

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"



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR B

07TH FEBRUARY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Job

Jb 7: 1 - 4. 6 - 7

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than
pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have
passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Praise the Lord who heals
the broken-hearted

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 1 Cor 9: 16 - 19. 22 - 23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty
which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did
not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might
have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a

responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you
know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be
able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the
rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made
myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I
could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself
all things to all men in order to save some at any cost;
and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a
share in its blessings.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Mk 1: 29 - 39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and
John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now
Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and
they told him about her straightaway. He went to her,
took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever
left her and she began to wait on them.
That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who
were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The
whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured
many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or
another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not
allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.
In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the
house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.
Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and
when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for
you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the
neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there
too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through
Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out
devils.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

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/ 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

The Divine Touch

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter) was sick in bed with a raging fever. When Jesus learned about her distressed state, he 'took her by the hand and helped her up'. He broke the taboo about physical contact with a woman not his relative because he wanted to holistically heal her dis-ease.

Simon's mother-in-law didn't need an aspirin and a cup of tea. She felt quarantined, isolated, and needed a hand reassuring her of sociable relationships. Jesus overcame her fever and her dis-ease with the world.

At every Mass we exchange a physical gesture at the greeting of Peace. This quite often overcomes being ill-at-ease with a family member or just with the neighbour in the pew. We need to take that symbolic action into the world. For somebody, it may be the most touching thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to identify that person who needs us to reach out, to take their hand and help them up.

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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 10, St Scholastica
February 17, ASH WEDNESDAY,
(Day of Fasting & Penance)

**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

Roel & Yvonne Ellsmore
Gabrielle Wehbe
Joseph Wehbe
Mouris Takchi
Hasna Takchi
Hinid Wehbe
Elias Hkeik

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 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 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.

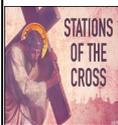


CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ST MONICA'S BRANCH INVITES YOU to a special meeting on Monday, 22nd February at 10am in the meeting room. New members and visitors are most welcome as we look ahead to form new friendships and support women we may be yet to meet in our own Parish. We will keep Covid19 safe so 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 parish) and a cash donation of \$30/- payable at the time of registration.**

13th/14th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock T. Webhe	E. Calabria C. Cheung	M. Ellis D. Llavado
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera		



How do you pray best?

Praying is an essential part of our spiritual lives. Through prayer we form an essential connection with God which in turn strengthens our existing relationship. You'll often hear that praying is like starting a conversation with God, and that to most effectively do this you need to find a quiet place free from distractions so that you can really hear God talking. Although this may truly be the most useful method for some people, not everyone is the same. What may work for one may not necessarily work for another – this applies to most things, even to how and where we choose to pray. So, what can you do? Well, the first step is to figure which category you fit under. Do you prefer to pray and show faith through deeds? Do you feel called to do something, to make change in the name of God? Or maybe, you prefer to think things through, to use logic and ponder on the mysteries of our faith?

Every person will arrive at a slightly different answer, or maybe even a mix of answers. What if you fit under the first category? The type that prefers to show faith through deeds? Then you are something of a hands-on person. This means you find it easiest to connect to God when you are doing something such as volunteering. Even gardening is a good method, if you consider it a way for you to give back or do something in God's name.

The second type of person is one who prays without any real routine – they hone their relationship with God by enacting change, or by carrying out the mission given to them by God. Although this is similar to the above, you will find that praying while doing something is different to praying and connecting with God through your actions, or by rising to the vocation He has called you to. A good reference point for this category is in the autobiographies of those such as St Therese of Lisieux or Saint John XXIII.

The final group of people, comprised of those who prefer contemplation and logic, will in fact find that praying in a quiet place free from distractions may help them the most. These people prefer to meditate on their faith, generally alone. Often, it helps for them to meditate on the words of the bible, or sermons, or even religious literature.

There are many ways to pray, and what's most useful to you usually depends on your personality. However, this doesn't mean that you should confine yourself to one method based on your personality. Some types of prayer may mix different styles – the Rosary for example – and sometimes the style that fits your personality might not be the most comfortable. Finally, no style of prayer is better than another. After all, the fruit of prayer is a strong relationship with God – don't let the means eclipse the goal. Do what is best for you, because at the end of the day prayer is about you and God.

- Rashane

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