

# 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"*



**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**- YEAR B**

**28TH MARCH 2021**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

\* Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

\* Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 50 : 4 - 7**

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** My God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians  
Phil 2: 6 - 11**

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are,  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.

But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us even  
to death dying on the cross.  
Therefore God raised him on high  
and gave him a name above all  
other names.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
Mk 14:1 - 15:47**

*Pls Refer to PowerPoint Presentation on screen*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,  
your will be done.

# 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/ EUCCHARIST 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

### Women and War

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to *non-violent* revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.

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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

April 1, MAUNDY THURSDAY  
(THE LORD'S SUPPER)  
April 2, FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
(GOOD FRIDAY) - (day of fasting and abstinence)  
April 3, HOLY SATURDAY (Easter Vigil)  
April 4, EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESSURECTION  
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

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.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ST MONICA'S BRANCH** meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 10.30am in the meeting room. Enquiries : Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361



**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.

## "Marriage Enrichment Weekend"

Come and join us on April 16 -18, 2021 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW.  
Book at [www.wme.org.au](http://www.wme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419

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

Date	Event	Language	Time
1st April	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> (Holy Thursday)	English + Chinese	7.30 pm <i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to 10pm</i>
2nd April	<b>Good Friday</b> ( <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

## 03rd/04th April ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	K. Handcock S. Melecca	R. Forteleza P. Fleming	A. Dsa A.Dsa
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock John Hilton	Jeff Lau	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy		



## The Book of Kings

This month at youth group we continued on our journey in unpacking the different books in the Bible- and during March we looked at the first and second book of Kings. Originally written as one literary work, they provide a continuation to the events which occurred in the previous books of Samuel. It has been regarded as the final part of a series commonly referred to as Deuteronomistic History and recounts the reign of King Solomon to the division of the northern and southern kingdoms into Israel and Judah respectively and finally, the demise of both entities. Although the book of Kings is a source of important historical information about Israelite kingdoms, it is also a narrative which embeds deep spiritual lessons which we can consider and reflect on in our everyday lives.

The First Book of Kings describes the early days of King Solomon's rule, where he presents himself as a humble and obedient servant of the Lord- his request for the gift of wisdom and judgement translates into a story which allows readers to witness how God worked through his people. Maintaining a willingness to listen to God's word and remaining faithful is something we may struggle with as we encounter the temptations of sin in our everyday lives- yet understanding and acknowledging your mistakes, seeking and turning back to the Lord through reconciliation are just some ways in which we can repent. This was something King Solomon failed to do as he began to focus more on the physical blessings of power, wealth and women, neglecting not just the Lord but also his spiritual wellbeing. Following his death, the documentations of the consequent ruling Kings gives a bleak and devastating reality of what our world will look like without the Lord- idolatry, suffering and distress.

The incorporation of various prophets throughout the book such as Elijah, Elisha or Jeremiah impart a hopeful message as they attempt to lead the people of Israel back to the Lord, speaking on His behalf. It is a reminder for us that no matter how distraught and chaotic worldly events may be, peace can always be found in the Lord. Their trust and faithfulness in the Lord- accepting that He will provide, both spiritually and physically (as seen in the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath) are some key takeaways we can meditate on. Perhaps we should examine our own commitment to God- are we giving enough time for Him, or are we placing too much emphasis on other material parts of our lives?

## Youth Announcements



### St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Face to face/ in person youth group will resume on **April 11<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30AM in the community room! It would be wonderful to see everyone together again so please come along~ Our sessions will continue to focus on books of the Bible from both Old and New Testaments- in April we will be looking at the book of Psalms/ Proverbs. Note you will need to sign in with QR code/ write your name down in compliance with the COVID rules. Also follow us on Instagram @fyrestmonicas to keep track of the latest FYRE news and events!

### Games Night

As the holidays are approaching, youth group will be hosting a **Games Night on Thursday night 8<sup>th</sup> April 6:30PM!** It has been a while since we've had an in-person event so we would love to see you all there Food will be provided and there will be an entry fee of \$10. If you are interested feel free to let Cheryl Wong (0481 507 169) – or any of the other leaders know! Hope to see everyone soon!