

# 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"*



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- YEAR B

07TH MARCH 2021

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

Ex 20: 1 - 17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. (R.)

4. They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 1: 22 - 25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much,  
he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 2: 13 - 25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

# 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

### Where does God really dwell?

The Ten Commandments are badly named. Rather, they are the Ten Responses which should characterise a liberated people, freed from slavery by 'the Lord, your God'.

By the time Jesus came on the scene, the Temple in Jerusalem was no longer a fit dwelling place for a God who desires to free people from oppression and exploitation. To the contrary, Jesus saw the Temple ideology as placing undue burdens and shackles on people.

His anger at this erupted in dramatic street theatre. His overturning of the tables of the money-changers signalled the overturning of the Temple system.

What Our Lord revealed to uncomprehending authorities was that His body was the true sanctuary. The body of Jesus of Nazareth is the dwelling place of God, the habitation of the Lord God who liberates people. In short, God's sanctuary is not a place, but a person.

We could take a moment to pray, using the Ten Responses to review and guide our reflection and practice as we move towards Easter. This will help us to celebrate the enigmatic saying: 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again.'

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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

Gabriella Wehbe  
Joseph Sajih Wehbe  
Hinid Wehbe  
Mouris Takchi  
Hasna Takchi  
Elias Hkeik

# PARISH ACTIVITIES



**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.



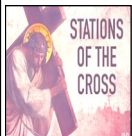
**St Monica's Parish Rosary Group** Every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.



**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 Good Samaritan 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 boxes provided.

## St. Monica's Sacraments

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



### Confirmation -

1st Lesson - 13th March (4pm)/14th March (8am) Parish Hall  
Commitment Mass - 13th March (5pm)/14th March (9am) 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

On Sunday 14 March 2021, after the 9am Mass, **St Monica's Primary School will be open for Parishioners to view our refurbished Learning Space.**

All Parishioners are invited to attend the school tour which will commence at 10:15am.

As per COVID-19 guidelines, all visitors attending the tour will be required to check in using the QR code which will be available on the day.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Monica's School!  
**Mrs Lisa Crampton Principal**

## 13/14th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	S. Melecca C. Melecca	J. Jacob A. Dolahenty	M. Ellis D. Llevado
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBA	Ian Goldthorpe	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 – Vera		

## Why do we fast?

Whenever Lent comes around, we as Catholics usually choose something to give up – some people give up meat, others social media, and some give up certain practices such as gaming or bingeing. People give up so many different things, and I often find myself curious about what those around me give up. It has always been something that has interested me, because sometimes the things people give up can tell you a bit about their personality and values. However, apart from this, I never really considered why, as Catholics, we choose to give up something for forty days. In primary school, I learnt that we did it because Jesus did, and sure, for a young kid in year three that is a pretty good explanation. And it is true, we do fast or give things up to imitate Jesus – but why did Jesus fast for forty days? And what do we accomplish by imitating him?

The answer to why Jesus fasted can be found in Paul's letter to the Hebrews (4:15): 'For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning.' During those forty days in the desert, Jesus fasted and was continuously tempted by the devil. However, not once did he give in – his actions showed us that even when the flesh was the weakest, he did not give in and that like him, we too can resist the temptations placed before us.

Another important thing to note is that every time the devil offered him power or tried to test God, Jesus fought back not with his own physical strength, but rather with the word of God. While on the one hand the act of fasting may make our physical selves weak, Jesus shows us that the removal of the material allows us to draw closer to God, and by doing so to strengthen our own spirituality.

This belief is also at the core of why we give things up for Lent. By removing a distraction, we make room for God, we show that we want to develop our relationship. And this doesn't just mean that after forty days we go back to what it was before. No, the period of Lent shows us that we can live perfectly well without whatever we choose to give up. Of course, you don't need to cut whatever you give up out of your life – you just need to learn to put God at the centre of all things.

So next time you go to give up something for Lent, think about what is getting between you and the development of your faith – because nothing can substitute the joy a relationship with God gives us.

- 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!