogs and faith-related resources!

Youth Announcements



St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

FYRE youth group meetings have moved online! Join us at 8pm on Zoom using this link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j93935934337>. Find a quiet spot with decent wifi and comfy. See you guys there :) Don't forget to also follow us on Instagram @fryestmonicas. Our Instagram is currently featuring a series of faith-inspired insta stories!