

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"



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- YEAR B

20TH DECEMBER 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING

**A reading from the second book of Samuel
2 Sm 7: 1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: My soul rejoices in my God.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 16: 25-27**

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Lk 1: 26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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

'Spirit Hovering'

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

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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 25, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
(CHRISTMAS)
December 26, ST STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR

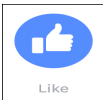
**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE
OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK.
ESPECIALLY**

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 Sajih Wehbe
Hinid Wehbe
Hasna Takchi
Mouris Takchi
Elias Hkeik
Sam Takchi
Sadie Takchi

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 Will Resume in the 2nd week of February 2021. Every Friday from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Enquiries/facilitator : Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661 or email: pabrown02@gmail.com.



St Monica's Parish Rosary Group will resume after the Holiday break 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 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 (live-streaming)
Feast of the Holy Family 27 th December 2020 (Sunday)	9am 6pm	English
	11:30 am	Cantonese (live-streaming)
Solemnity of the Mother of God 1 st January 2021 (Friday)	9 am	English

26th/27th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha K. Handcock	M. Falamich B. Hooker	D. Cruz R. Wong-Nasara
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Joseph Lee	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group Vera		

Youth + Corner

Peace Be With You

This Sunday we light the fourth candle of Advent, the one which is sometimes called the "Angel Candle". This is because, as in line with this week's Gospel reading, the angels announce the coming of Jesus who will bring peace to us all. With this candle we acknowledge that peace comes from God alone, and peace was brought into our hearts and to our world through Christ's coming.

In speaking of the word of peace, I am reminded of how often it appears in mass:

"Peace be with you"

"Peace to people of good will"

"Be please to grant her *peace*, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world"

"Therefore, Lord, we pray...order our days in your *peace*"

"Advance the *peace* and salvation of all the world"

"Graciously grant *peace* in our days"

"Peace I leave you, my peace I give you"

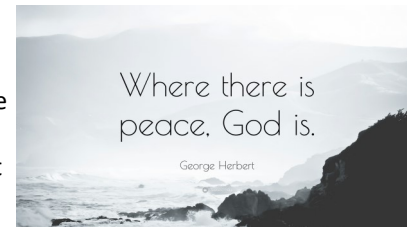
There are of course many more times that the word peace is used during mass; here are but some of the times you may recall. The echoes of the word peace in mass reflect Jesus's own sayings and teachings – but why do the words of our Lord preach of peace?

Whether we know it or not, our soul longs for peace; to be at peace with the world, with our loved ones, with our enemies, with our minds, and most of all, to live peacefully with God. In peace, we find a quietening of our restless soul that yearns for eternal life with God. That is why Jesus aptly bears the title of Prince of Peace, because he restored our broken relationship with God and showed us the way to live a harmonious life with Him, with each other and with Creation.

As I write this piece however, and I am drawn to something I have often wondered. When the priest says "peace be with you" why do we respond "and with your spirit"? Some of you may recall that the response used to be "and also with you" before it was changed to more accurately reflect the Latin translations. In Latin, *et cum spiritu tuo* (and with your spirit) is actually an acknowledgement by the congregation that the grace and spirit of Christ is present in the celebrant by way of the virtue of his ordination. Hence rather than the congregation appearing to personally wish the priest peace as can be misconstrued by the response "and also with you", the translation of "and with your spirit" actually captures our belief that the priest acts *in persona Christi*. Fun fact!

I end this piece by wishing you all a Merry Christmas; may peace be with you all in this joyous season :)

- Abby



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!