

# 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"*



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- YEAR B

28TH FEBRUARY 2021

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 22: 1 - 2. 9 - 13. 15 -18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush.

Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the sea-shore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

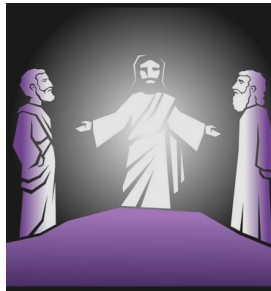
## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8: 31 - 34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you,  
Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud,  
the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you,  
Lord Jesus Christ!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
Mk 9: 2 - 10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm	
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am	
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,	
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30 am Saturday - 4-4.40pm or on request	
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior	
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151	Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

### Transfigured Bodysouls

St Thomas Aquinas famously said: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' And yet many Christians do think that our ultimate goal is, by the grace of God, to end up as souls in Heaven.

No, I am a human being, bodysoul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthling, needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, especially as recounted in the other gospels, shows what happens when human nature is in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. The amazing truth is that God ardently desires that each one of us should share in the transfigured life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this to occur, we must play our part, accepting that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Beloved Son of God, listen to him, and put into practice what we hear.

We could take a moment to pray that after the "repose of the soul" after death, we may participate as bodysouls in the transfigured humanity of the Risen Lord.

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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

**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

Cyril and Florence Rodrigues

# 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.



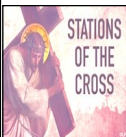
**Remember the Deceased** There is an open diary and pens next to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue and you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased loved ones or family members on the day of their anniversaries and we will pray for them.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ST MONICA'S BRANCH** meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 10am in the meeting room. Enquiries : Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361



Please sign in on the sheets provided or check in using the QR Code provided as you enter the Church. Please maintain recommended social distance in & outside church.  
Limit of 220 persons inside church during Mass.



**Stations of the Cross** (Confession available)  
Every Friday from 19<sup>th</sup> February to 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



**The Bishop's Lenten Appeal** — will take place on the 13/14th March weekend. Envelopes will be available on that weekend next to the Sacred Heart Statue. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please place your completed donation envelopes in the box provided.

## St. Monica's Sacraments

[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)



### Confirmation -

**Compulsory Parent Meeting** - 02nd of March at 7pm Parish Hall  
**1st Lesson** - 13th March (4pm)/14th March (8am) Parish Hall  
**Commitment Mass** - 13th March - 5pm/14th March - 9 am Church

### Solemnity Mass

Dates & Times:

#### St Patrick's

17th March, 9.15 am

#### St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

19th March, 9.15 am

#### The Annunciation of the Lord

25th March, 9.15 am

## 6th/7th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	T. Webhe G. Basha	E. Calabria R. Fortelea	A. Dsa A. Dsa
<b>Acolytes</b>	Andre Kurkcu	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		

# Youth Corner

## The Books of Samuel (February Youth Group Session)

This month at youth group, we have been taking a closer look at the two Books of Samuel, which recount some of the most recognisable and famous biblical events in the Old Testament (along with those found in the books of Genesis and Exodus) – the story of David and Goliath for example is well-known even outside of religious circles. The books recount the lives and decisions of three individuals whose actions would ultimately define the course of Israel's history as a young nation, whilst also giving us a better and more complete understanding of God's plan for his chosen people, and for us.

The Books of Samuel belong to the *Nevi'im* section of the Old Testament – a collection of books which provide important historical recounts of Israel's history, and her temperamental relationship with God. The books describe Israel's fateful transition from a nation led by *judges* (such as Joshua, Samson, and Samuel himself), to a kingdom ruled by monarchs – a change demanded by the Israelite people, and fuelled by the threat of invasion from Philistia in the southwest.



The resultant rise and fall of both King Saul and even King David are well documented in the scripture of Samuel, as is a recurring theme which becomes painfully clear throughout the Books: faithfulness to God brings success, whilst disobedience brings disaster. As we follow the lives of King Saul and David, and reflect on the choices and decisions they make which shape their stories and relationship with our heavenly father, we are compelled to consider how we too may be making unwise demands and rash decisions as we give in to the temptation of sin. Like both men, we have been called by God for a great mission: to lead others to Him. Like both men, we need to ask ourselves if we are answering the call.

- Ryan

## 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