

# 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"*



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR A

20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 55: 6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.  
*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. 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.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

## SECOND READING

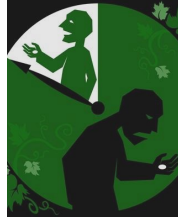
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Phil 1: 20–24. 27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or  
by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then  
death would bring me something more; but then again,  
if living in this body means doing work which is having  
good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am  
caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with  
Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me  
to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your  
sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be  
unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
Mt 20: 1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like  
a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his  
vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for  
one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard.  
Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing  
idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my  
vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they  
went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the  
ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about  
the eleventh hour he went out and found more men  
standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you  
been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has  
hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into  
my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the  
vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay  
them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and  
ending with the first." So those who were hired at about  
the eleventh hour came forward and received one denar-  
ius each. When the first came, they expected to get  
more, but they too received one denarius each. They  
took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who  
came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you  
have treated them the same as us, though we have done  
a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of  
them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you;  
did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings  
and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay  
you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why  
be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will  
be first, and the first, last.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm	
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am	
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,	
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30 am Saturday - 4-4.40pm or on request	
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior	
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151	Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

#### No Salvation outside the Church?

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius.

This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the Kingdom of God.

Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of *their* idea that God's grace could *not* be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People.

We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us 'the Bread of Life', given for the salvation of *all* the world.

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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 21, ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST  
September 23, St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

**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

Jim McGettigan  
Cyril & Florence Rodrigues

# 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.

## New Weekend Mass Timetable

commencing on the 26th/27th September 2020

Saturday Evening :	5.00 pm (English)	Live Streamed
	6.00 pm (English)	
Sunday :	9.00 am (English)	
	10.30 am (Cantonese)	
	11.30 am (Cantonese)	Live Streamed
	6.00 pm (English)	

**"First come first served" for all English Masses.**

## St. Monica's Sacraments

[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)

### Sacrament of First Reconciliation

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



## We need your help.

On 17th November the NSW Government will deliver the state budget. With more than 100,000 people waiting for social housing and many more families struggling to make ends meet, it is the ideal time for NSW to invest in more social housing.



To convince the NSW Government to make this much needed investment, St Vincent De Paul Society will be seeking your signatures on a petition that we hope to have tabled in NSW Parliament before the budget.

So far we have collected 7,100 signatures but we need a minimum of 10,000 signatures for our petition to be eligible for discussion at Parliament.

Next weekend 26th/27th September we will have members from our Society hoping to have you sign the petition in support of this much needed investment by the Government for our brothers and sisters who are struggling to make ends meet.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

**S.V.D.P**

# Youth + Corner

## A Reflection on the Rich Man and Lazarus



The parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 describes a rich man who dressed in fine linen and lived in luxury every day, and a poor man called Lazarus, a beggar

who stayed at the gate of the rich man's house and who longed to eat the food scraps which fell from the rich man's table. The lack of dignity in the poor man's condition is emphasised when Jesus says dogs came and licked the sores on the poor man's body. When Lazarus dies, he is taken by angels to heaven, but when the rich man dies, he is sent to Hades, where he is tormented. The rich man begs Abraham, who is also in heaven, to send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool his tongue, because he is in agony in the fire of Hades. Abraham responds by telling the rich man to remember that in his lifetime he received good things, whilst Lazarus received bad things, and that people from heaven cannot cross into Hades.

The rich man is punished in the afterlife not because he was wealthy and lived a comfortable life, but because he almost certainly saw that Lazarus was suffering, likely physically and emotionally, yet remained apathetic to Lazarus' suffering, and chose to not demonstrate any compassion towards Lazarus. His choice to remain apathetic is particularly egregious because since he was wealthy, he had the ability and means to ensure Lazarus could have some of his material needs met (e.g food, treatment for his sores), but chose not to use his resources. The rich man likely begins to understand the misery and pain that apathy and inaction towards other people's suffering can cause when he begs for Lazarus to relieve the pain that he experiences in Hades. Ultimately, Jesus tells this parable because He wants His disciples to be attuned to the suffering of the people around us, and not to just ignore their suffering or not care about it, but to take the initiative to help alleviate the suffering, irrespective of whether the suffering person is a stranger or someone we know and love.

A person's suffering may be physical, such as experiencing a serious or grave illness that affects a person's quality of life, emotional, such as feeling lonely and upset due to low self-esteem, or may be caused by an inability to meet basic needs, such as being able to live in secure, safe housing. If people only concern themselves with material goods or people who make their lives happy and comfortable, they will not see the moral worth or value in showing interest in other people's welfare. This mindset may explain why the rich man was apathetic towards Lazarus. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus should compel people to consider the type of issues and goals they consider important in their own lives and assess whether these issues and goals encourage or discourage a sense of awareness and drive to be responsive to other people's wellbeing.

**-Rachel**

## Youth Announcements



### St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

FYRE youth group gatherings are online! Join us this Saturday at 8pm on Zoom using this link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/93935934337>. Find a quiet spot and get ready to explore Mary and the Rosary with us :)

Also don't forget to follow us on Instagram @fyrestmonicas Stay tuned for more details on FYRE's upcoming virtual trivia night which is happening real soon!