

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 IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR B

31ST JANUARY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Dt 18: 15 - 20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 1 Cor 7: 32 - 35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need

worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A people in darkness have
seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on
those lost in death.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Mk 1: 21 - 28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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 Crampton

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 9683-4984

Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

REFLECTION

Evil Spirits versus the Holy One of God

The word 'diabolical' comes from a Greek word referring to something broken in two, shattered. Looking at persons and societies torn apart, it is obvious that the diabolical spirit is powerful. However, it harbours a fear that a more powerful Holy Spirit could reintegrate a personality, could make a community out of divided groups.

'Have you come to destroy us?' indicates that this fear was realised in the coming on to the scene of Jesus Christ. Jesus' answer was a resounding 'Yes', not in words but in action, healing a man torn apart by a diabolical spirit.

Jesus Christ invites and empowers us to join in his healing mission to overcome whatever it is which tears people apart, whether at the individual, community or global levels. We do so in the confidence of His Resurrection which overcame the diabolical tearing apart of His body and soul.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to joining Jesus' mission, so putting the fear of God into the devil!

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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

February 02, The Presentation of the Lord
February 05, St Agatha
February 06, St Paul Miki & Companions

**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

Andrew Mizzi
Basil (Pat) Mc Brien

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 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.

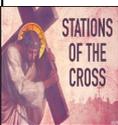


CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ST MONICA'S BRANCH INVITES YOU to a special meeting on Monday, 22nd February at 10am in the meeting room. New members and visitors are most welcome as we look ahead to form new friendships and support women we may be yet to meet in our own Parish. We will keep Covid19 safe so will plan any activities carefully. Any enquiries please to Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361

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 indoors is 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 110 persons inside church during Mass.

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

06th/07th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	R. Forteleza A. Espiritu	A. Dsa A. Dsa
Acolytes	Andre Kurkcu	Ian Goldthorpe	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 Chinese Chaplaincy		



Why do we sing during Mass?

Why do we sing during Mass? The question has always been in the back of my mind, and yet I never put much effort into finding out why. Do we sing because that's what we've always done? Because we need something to fill the silence? Or is there a deeper meaning behind it?

And to answer that third question: yes, there is a deeper meaning behind it – one that can be found throughout the bible, from way back in the old testament to the letters of the apostles.

Paul himself had quite a lot to say on the matter, and though sometimes it's not always laid out plainly, he makes some valid points in regards to the connection between faith and music. So if you want to find out more, the bible is always there.

And amongst all this, there was one reason that really stood out for why we sing. When we sing we glorify God. Throughout the Bible we see people singing praises to God, but how does singing glorify God?

Well, singing is a powerful form of expression – an art – through which numerous people can come together. And like with most forms of art, we can use singing to highlight the greatness of our God. This is at the core of what makes singing a powerful tool for glorifying God. However, the mere fact that we sing in Church does not mean we are automatically glorifying or praising God.

In his letter to the Ephesians (5:18-20), Pauls writes, "be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." He points out that we must make melody with our hearts, and this doesn't just mean that we let ourselves be pulled along by the music. It means that we use music to manifest our love for God, that by singing we are praising God not just because he is our God, but because we each have a deep and personal relationship with him. Singing for the sake of singing is not worship or glorifying, it's merely the act of stringing words together with an accompanying melody. When we sing along to the Mass hymns together as a community, not only do we grow our bond as a Church, but we also show that we know God. We show that we love him, and that we want to glorify him, not just because it is what is expected of us, but because in our hearts, we all want to.

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