

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"



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- YEAR B

21ST FEBRUARY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 9: 8 - 15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

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 Peter

1 Pt 3: 18 - 22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 1: 12 - 15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God.

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 Rainbow

The Rainbow is God's signature to a treaty with humankind. On God's part, material forces will never be sent to annihilate human beings as a punishment for wrongdoing. On our part, as humans made in the likeness of God, we are to image God's rainbow relationship to nature.

This is the Divine Treaty basis of our responsibility for the environment. We undertake not to engage in practices or support policies which could severely damage the fragile ecology which supports life on our planet. The deforestation of the slopes of the Himalayas, leading to floods which kill thousands, is a catastrophic example.

And, gazing at the rainbow, we can pray for our planet, for the human beings and all other creatures who inhabit it, and quite often for ourselves at a deep personal level. For we know that, just as after a storm and dark clouds, light penetrates the misty sky and the beautiful bow of colour appears, the same phenomenon can occur in our own lives.

We could take a moment to pray that the rainbow will appear, perhaps for ourselves, perhaps for others we know who are going through a stormy time.

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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 22, THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, THE
APOSTLE,
February 23, St Polycarp

**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

Chris and Mandy

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



Please maintain recommended social distance in & outside church. Limit of 220 persons inside church during Mass.

Lent 2021



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



Project Compassion 2021 Please collect your compassion boxes at the entrance to the Church and return them no later than Easter Sunday to the Parish Office or place them in the green metal box provided at the entrance to the Church.

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com



Confirmation - Registrations this weekend -

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.*



Lent

Lent is an important period in the Catholic calendar that is set aside as a time of preparation for Easter. Easter is an incredibly important event in the Christian calendar. Easter commemorates Jesus' saving actions that give humanity a path to eternal life. Without Jesus' death and resurrection, humanity's condition of original sin would still be a barrier to our salvation; more specifically, entering God's kingdom after death. In order to benefit from God's grace, which is expressed in Jesus' death and resurrection, we must be willing to undergo a form of repentance, and reform ourselves so that we turn away from sin and evil. The Catholic Catechism describes this spiritual transformation as interior penance, and states, 'Jesus' call to conversion and penance does not aim at outward works.... but at the conversion of the heart. Without this, penances remain sterile and false....' (1430). The catechism then goes on to describe what interior repentance is, 'interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life....a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward evil actions we have committed....it entails the desire to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of His grace.' (1431). Lent is a time in which Catholics are encouraged to reflect on and work towards spiritual transformations that are necessary to, in effect, become a better person who is unhampered by sin, and harmful desires and actions. Although it can be quite difficult to engage in deep reflection about the purpose of Lent and how we should personally prepare for Easter when we are so caught up in the busy routines of our everyday lives, there are a few steps you can follow:

- 1) Ask for God's help in your spiritual transformation. Trust God to lead you and guide you, and don't focus solely on what you would like to get out of this process. Repentance should be centred on thinking about what God wants for you.
- 2) Reflect on whether you've done, said or thought about anything that was wrong, hurt others and which is contrary to God's moral precepts. For example, have you ever been resentful towards someone, said something unkind to them, or been apathetic about someone's problems? Acknowledge why it was wrong, and confess them to God, with a genuine commitment to change.
- 3) Reflect on what you can do to make sure you don't make the same mistakes. Think about the thoughts and emotions that lead to you doing or saying something wrong. Think about whether your desires lead you to have thoughts that are harmful. Replace harmful thoughts, emotions and desires with ones that help you become a better person. For example, instead of desiring to be powerful at work and be placed in a senior position at any cost, seek to be a compassionate, caring colleague instead, regardless of your position at work. Make decisions and actions based on these thoughts and desires.

Seeking repentance is a way we can restore and repair our relationship with God, as well as demonstrating an acceptance of His grace and mercy. Remember, believing in God isn't a free pass to eternal bliss. We have to demonstrate to God that we 'bear fruit' spiritually. If we don't repent and remain stuck in our flawed ways, God will hold us accountable for that choice.

-Rachel

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

27th/28th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell K. Handcock	B. Hooker A. Espiritu	W. Sassine M. Ellis
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Joseph Lee	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		