

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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

- YEAR B

10TH JANUARY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 55: 1-11

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John 1 Jn 5: 1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God;

and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child that he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is— keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world— our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth -

so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree.

We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater,

and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk: 1: 7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist 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.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

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| 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

A Whisper echoing Heaven

Jesus was immersed in the Waters of the River Jordan as though he were a repentant sinner. Why? Jesus wanted to be identified with the mass of sinful humanity. During this great act of solidarity, Jesus clearly had a mystical experience as He emerged from the waters: the Heavens opening, the Spirit descending *like* a dove, and hearing a *bat qol*, a whisper echoing Heaven.

Each of us has been incorporated into Our Lord's Baptism. At whatever age we received Baptism, the Heavens were opened and Divine love and power streamed from Heaven to earth. The Holy Spirit, Divine Lover of humanity, hovered gently. Deep down, at the intimate well-spring of life, the Divine Voice was heard: 'You are my beloved daughter' or 'You are my beloved son, my favour rests on you.'

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might wake up each morning with that Divine Voice ringing in our ears, and then re-echoing it in our lives.

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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.
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

Antoinette Coorey

St Monica's would like to send our deepest condolences to Anthony Coorey (Former Chairman of our Finance Committee) & Virginia Laban (Church Organist) on the recent passing of their mother.

Antoinette Coorey was a parishioner for over 50 years and sadly passed away on the 31.12.20

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.



Wear a mask

Wearing a mask, especially in indoor venues is now compulsory. Masks can also be seen an act of charity towards others and can help stop the spread of the virus.

Please maintain recommended social distance in & outside the church. Limit of 100 persons inside church during Mass.

16th/17th January ROSTERS

| | 5pm Vigil | 9am | 6pm |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Readers | S. Meleca C. Meleca | B. Hooker M. Falamich | W. Sassine M. Ellis |
| Acolytes | Andre Kurkcu | Jeffrey Lau | John Hilton |
| Cleaning | Group 2 Vera | | |

Youth + Corner

Baptism of the Lord

This week we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, a significant event in Jesus' life which is found in three of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) each with their own individual perspectives. Despite their differences, all accounts unanimously acknowledge this celebration marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Baptism, as we know, allows someone to become members of Christ and the Church community where they are freed from their sins. Why then, did Jesus- the sinless Eternal Son- need to receive Baptism?

Jesus did so to show his unity and solidarity with the rest of humanity, whom he had come to save. By aligning himself with sinners, Jesus set aside all exemption for himself and completely identified as one of them. Through his humble submission we are able to witness his willingness and acceptance of God's will, foreshadowing the 'baptism' of his ultimate death upon the cross. Jesus also received Baptism in order to sanctify the water so that our sins can be washed away and we are essentially reborn as citizens of God with a renewed state of grace which enables us to follow him. When we are baptized, we are able to acquire a greater sense of holiness to fulfill our mission as disciples of God- to bring Christ into the world and spread the good news. This is later strengthened by our confirmation (another sacrament!) and reaffirmed each time we receive the Holy Communion at Mass. Jesus' Baptism gives a new and divine meaning to the sacrament. The recipient begins a new life by establishing a union with the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and the Holy Spirit and receiving the gift of faith. In this new birth, the believer receives remission from sin, receives the Spirit of son-ship which enables him or her to become a child of God and a member of the Church, and a citizen of heaven. This way baptism becomes the gateway to the life of grace and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. In doing so, it defines the believer's rights and responsibilities as a Christian, his/her privileges and mission.

The Church invites us to renew our baptismal promises so that we can live ever more transparently as a disciple of Jesus and to follow in his footsteps. Although we only receive baptism once in our life, it is never a one-time event; we have to live and keep our baptismal promises throughout our life. That is to say that we have to conform to Christ more and more daily. In order words, we who have received the grace of baptism must endeavor always to live up to our baptismal promises throughout our life.

(adapted from: <http://albee2012.blogspot.com/2013/11/homily-baptism-of-lord-year-a.html>)

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Youth group is still online at the moment for 2021! Join us on Saturday nights 8PM using the link <http://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/93935934337> Follow us on Instagram @fyrestmonicas to keep track of the latest FYRE news and events!

Altar Serving- Expressions of interest

St Monica's is looking for **new Altar Servers for the Sunday Masses!** If you're interested, then please contact one of the Altar Serving Coordinators (please refer to the contact details below).

Altar Serving Coordinator Contact Details

5pm (Saturday) Andre Kurkcu Phone: 0410 881 648
9am & 6pm (Sunday) Rashane Joseph Phone: 0424 697 842
11:30am (Sunday) Rebecca Cheung Phone: 0449 055 395