

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"



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- YEAR B

21ST MARCH 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jer 31 : 31 - 34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt.
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
3. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 5: 7 - 9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 12: 20 - 33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason
that I have come to this hour.
Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.'
Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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

We want to see Jesus

I can observe a baby, but the parents 'see' their baby very differently. They gaze with total fascination, trying to perceive what this little bundle of flesh is really all about, trying to get an insight into its personality, visualising a possible future, hoping for a response.

This Gospel passage begins with a request from some Greeks 'to see Jesus', surely in all the ways parents see their baby. They were trying to perceive what this Jesus was really all about, trying to get an insight into his personality, imagining a possible future, hoping for a response.

And there was a response full of allusions to the future.

Jesus was as a grain of wheat. He died and was buried in the earth and that death was fruitful for the whole of humankind. He foresaw being nailed to the cross which would be dropped upright into a hole in the ground.

Our Lord says of that scene: 'When I am lifted up I will draw all people to myself.' How were people drawn to this scene?

People saw the length to which Jesus was prepared to go in order to persevere in his mission to live out the message that his Heavenly Father was full of mercy and wanted all people to share in Divine Life. This led to his being lifted up on the cross, being buried in the ground like a grain of wheat, only to rise to new life.

We could take a moment to pray that we will shortly see all this with the eyes of faith as we participate in the rituals of Good Friday and Easter.

© 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

March 25, THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

**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

Richard & Mary Murney
Elizabeth Poh Eanlok

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**



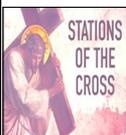
Christian Meditation Every Friday from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Enquiries/facilitator : Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661 or email: pabrown02@gmail.com.



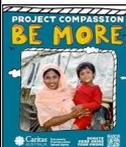
St Monica's Parish Rosary Group Every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.



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



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.

Solemnity Mass

Dates & Times:

The Annunciation of the Lord 25th March, 9.15 am

Holy Week/Easter Liturgy 2021 at St Monica's Parish

Date	Event	Language	Time
1st April	Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)	English + Chinese	7.30 pm <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to 10pm</i>
2nd April	Good Friday (<i>Fasting and Abstinence</i>)		
	Stations of the Cross	English	10 am
	Stations of the Cross	Chinese	11.30 am
	Passion of the Lord	English	3 pm
	Passion of the Lord	Chinese	5.30 pm
3rd April	Confession	English + Chinese	4 pm - 4.30 pm
	Easter Vigil Mass	English	6 pm
	Easter Vigil Mass	Chinese	8.30 pm
4th April	Easter Sunday Mass	English	9 am
	Easter Sunday Mass	Chinese	11.30 am
	Easter Sunday Mass	English	6 pm

27th/28st March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Melecca S. Melecca	E. Calabria M. Falamich	W. Sassine M. Ellis
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 3 – Sisley & Froy		



Why Jesus performs miracles

During his earthly ministry Jesus performed miracles. Why did Jesus perform miracles and what do these supernatural acts mean for our lives today?

First, Jesus performed miracles to show compassion. For example, in Mark 1:41, Jesus encounters a man with leprosy, "filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man." What stands out to me is that often Jesus' miracles were not planned or calculated; rather, they were frequently spontaneous, the result of the intersection between God's love and human suffering.

Why should the compassionate example of Jesus be so encouraging to us today? It is because the Bible teaches that Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus provides us with a portrait of God. What is God like? What does God feel? How does God respond to human suffering? To answer these timeless questions, we should look to Jesus. In Jesus we see a God who is deeply affected by our pain, a God who is moved to compassion because of our suffering, a God who weeps with us, and a God who desires to answer our prayers and bring spiritual and physical healing to our lives.

A second reason Jesus performed miracles was to affirm his true identity as the Son of God. Jesus' miracles were one, key element of his ministry. The Bible hints that the miracles themselves were not the point. The miracles actually served as "signs" pointing to a greater reality. Acts 2:22 declares that "Jesus of Nazareth was a man *accredited* by God by miracles, wonders and signs."

The miracles substantiated the claims of Jesus to be the Son of God.

Jesus recognized that the hope of the world did not rest on a few isolated healings in rural Galilee, but rather on the climatic miracle of his death and resurrection from the grave. The miracles, as signs pointing to the deeper truth about Jesus, should cause us to place our faith in him. When he needed to confirm his identity for a doubting John the Baptist, Jesus appealed in Luke 7:22 to his miracles: "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached." The miracles show us that Jesus as the Son of God.

-written by Greg Robbins and published in Newark Advocate

Youth Announcements



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!

Altar Serving- Expressions of interest

If you are interested in being an Altar Server for the Saturday or Sunday Masses, contact one of the Altar Serving Coordinators:

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