

# 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"*



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR A

15TH NOVEMBER 2020

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Prv 31: 10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.  
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.  
Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.  
She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.  
She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle.  
She holds out her hand to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.  
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.  
*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

1 The 5: 1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Live in me and let me live in you,  
says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
Mt 25: 14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness,  
to place my hope in God the Lord.

# 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/ EUCARIST 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## REFLECTION

### Befriending Time

God's plan for human happiness is mostly frustrated by a good person burying his or her personality traits, what one might call one's talents, which is really to bury oneself and to become invisible.

In the old language of my schoolboy catechism, we should be concerned not just with sins of commission, but with sins of omission – failure of courage, failure to take risks, failure to put everything on the line with the personality and the moment in time given to you and to me.

As Shakespeare says in Julius Caesar:

'There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in stillness and in miseries.'

The Divine Tide is flowing through human history. We should trust ourselves to that tide which can carry us to the shores of Heaven. Failure to take risks leads to Hellish stillness and miseries.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might use our talents so as to hear: 'Well done, good and faithful servant ... come and join in your Master's happiness.'

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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

November 17, St Elizabeth of Hungary  
November 21, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**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

Gabriella Wehbe  
Joseph Wehbe  
Hinid Wehbe  
Mouris Takchi  
Hasna Takchi  
Elias Hkeik  
Sam Takchi

# 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.



**Christian Meditation**  
Every Friday from 6.30 pm to 6.55 pm Qigong, and 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Meditation. Enquiries/facilitator : Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661 or email: pabrown02@gmail.com.



**St Monica's Parish Rosary Group**  
Every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.



**Please maintain recommended social distance in & outside the church. Limit of 110 persons inside church during mass.**

**St. Monica's Sacraments**  
[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)



**Registration dates for 2021 :**

- For **Confirmation** 20/21 February  
(The child is eligible to receive this sacrament if he/she has received the sacrament of First Holy Communion and is in year 5 or above )
  - For **First Holy Communion** 29/30 May  
(The child is eligible to receive this sacrament if he/she has received the sacrament of First Reconciliation and is in year 4 or above)
  - For **First Reconciliation** 31 July/1 August  
(The child is eligible to receive this sacrament if he/she has received the sacrament of Baptism & is in year 3 or above)
- \*\*A copy of the Baptism certificate is required at the time of registration**



**Parramatta Catholic Foundation  
Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2020**

There will be a special collection on the weekend of 28th and 29th November.  
Please use the envelopes provided near the Sacred Heart statute if you wish to claim a tax return or you can place your cash donation directly in the special Collection basket.  
All donations above \$2/- placed in envelopes provided are tax deductible. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**21st/22nd November ROSTERS**

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Maxwell K. Handcock	S. Joseph J. Jacob	A. Dsa J. Woodbury
<b>Acolytes</b>	Patrick Senjak	Joseph Lee	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 Vera		

# Youth Corner

**The servants and the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)**

This week's gospel is a parable about three servants who were entrusted with money by their master. Two of these servants used the money to increase their master's wealth and were praised. Meanwhile one servant hid the money in the ground and returned it to the master. Because he failed to increase his master's wealth, he was rejected by his master. This parable has two key messages for Christians:

**Key Message #1: God entrusts each one of us with resources according to our ability**

Like the master, God entrusts all people with a portion of his resources, expecting them to act as good managers. Notice that when the master left, he divided his assets and gave each of the three servants a different amount and he did so in "proportion to their abilities (vs.15)." Our resources include more than just our money, as in this parable. It includes all that we are and all that we have at our disposal (our time, talents, opportunities and our finances). God is a creative God. He makes unique individuals. Understand and appreciate how God has made you. Don't compare yourself with others. Consider what skills, resources and abilities you have been given by God. Like the master in this parable, God believes in you and has confidence that you will manage his resources wisely and with an entrepreneurial spirit. What matters most is what we do with the gifts we have been given by God. Jesus teaches that anything we do for the benefit of God and others using our abilities and resources is pleasing to God. That includes our work (whether paid or not), our love (acts of kindness towards all people), and our service (voluntarily helping others).

**Key Message #2: God is displeased when we play it safe and refuse to risk**

What is God like? From this parable, we could say that God is a risk-taker! He gives us resources and he wants us to make them grow. That requires overcoming the fear of failure. Think of the risks that Jesus took - challenging religious leaders and entrusting his kingdom work to his often fickle followers. He also called others to take risks too – including leaving all and following him. God wants us to confront our fears and insecurities. He calls us to step out of our comfort zone. This does not mean that we should be reckless with our lives but following Jesus requires faith and faith often means risk. When our life is over, we will be held accountable for how we use what we have been given by God. He has made an investment in our lives and he expects a return on it. This truth should provide good motivation to ensure that we make every effort to make our life count for the time we are here on earth.

-Adapted from a blog post on CityLife Church website  
<https://www.citylife.church/read/55/reflections-on-the-parable-of-the-talents/>  
- Rachel



**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>. Follow us on Instagram @fyrestmonicas to keep track of the latest FYRE news and events!

**November!** Please give generously to our fundraiser in support of Men's health issues such as mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. Donate at <https://movember.com/t/fyre-st-monica-s?mc=1> or contact Cheryl (0481 507 169) or Gabriel (0401 639 771) if you wish to be involved!

**FYRE Youth Christmas Party** Stay tuned to the youth corner and our instagram page as we will be releasing more details on the FYRE Christmas Party soon!