

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"



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR B

14TH FEBRUARY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Leviticus
Lv 13: 1 - 2. 44 - 46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. (R.)
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians **1 Cor 10: 31 - 11: 1**

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared
among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Mk 1: 40 - 45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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/ 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 Crampton

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 9683-4984

Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

REFLECTION

Jesus outcast for us

Lepers were social outcasts forced to live outside the villages and towns. Jesus heals the leper, allowing him to return to communal living, but, in touching him, Jesus put himself on the outer.

The Gospel says that Jesus 'had to stay outside where nobody lived'. Jesus willingly changed places with the leper!

This incident prefigures the deepest mystery and scandal of the Gospel. Because of our deliberate wrongdoing, we are 'on the outside' with God. Our Lord and Saviour willingly experienced that alienation on Calvary, *outside* the walls of Jerusalem, in a desolate place where no-body lived. He suffered the dis-locating consequences of sin in his body and mind: 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'

He took our place outside the human awareness of the loving presence of His Heavenly Father so that we might be located in the right place, *insiders* with God.

We might pause for a moment to lovingly thank our Saviour for leading us into 'the One in Whom we live and move and have our being'.

© 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

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

Dr Joseph P John

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**



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 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 Covid 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)



Please maintain recommended social distance in & outside church. Limit of 220 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.**

VINNIES THANK YOU . SVDP thanks the School & Parish Community for their support and gift/hamper contributions to our Christmas 2020 Appeal. We collated over 100 parcels for the distribution which included some personal adult gifts, we find that they are mainly forgotten at the expense of food and gifts for the children. It was smiles all round from our recipients, many who were unsure whether such celebrations would take place this year given the circumstances we all had to and some are still enduring.

Our donation appeal raised \$1,610 - thank you. Our Christmas Card/ Columban Calendars were also well received.

We thank those who collated & delivered hampers. We thank Fr Lam for his ongoing support to the Vinnies cause. We live in hope and Pray for a better outcome in 2021. **SVDP**

20th/21st February ROSTERS

| | 5pm Vigil | 9am | 6pm |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Readers | G. Basha C. Maxwell | A. Dolahenty B. McGettigan | R. Wong-Nasara D. Cruz |
| Acolytes | Alexander Kurkcu | Jeffery Lau | John Hilton |
| Cleaning | Group 2 - Vera | | |

Youth Corner



From Your Valentine

We are called to love each and every day. It just so happens that this year, on the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, we happen to also be celebrating Valentine's Day, a day where we traditionally show the love we have for others through the exchange of gifts and other tokens of affection. To be frank, the origins of Valentine's day are a bit unclear, and the saint of this day, St. Valentine of Rome, is somewhat of an enigma. Some say that St. Valentine was a martyred priest who secretly helped couples get married in a time when Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage so as to encourage single men to join the army. Another story speaks of a Valentine who attempted to convert people to Christianity in a time when Christians were persecuted, and even sneaked into prisons to perform marriage ceremonies for captive Christians. Others say St. Valentine was a prisoner who fell in love with his jailer's daughter, healed her blindness and wrote her a letter, urging her to stay close to Jesus Christ and signed it off as "from your Valentine" before his beheading. Whomever he was, St. Valentine continues to be listed as an official saint by the Catholic Church, despite the fact that he was removed from the General Roman Calendar due to how little is known about him. Nevertheless, he is the patron saint of love, couples, and interestingly, beekeepers and epilepsy.

Intriguing as this all is, what can we learn from this mysterious saint? Well, in each of the stories we can see that love is courageous and compassionate, outward looking and concerned for the well-being of the other. And there is an element of a devotion to the faith as well, a call to imitate the love of God through the human love we show to others.

As Sharla Guenther writes in her online blog post 'Valentine's Day and Love' on the site DLTK's Bible Stories for Children, "The Bible tells us that love is from God and that God is love. The neat thing about God's love is that it's not a feeling to him, he can't fall out of love with us. He loves us even when we're not loveable and when we're grumpy or doing bad things. He loves all of us no matter what. The tricky part is loving others like God loves us.

There is a special kind of love we can have for others, it's called agape love. This doesn't have to be mushy love, just see people as God would see them. I'm sure you'll run into somebody you don't think deserves your love or you just don't want to love at all, but God loves them and if we love God we are supposed to love them too."

We are called to love God

We are called to love our family and friends

We are called to love our neighbours

We are called to love people we don't get along well with

And we are called to love ourselves as well.

This message is to you~ Happy Valentine's Day!

- Abby

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 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