

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"



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR A

25TH OCTOBER 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus Ex 22: 20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Thes 1: 5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord;

and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 22: 34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

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. 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

REFLECTION

True Perspectives

Did you notice that Our Lord does not command us to love 'God'? No, we are to love 'the Lord your God', the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love *the Lord your God*'.

Then Our Lord does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, 'Love your neighbour as *yourself*.' But who is 'yourself'? In the wonderful story-telling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had Divine Breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being. We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath at the core of our being.

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way, and thereafter every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically or culturally distant.

We could pause for a moment to see the true dimensions of God, self and the other, to more easily fulfil the dual command.

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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

October 28, STS SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES
November 01, ALL SAINTS
November 02, THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS DAY)
November 04, St Charles Borromeo

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

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.

Weekend Mass Timetable – back to normal times from the 31st October & 01st November 2020

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

"First come first served" for all Masses.

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

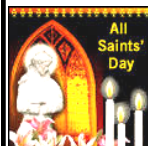


Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Lesson 5/6 24th/25th October

Lesson 6/6 31st Oct/1st November

First Reconciliation – 5th & 6th November



All Saint's Day 1st November (Sunday)
Normal Sunday Mass schedule



All Souls Day 2nd November (Monday)
9.15 am (English)
7.00 pm (English) -Live Streamed
8.00 pm (Cantonese) -Live Streamed



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

“ Short Formation Course for Readers

The Office For Worship will be running a Short Formation Course for Readers with guest presenter Br Michael Dredge cfc. This workshop focuses on the practicalities of Reading at Mass. It will be held on **Saturday 7th Nov, 10am-12 noon at St Oliver's Parish, Harris Park.** If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on 8838 3456 or anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org. Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing will be practiced.”

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



If you can immediately tell me what the icon on the right is, then I'd say there is a good chance that your birth year begins with the number 2. For some of you, music may already be playing in your mind – images of choreographed dance and lip-syncing, as well as the flashing fairy lights of internet superstardom distracting you from the words on this page. But to others, those blue and red quavers (*the colours of this icon) might mean nothing at all. It's a great example of how a simple symbol can carry great, vivid meaning for some, but not everyone.

Symbols have been used in this way for a very long time; in fact, we can find plenty of meaningful ones in the Bible. Here, they are used to add depth and colour to the Word of God, allowing us to better understand Him and His plan for us. But just like the icon for TikTok, the vivid meaning and depth of these symbols can be easily lost on those who haven't seen them before. To illustrate this, let's look at a short passage from Mark (Mk 7: 26-30), where Jesus heals a gentile woman's daughter:

She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Confusing, I know, but what this strange passage is teaching us is revealed by looking at the symbols here; specifically of the children, the bread, and the dogs! Here, the children represent the Israelites (God's chosen people), the bread represents God's grace and providence, and the dogs represent the gentiles and other peoples of the world. Equipped with this newfound knowledge, this random and apparently senseless dialogue between Jesus and the gentile woman becomes incredibly important! Jesus healing the gentile daughter shows that God's mercy and grace extends to not only the Jews or Israelites, but all people who believe! This is a huge deal, particularly for the Jewish audience of the time who expected Jesus' coming as Messiah as victory for Israel over other nations, rather than a victory for all humanity over sin.

To be honest, the Bible is full of these 'furrowed eyebrows' moments, where you may be tempted to just close the book and call it a day, but persevere and I promise you will be met with an uplifting sense of liberation and understanding. Sure, reading the Bible can be scary (see *symbolophobia*), but if you're new to it, don't be afraid to ask for help! Finding a family member, friend (shameless plug for youth group here [?](#)), or even your parish priest can help you get the guidance you need to make sense of the Bible. The Bible is God's way of helping us discover deep spiritual truths about ourselves and His plan for us; so let's hit pause on TikTok for just a moment, and instead open our Bibles to discover the secrets that the symbols are just waiting to tell.

Youth Announcements



St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

FYRE youth group gatherings are online! Join us on Sat 8pm on Zoom using the link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/93935934337> Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @fyrestmonicas to keep track of the latest FYRE news and events!