

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"



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- YEAR B

13TH DECEMBER 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 61: 1-2. 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

SECOND READING

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

1 Thes 5: 16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things
give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you
to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy
with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on
to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and
may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and
body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has
called you and he will not fail you.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News
to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 1: 6-8. 19-28

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews
sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who
are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite
openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are
you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He
answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We
must take back an answer to those who sent us. What
have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as
Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and
they put this further question to him, 'Why are you
baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not
the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but
there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who
is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his
sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side
of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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/ 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

Witness to the Light

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.



Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace,
mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

December 14, St John of the Cross

**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

Sri Pathmanathan
Cyril Bartholomeusz
Letticia Bartholomeusz

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 Last meeting for 2020 will be on the 16th of December and will resume after the Holidays on the 3rd of February 2021



Christmas Cards: Christmas Cards are available for sale at the back of the Church. **Place sale proceeds in POOR BOX.** \$6 for Christmas Cards



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.**



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.

Christmas and New Year Mass Times

Date	Time	Language
Christmas Eve 24 th December 2020 (Thursday)	6pm	English (live-streaming)
	9pm	Cantonese (live-streaming)
Christmas Day 25 th December 2020 (Friday)	12am (Midnight Mass)	English
	9am	English
	11:30am	Cantonese
Vigil of Feast of the Holy Family 26 th December 2020 (Saturday)	5pm	English
Feast of the Holy Family 27 th December 2020 (Sunday)	9am 6pm	English
	11:30 am	Cantonese
Solemnity of the Mother of God 1 st January 2021 (Friday)	9 am	English

19th/20th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C. Maxwell	J. Jacob B. Mcgettingan	T. Jones J. Woodbury
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Jeffery Lau	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera		

Youth + Corner

John the Baptist

As we read this week's Gospel, let us ponder on the figure of John the Baptist. John the Baptist's identity has been the subject of intense debate ever since this captivating individual appeared along the shores of the river Jordan in the first century C.E. Eating locusts and wearing little more than a tunic of camel's hair, John would have cut an imposing figure as he preached to his fellow Jews about the importance of atoning for one's sins and preparing for the coming kingdom of God. In tandem with these pronouncements, John immersed many of his contemporaries in the Jordan as an outward sign of their inner repentance, thereby initiating a practice that would go on to become one of the central rites within the Christian tradition: baptism.

Like all biblical prophets, John the Baptist was keenly aware of the relationship between the past and present and how an individual's actions in these timeframes affected their future. For John, the kingdom of God was nigh; preparing for the Lord's impending judgement meant that he and his contemporaries needed to seek forgiveness for their prior deviations from the law. Atonement was effected internally through prayer and supplication, and the outward sign of this inward purification was John's baptism.

Although John held that baptism was an important and necessary first step toward salvation, the absolution of one's previous sins did not necessarily ensure that an individual would acquire God's favour at the end of days. Rather, argued John the Baptist, a person's deeds must be a reflection of their inner virtue for the remainder of their lives. Walking on the path of righteousness was, for John, about continuing to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Luke 3:8)—sharing food and clothing with those who are without, taking no more than what is lawful, and refraining from using one's position in society to oppress those who are less fortunate.

The future, as described by John the Baptist, must have been simultaneously exciting and terrifying to his fellow Jews. On the one hand, John spoke of the coming Messiah who would baptise the faithful with the Holy Spirit and usher the righteous into the Lord's loving embrace. On the other hand, this same messianic figure would also punish the wicked and incinerate those who had deviated from the path of righteousness in an unrelenting fire. A terrifying image, to be sure, and reason enough for many of John's contemporaries to seek God's forgiveness for their past transgressions, but it is the Baptist's message of social responsibility and justice that is at the heart of his teachings and it is this Gospel (Luke 3:18) that truly solidifies John's status as a precursor to Jesus of Nazareth.

- Ian Werrett, "John the Baptist", n.p. [cited 9 Dec 2020].

Online: <https://www.bibleodyssey.org:443/en/people/main-articles/john-the-baptist>

Youth Announcements



St. Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Next week we will not be hosting our online FYRE session as our Christmas Party will be on! See details below!

FYRE Youth Christmas Party – Sat 19th December!!

Join us for an "Around the World" themed Christmas party! Doors open at 6:30pm and we close the night at 10pm. Entry fee is \$10, dinner and games included. RSVP by filling out this online form (scan the QR code) or message Cheryl (0481 507 169)/Gabriel (0401 639 771) if interested in attending :)

