

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"



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR A

13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Sir 27: 30 – 28: 7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the
vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the
commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear
your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and
overlook the offence.
This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 14: 7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if
we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord,
so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why
Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be
Lord both of the dead and of the living.
This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 18: 21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I
forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?'
Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven
times.
'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the
reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten
thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his
master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his
wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At
this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet.
'Give me time,' he said 'and I will pay the whole sum.' And
the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go
and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he hap-
pened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred
denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle
him. 'Pay what you owe me', he said. His fellow servant fell at
his feet and implored him, saying, 'Give me time and I will pay
you.' But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had
him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow
servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had
happened, and they went to their master and reported the
whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. 'You wicked
servant,' he said. 'I cancelled all that debt of yours when you
appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on
your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?' And in his anger
the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay
all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with
you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

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| 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. Phone: 9630-1951 | |
| 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

Forgiveness

I don't like the phrase: 'Forgive and forget'. Remembering can be an important part of healing. Forgiving is about giving up the desire 'to get even', making sure that the 'punishment fits the crime'. It is that sort of forgiveness which we dare to ask of God for ourselves. But here's the catch: it is that sort of forgiveness which we must practise towards others.

When we don't, we are like the principal debtor in Jesus' story. In harshly dealing with a minor debtor, he refused to share his king's quality of forgiveness. If we don't pass on this aspect of God's life to others, then we are warned that we will end up in a hellish situation unable to share in the fullness of Divine life.

It is easy to talk 'Big Picture' forgiveness. It is much harder within the family or circle of acquaintances. It seems impossible to simply will it. But we have to ask for the grace to do it.

We could pause for a moment to pray:

'Our Father who art in Heaven . . . forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

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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

September 14, THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows

September 16, Sts Cornelius & Cyprian

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

Tony Iaria
Andrey & Katrina Iwachiw

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 September 2020

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|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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) | |



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, aluminium 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. Contact : Ian Goldthorpe on 0414716005

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of First Reconciliation



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|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Lesson 2/6 | 12th/13th September |
| Lesson 3/6 | 19th/ 20th September |
| School Holidays | 26th September to 11th October. |
| Lesson 4/6 | 17th/18th October |
| Lesson 5/6 | 24th/25th October |
| Lesson 6/6 | 31st Oct/1st November |

First Reconciliation – 5th & 6th November

St Monica's Primary School North Parramatta



Enrolments for 2021 (K-6) are now open!

Enrolment forms are available on our school website. For more information please visit our school website or contact the office on 8832 4100. www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au

Youth + Corner

The Responsorial Psalm



We hu-

mans have a tendency to seek meaningful patterns or connections in seemingly random occurrences in life. Whether that be objects, ideas, or numbers, we try, often times sub-consciously to see how everything connects.

I've often wondered how the Responsorial Psalm fits into the first half of the mass. Usually my mind is so focused on remembering the response we must give after each paragraph the psalmist reads out that I rarely stop to consider how it fits in to the bigger picture. As you may well know, during the first part of mass, we have the Liturgy of the Word where we hear the words of God. We start with the First Reading, which is followed immediately by a period of silence during which we briefly meditate on what we have just heard. Because the Responsorial Psalm follows this period of silence, it is easy to think that the psalms are there for meditative purposes. However, while reflection is important, the Responsorial Psalm actually serves as a vocal response to the scriptures of the First Reading. The Responsorial Psalm, which is usually selected from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament, is meant to engage the congregation to respond in prayer and praise to the Word of God. If the First Reading is the proclamation of God, then the Responsorial Psalm is our acclamation to that proclamation. While not compulsory, wherever possible the Responsorial Psalm is sung as it helps the psalmist convey the message and tone of the psalm so that the congregation can better pray the text.

This week's First Reading from the book of Ecclesiastics sends us a strong reminder that mercy is offered to those who first offer forgiveness to others. Vengeance, resentment, hate and wrath towards another are things we must let go of if we wish to live by the Lord's wishes. Accordingly, the response in the Responsorial Psalm is 'The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion' (Psalm 103). It is a very clear message of wonder and thanksgiving for the compassionate nature of Our Lord who we strive to imitate. As the Lord is kind and merciful, so too are we called to be merciful and forgiving towards others. In this way, the Responsorial Psalm complements the First Reading, and embodies the response of the people to the call of the Word of God.

-Abby

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 and get ready to explore Mary and the Rosary with us :)

Also don't forget to follow us on Instagram @fyrestmonicas!