

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"



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

04TH JANUARY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 60: 1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Eph 3: 2-3. 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God
with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a
revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery.
This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit
to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men
in past generations; it means that pagans now share the
same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and
that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ
Jesus, through the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 2: 1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during
the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem
from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they
asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him
homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed,
and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all
the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and
enquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the
prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately.
He asked them the exact date on which the star had ap-
peared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all
about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let
me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having
listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there
in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went
forward and halted over the place where the child was. The
sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the
house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling
to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their
treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense
and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back
to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different
way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

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

Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

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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

**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 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
St Monica's Parish Rosary Group will resume after the Holiday break on the 3rd of February 2021

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 and an Administration fee of \$30/- payable at the time of registration.**

Holiday Office Hours:



It is highly recommended to please call the office on 02 9630 1951 prior to visiting the Parish office during the school holiday break

There will be **NO** weekday Mass from the **12th to the 15th of January 2021.**

09th/10th January ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Melecca K. Handcock	B. McGettigan J. Jacob	TBA TBA
Acolytes	TBA	TBA	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 3 Sisley & Froi		

Youth + Corner

New Year Resolutions

2021

For many people, the beginning of a new year brings an opportunity to reflect on what they've achieved in the previous year and think about what they would like to achieve in the new year. However, new year resolutions are notorious for

being unfulfilled; we hear often about new year resolutions involving reaching a goal such as exercising more every week or attempting to procrastinate less when studying. Hence, for some people, setting new year resolutions can seem pointless. However, even if you believe setting tangible goals may not work for you, it may still be a good idea to think about whether you are satisfied about where you are in your life over the past year and where you would like to be in the next year or more long-term future. This can really help avoid situations where you feel dissatisfied because you believe you aren't growing as a person, or your life has become stagnant and monotonous. It can also provide some motivation to improve things in your life, if it is possible, instead of simply resigning yourself to an unsatisfactory situation which makes you and other people in your life discontent. But if you are satisfied about where you are in life, it may also be good to reflect on how this can be maintained in the coming year, and how you can build resilience if challenges occur. Some issues to think about may include

- A) Are you happy with your relationship with your friends and family? Do you and your family and friends believe everyone mutually benefits from the relationship, or are you or someone else causing stress and making other people demoralised due to toxic behaviour? Are there any outstanding relationship issues that may need to be resolved, or any relationships you may need to gradually let go off? Are there people in your life who encourage you to live a morally upright life, or are there people who pressure or influence you to make morally wrong choices?
- B) Are you satisfied with your relationship with God? Do you believe that you seek to listen to God, seek to be guided by Him, or is God a person that's become less important in your life? Do you seek to live by Jesus's example and follow God's moral precepts? Do you think about what you can do to make amends if you sinned? If you believe you have a more distant relationship with God, what kind of actions will you take to bring yourself closer to Him?
- C) Are you happy with your career or current occupation, whether as a student at school/university or at your current workplace? Are there any issues that cause you stress as a worker or student, and if so, what are some things that you might be able to do to manage this stress? When you study or go to work, do you have a sense of what your role is and what you are trying to achieve? Do you make a positive contribution to your colleagues, fellow students or teacher's experience in an educational environment or work environment, and what are some things you can do to make sure you do play a positive role in your social environment? Do you have good work and study habits and what habits need to be changed?

Although reflecting on your life can seem daunting, reflecting helps us think about how we need to change to grow and improve as a person, and this is an important aspect of rejecting a sinful, complacent life and becoming more like Christ.

- 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! Happy new year everyone, and good luck with goal setting! :)