

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"



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- YEAR B

06TH DECEMBER 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 40: 1-5. 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her
that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid
low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind
shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout
with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout
without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory
is with him, his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

2 Pt 3: 8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget:
that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a
thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to
carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called
slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to
be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The
Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar
the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart,
the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be
living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the
Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and
the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is
what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the
place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my
friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives
without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 1: 1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son
of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of
Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised
by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John
wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and
wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone
is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am,
and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his
sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise
you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from 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	
ANOIDING OF THE SICK/ EUCARIST 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

Two Gospels

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the *past*. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who *does* have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the *Holy Spirit*.'

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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

December 7, St Ambrose

December 8, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

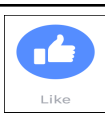
PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK. ESPECIALLY

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

Cyril & Florence Rodrigues
Cyril, Letticia, Raymond, Delisha, Sri Pathmanathan, Sonny, Karu Nanouf

PARISH ACTIVITES



St. Monica is on Facebook! Please join and get 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. **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 & **place your donation envelopes in the POOR BOX.** Envelopes will be available from the 5th/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.



Printed copies of Christmas and New Year Mass Times are available at the back of the Church. Please do take one.

St. Monica's Sacraments

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)

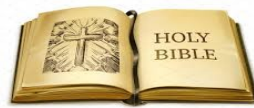
For **First Reconciliation** 31 July/1 August

(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**

Youth + Corner

The Most Important Book in History



During this month's youth group, Ryan and I provided the youth with an introduction into the Holy Bible. Through our research, it became evident that the Holy Bible is truly the most influential and important book in

human history. Our Old Testament originated thousands of years ago and is the religious text used by the Jews both in the past and present. The first five books in the Old Testament are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy and are known as the Torah (Hebrew) or the Pentateuch (Greek). Believed to be written by Moses himself, the first book Genesis details the creation of all things and the special relationship God has established with mankind himself. We then move on to the patriarchs of the Bible, Abraham, his son Isaac and his son Jacob, also named Israel, the ancestor of the Israelites. Later on, we see Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the promised land but also witness the defiance and rebellious nature of the Israelites against God, allowing us to reflect on the sinful nature of humanity itself.

As you move on through the Old Testament, you encounter the prophets. Individuals like Ezekiel, Daniel and Esther, who together tell the story of Israel's second freedom from captivity and return to Jerusalem. Interspersed here in the Bible is Psalms and Proverbs, which are hymns, songs, and sayings which praise and glorify God. You'll probably hear one today during mass! However, for Catholics today, one of the most important aspects of the Old Testament is the promise and foretelling of a saviour, a Messiah.

The New Testament is the fulfilment of this promise! The Gospels tell us about the story of Jesus and his ministry on Earth. He would be a descendent of David (as Joseph was descended from this lineage) and came down to proclaim the Good News of God's kingdom to Israel. The books after the Gospel detail the letters and journeys disciples such as St Paul encountered, with the goal of preaching the divine grace of Jesus and the beauty of faith and trust in God. These books also warn us of false prophets and sin, reminding Christians both past and present to remain steadfast in their faith and devotion to Christ.

The Book of Revelations rounds off the Bible, and it tells of the future of the Church, and of humanity, and prophesies about the spiritual journey we take and our ongoing struggle between good and evil. It is one of the most difficult books in the Bible to interpret and understand but forms the foundation for some of our most fundamental beliefs.

We also covered Biblical translations over the centuries, with the Vulgate (Latin translation/'gold standard') in the Catholic Church dating back to the 4th century AD. However, what matters is your hunger to learn more about Christ through scripture. As St Jerome, the author of the Vulgate once said, 'Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ'. Let us all heed his advice.

Gabriel

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!

FYRE Youth Christmas Party – Sat 19th December!!

Join us for an "Around the World" themed Christmas party! 6:30pm start, \$10 entry fee, dinner and games included. Contact Cheryl (0481 507 169) or Gabriel (0401 639 771) if interested in attending :)

12th/13th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock C. Meleca	C. Cheung S. Joseph	M. Ellis D. Llevado
Acolytes	Andre Kurkcu	Jeffery Lau	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera		