

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"



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR A

23RD AUGUST 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 22: 19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

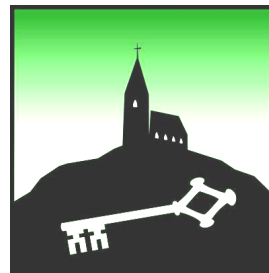
1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 11: 33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which
I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out
against it.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 16: 13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work,
O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

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:	Friday 10-10.30 am Saturday - 4-4.40pm or on request
MARRIAGES:	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior
BAPTISMS:	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest.
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

What's in a Name?

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros.

Jesus puns with the nickname: 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build *my* church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus).

Notice that Jesus only makes promises about '*my* church', not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

Fortunately, we have a successor of St Peter responding to our Risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi, 'Rebuild *my* church'.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the 265th successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity.

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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 24, St Bartholomew, Apostle
August 27, St Monica
August 28, St Augustine
August 29, The Passion of John the Baptist
September 01, St Alphonsus Mary Ligouri

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

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)	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)	

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of First Holy Communion



Please pray for the Children in our Parish and School community who will receive their First Holy Communion this Sunday, the 23rd of August.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation



Registrations took place via email only on the 15th and 16th of August. If you missed the registration, 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.

At home lessons will commence on the 5th and 6th of September.



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.**

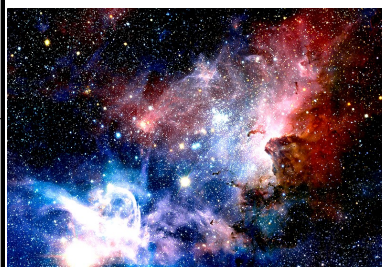
BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR RETIRED PREISTS - FATHER'S DAY APPEAL 2020

Owing to COVID19 pandemic and its social and financial impact on families, communities and Churches, the Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese of Parramatta will not be holding its Annual Bishop's Collection for Retired Priests, i.e. the Father's Day appeal, this September. Like many other organisations, the CSF will use its own resources to support the retired priests in this financial year. Donations will always be accepted, however, via our BPOINT portal at www.parracatholic.org/csf or electronic funds transfer to BSB 067950 Account No 00001691 Account Name CSF No 1 with Reference your name. IF you would like a tax deductible receipt for your donation, please send email to csf@parracatholic.org with your name and address details.

The CSF Committee thanks you for your support of the Clergy Support Foundation over the last 15 years. May God bless you at this difficult time in all our lives.

Youth + Corner

The Fine-Tuning Argument for God



Science and religion. Often viewed in conflict, despite their complementary nature. To demonstrate how science and religion can actually go hand in hand, let us consider the example of the argument for God from the argument of "fine-tuning".

Fine-tuning refers to the surprising precision of nature's physical constants and the early conditions of the universe. To explain how a habitable planet like Earth could even exist, these fundamental constants have to be set to just the right values (like tuning a dial to find just the right radio station). If the universe had physical constants with even slightly different values, the universe simply could not support life; it would expand too quickly, or never form carbon atoms, or never make complex molecules like DNA. When the Big Bang occurred billions of years ago, the matter in the universe was uniformly distributed. There were no stars, planets or galaxies—just particles floating about in the dark void of space. As the universe expanded outwards from the Big Bang, gravity pulled ever-so-gently on the matter, gathering it into clumps that eventually became stars and galaxies. But gravity had to have just the right force—if it was a bit stronger, it would have pulled all the atoms together into one big ball. The Big Bang—and our prospects—would have ended quickly in a Big Crunch. And if gravity was a bit weaker, the expanding universe would have distributed the atoms so widely that they would never have been gathered into stars and galaxies. The strength of gravity has to be exactly right for stars to form. But what do we mean by "exactly"? Well, it turns out that if we change gravity by even a tiny fraction of a percent—enough so that you would be, say, one billionth of a gram heavier or lighter—the universe becomes so different that there are no stars, galaxies, or planets. And with no planets, there would be no life. Change the value slightly, and the universe moves along a very different path. And remarkably, every one of these different paths leads to a universe without life in it. Our universe is friendly to life, but only because the past 13.8 billion years have unfolded in a particular way that led to a habitable planet with liquid water and rich chemistry. For theists like Christians, a fine-tuned universe is better explained through the existence of an intelligent designer who creates physical forces and elements with the right properties that enable them to interact and create life and other matter that exist within the universe, instead of inferring that a fine-tuned universe emerged through sheer luck. Simply put, the rational is that if God does not exist, it would be highly unlikely that life as we know it could also exist, considering how precise the balance needs to be in our universe in order to permit the development and support of life.

-Adapted from Biologos' article 'What do fine-tuning and the multiverse say about God?': <https://biologos.org/common-questions/what-do-fine-tuning-and-the-multiverse-say-about-god/>

-Rachel

Youth Announcements



St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

FYRE youth group gatherings have moved online! Join us this Saturday at 8pm on Zoom using this link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/93935934337>. Find a quiet spot with decent wifi as we prepare for praise and worship followed by a chillout session~ See you guys there :)

Don't forget to also follow us on Instagram @fyrestmonicas. Our instagram is currently featuring a series of faith-inspired insta stories!