

# 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"*



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- YEAR A

29TH NOVEMBER 2020

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**Is 63: 16-17; 64: 1. 3-8**

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come  
down – at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act  
like this for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.  
*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** Lord, make us turn to you,  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**  
**1 Cor 1: 3-9**

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you  
grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have  
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have  
been enriched in so many ways, especially in your  
teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed  
been strong among you so that you will not be without  
any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our  
Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you  
steady and without blame until the last day, the day of  
our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has  
joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**  
**Mk 13: 33-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake,  
because you never know when the time will come. It is  
like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and  
left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he  
has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake,  
because you do not know when the master of the house  
is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he  
comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.  
And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty,  
and our earth shall yield its increase.

# 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## REFLECTION

### Timely Living and the End of History

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of 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

November 30, ST ANDREW, APOSTLE  
December 3, St Francis Xavier

**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


# PARISH ACTIVITES


 **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.*

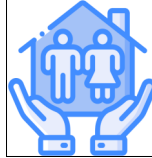
 **Christian Meditation**  
Every Friday from 6.30 pm to 6.55 pm Qigong, and 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Meditation. Enquiries/facilitator : Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661 or email: pabrown02@gmail.com.

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

 **Christmas Cards/Columban Calendars:**  
A limited number of Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars for sale at the back of the Church. **Please place sale proceeds in POOR BOX.**  
\$6 for Christmas Cards  
\$10 for Columban Calendars

 **Christmas Appeal:** Please use the envelopes provided at the back of the Church for the annual Christmas Appeal and place your donation envelopes in the poor box. Envelopes will be available from the 6th of December.

 **Christmas Giving Tree:** Gifts and Donations to be placed under Christmas/Gift Tree by Sunday 13th December, this will allow time for hampers to be collated and distributed.

 **Social Housing :** Despite obtaining 11,000 signatures for our Petition to the State Government to build 5,000 homes for Social Housing every year for the next 10 years to alleviate 110,000 people currently on the waiting list, the budget has only committed to build 1,200 homes, well short of what's needed. We'll keep plugging away.  
**SVDP**

**This Christmas, let us unite in demonstrating God's unconditional love and keep families together**

Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)



## Parramatta Catholic Foundation Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2020

**There will be a special collection this weekend (28th and 29th November).** Please use the envelopes provided next to the Sacred Heart statue 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.

### 05th/06th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	T. Webhe G. Basha	B. Hooker A. Dolahenty	A. Dsa A. Dsa
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 Chinese Chaplaincy		

# Youth + Corner

## Advent



With the ending of November we approach the time of year many children look forward to in the hope of getting that toy or console they've had their eyes on; Christmas. And while Christmas is

famous for gifts and a certain red suited person riding his sleigh, it is also an important time for us as Catholics, because it commemorates the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

However, the 25<sup>th</sup> is not the only important day. The weeks leading up to Christmas, namely Advent, also have significance. While we can often be caught up in the rush of Christmas shopping, planning get-togethers and everything else that happens during the season, Advent offers us a few much needed weeks in which we can contemplate the true meaning of Christmas. Through Advent, we have the chance to prepare for the birth of Jesus, to reflect on what we have done throughout the year, and to deepen our relationship with God through prayer.

The birth of Jesus is one of the most important events to us as Catholics. So as the date grows closer, should we spend our time preparing and praying, or should we allow ourselves to be swept away by the bright lights and noise that always seem to accompany the Christmas season? While the answer may seem extremely obvious, we often gloss over it – it's easy to go with the flow, but it's exponentially harder to slow down and focus on one thing. So, in the coming weeks, when Advent is in full swing, remember to set aside time in your day to just slow down, concentrate on your faith, and pray. Christmas is a wonderful time of year and can really enrich your faith, but only if you take the time to ready yourself.

**- Rashane**

## 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 – the final stretch!

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!