

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"



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- YEAR B

14TH MARCH 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Chronicles
2 Chr 36 : 14 - 16. 19 - 23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Eph 2: 4 - 10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.
This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his
only Son, that all who believe in him might
have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jn 3: 14 - 21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

**** Preface II of Lent and Eucharist Prayer for Reconciliation I, may be used.**

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

God's Works of Art

How does God picture us? St Paul reveals one of God's favourite ways of regarding us.

'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life as from the beginning He had intended us to live it.'

Just as an artist respects the medium he or she is working in, whether it be oils or crayon, so too God respects us as human beings with free will. Which is why His works of art don't always look the way He intended!

Now, if one has a work of art in the house, a picture or print that means a lot to you, or perhaps the first sketch by a child, do you put it in the darkest corner of the room? Or do you allow just enough light to fall on it so as to reveal how terrific it is, why it gives you pleasure? Of course, the latter.

Now, if you and I are God's work of art, God wants exactly the same. He wants us to be revealed in the light. What sort of light? Christ our Light.

Of course, it might be necessary for the Light to dispel some darkness, some shadow dimension of our lives. In this regard Christ is a healing Light, but this is so that he might illuminate us in a way which more clearly reveals the love which the Divine Artist has for His creation.

We might take a moment to pray for the courage to expose ourselves to Christ's healing light this Lent to be more beautifully illuminated at Easter.

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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

March 17, ST Patrick
March 19, ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**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

Uy Lin Suy
Anatolia Corpin
Enrique Platon
Casiano Corpin
Balthazar Reyes
William Schlieper
Erica Schlieper
Ramon Corpin

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.



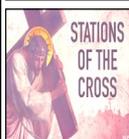
St Monica's Parish Rosary Group Every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ST MONICA'S BRANCH meets every 4th Monday of the month at 10.30am 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 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.



The Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal – will take place this weekend (13/14th March). Envelopes will be available next to the Sacred Heart Statue. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please place your completed donation envelopes in the box provided.

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

20th/21st March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock C. Maxwell	S. Joseph B. Hooker	R. Wong-Nasara D. Cruz
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera		



Marian Consecration

In this Lenten season, we are encouraged not only to stick to whatever we've chosen to give up during the 40 days, but to do something extra that can bring us closer to God. Why not let that something extra be a Marian consecration?

Marian Consecration is a "consecration to Jesus, through Mary" as explained by Jackie and Bobby Angel from Ascension Presents in a video of the same name. Jackie and Bobby share their insights into the power of the Marian Consecration through this video, encouraging all of us to place ourselves under the mantle of Mary where the Devil cannot reach. The Devil is a difficult one, full of jealousy and fear of people who have said their Yes to God, the ones like you and me who strive to evangelise, whether through words or deeds, and lead others to God. In committing to a Marian Consecration, we are asking Mary to place us in her womb to be formed as Jesus was formed, and strive to be virtuous as Mary herself is virtuous. Mary, as the first disciple, is more than worthy of imitation, and is someone we can approach with confidence because she is our Loving Mother. In the words of Saint Maximilian Kolbe 'Never be afraid of loving Mary too much...you can never love her more than Jesus'. Knowing this, we can be sure that Mary is a way to Jesus.

Marian Consecration is a formal act of consecration which can be renewed every year. It involves 33 days of preparation whereby each day there are special readings consisting of readings from the Bible, prayers and reflections that lead up to the formal prayer and final consecration at the end of the 33 days. It is recommended that the consecration happens on a major feast day of Our Lady, hence the preparation would begin 33 days prior. Below is a table of the major Marian feast days, and the dates you would start the preparation :) In allowing Mary into our lives, with her help and guidance we can devote our fears, sufferings, failures, hopes, dreams and prayers for the Greater Glory of God.

- Abby

Marian Feast Day	Start Date	Consecration Day
Our Lady of Lourdes	January 9	February 11
The Annunciation	February 20	March 25
Our Lady of Fatima	April 10	May 13
The Visitation	April 28	May 31
Immaculate Heart	Saturday after Sacred Heart	Saturday after Corpus Christi
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	June 13	July 16
The Assumption	July 13	August 15
Queenship of Mary	July 20	August 22
Nativity of Mary	August 6	September 8
Holy Name of Mary	August 10	September 12
Our Lady of Sorrows	August 13	September 15
Our Lady of the Rosary	September 4	October 7
Presentation of Mary	October 19	November 21
Immaculate Conception	November 5	December 8
Our Lady of Guadalupe	November 9	December 12
Mother of God	November 29	January 1
Presentation of the Lord	December 31	February 2

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Youth group is still online at the moment for 2021! Over the course of the year we will be looking at the books of the Bible from both Old and New Testaments- March's sessions will be focused on the book of Kings! If you would like to learn more, feel free to 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!