

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 IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR B

24TH JANUARY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jonah

Jon 3: 1 - 5. 10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 1 Cor 7: 29 - 31

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:

believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Mk 1: 14 - 20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

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

The Eyes Have It

When Jesus says to Simon, Andrew, James and John 'I will make you into fishers of men', then, amongst the many levels of meaning they would have heard the allusion to Ezekiel 29:3-5.

Jesus was telling them that he was creating a society of liberated human beings, called the 'Kingdom of God'. This would involve struggle against powerful elites, the pharaohs of this world, who oppress and enslave people. It would be as dangerous and demand as much energy as required to haul a crocodile out of the Nile.

Yet they did so, 'straightaway'. Because of the call of Jesus? No. At least, not that alone. We read 'He saw Simon and his brother Andrew . . . He saw James and his brother John.' They were responding not to his voice alone but to his eyes. His is like the attentive gaze of a parent loving a baby into a beautiful future. Jesus looks at you and at me wanting to love us into a barely imaginable future.

We could pause for a moment to remember that when His call comes, demanding an 'aye' or a 'nay', the Eyes have it.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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

January 25, THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, THE APOSTLE

January 26, AUSTRALIA DAY

January 28, St Thomas Aquinas

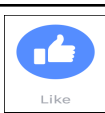
**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE
OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK.
ESPECIALLY**

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

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

PARISH ACTIVITIES



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 on the 5th of February. 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 on the 3rd of February. Every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.



Remember the Deceased There is an open diary and pens next to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue and you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased loved ones or family members on the day of their anniversaries and we will pray for them.

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com



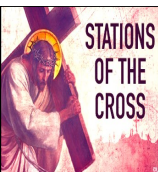
Confirmation - Registrations will take place on the 20th/21st February after Mass. (The child is eligible to receive this sacrament if he/she has received the sacrament of First Holy Communion and is in year 5 or above)

****To register please bring a copy of the Baptism certificate along with a copy of the First Holy Communion Certificate (if done at another Church). An Administration fee of \$30/- (in cash) is also payable at the time of registration.**

Lent 2021



Ash Wednesday 17th February
(Day of Fasting & Abstinence)
Masses: 9:15am (English)
7pm (English + live-streaming)
8pm (Cantonese + live-streaming)



Stations of the Cross (Confession available)
Every Friday from 19th February to 26th March
7pm (English)
8pm (Cantonese)



Wear a mask

Wearing a mask, especially in indoor venues is now compulsory. Masks can also be seen as 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.

30th/31st January ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha C. Maxwell	S. Joseph J. Jacob	A. Dsa J. Woodbury
Acolytes	Alexander Kurkcu	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 3 Sisley & Froi		

Youth + Corner

Repentance

Repentance must be first rooted in the realization of how sinful an action, emotion, belief, or way of life is. Then, one must be grieved by how offensive and hurtful sin is to God, not simply afraid of God's retribution for your sin. Only then can turning away from sin towards holiness truly be called repentance. When one does repent, it leads to the forgiveness of sin and the restoration of one's experiential communion with God. Several texts clearly indicate that repentance, together with faith, is essential for the forgiveness of sins ([Luke 24:47](#); [Acts 2:38](#); [3:19](#); [5:31](#); [11:18](#)). True repentance only begins when one passes out of what the Bible sees as *self-deception* or *denial*, into what the Bible calls *conviction of sin* (cf. [John 16:8](#))." To truly repent one must also confess the sin openly and honestly to the Lord. We see this in [Psalm 32](#) where King David describes his experience following his adultery with Bathsheba. When he finally responded to the conviction in his heart it resulted in confession with his mouth: "*Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit ... I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin*" ([Ps. 32:1-2, 5](#)). David uses three different words to describe his confession (32:5). He "acknowledged" his sin; he refused to "cover" his iniquity; and he was determined to "confess" his transgressions. Nothing is held back. There is no cutting of corners or moral compromise. He comes totally clean. David makes no excuses, offers no rationalizations, and refuses to shift blame. Although repentance is more than psychological catharsis, there is in it a true feeling or sense of remorse. If one is not genuinely offended by one's sin, there is no repentance. Repentance is painful, but it is a sweet pain. It demands brokenness of heart ([Ps. 51:17](#); [Isa. 57:15](#)) but always with a view to healing and restoration and a renewed vision of the beauty of Christ and forgiving grace. Thus, repentance is more than a feeling. Emotion can be fleeting, whereas true repentance bears fruit. This points to the difference between "attrition" and "contrition." *Attrition* is regret for sin prompted by a fear for oneself: "Oh, no. I got caught. What will happen to me?" *Contrition*, on the other hand, is regret for the offence against God's love and pain for having grieved the Holy Spirit. In other words, it is possible to "repent" out of fear of reprisal, rather than from a hatred of sin. One's sincere pursuit and faithful embrace of repentance leads to the greatest blessing of all: forgiveness! David's sin is like an oppressive weight from which he longs to be relieved. Forgiveness lifts the burden from his shoulders. David writes, "*then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD and you forgave the guilt of my sin.'*" (Psalms 32:5) God sees it no more. He isn't a spiritual scorekeeper to those who seek his pardoning favour. Our communion with Christ is always dependent on our sincere and heartfelt repentance from sin. We are altogether safe and secure in our eternal union with Christ, due wholly and solely to God's grace. But our capacity to enjoy the fruit of that union, our ability to feel, sense, and rest satisfied in all that is entailed by that saving union is greatly affected, either for good or ill, by our repentant response when the Holy Spirit awakens us to the ways that we have failed to honour and obey God's revealed will in Scripture.

-adapted from article 'the Christian and Repentance' by Sam Storms

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 Saturday and 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