

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 EASTER -

YEAR B

18TH APRIL 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 3 : 13 - 15. 17 - 19

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, let your face shine on us.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me,
have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

1 Jn 2: 1 - 5

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours, but the whole world's.
We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, 'I know him',

and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar, refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk 24: 35 - 48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Christ had to suffer
and on the third day rise from the dead;
in his name repentance and remission of sins
must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.

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 Thursday 8pm—9pm 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/ EUCHARIST 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

Ghosts, meals and humanity

When Jesus appeared to them, the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost, a sort of projection of a human image on the screen of the world but with no human depth and vitality. In fact, ghosts seem to drain life and warmth from those they encounter.

The disciples became convinced that they were in the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ when he assumed a characteristic way of acting – sharing a companionable meal (of fish).

His bodily presence of *that* sort is now withdrawn from us. But we are now encountered by him in the Mass which has many dimensions, one of which is that of a sacred meal. When we share in the sacramental signs of his Real Presence in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion, he brings us the life and warmth of the Risen Son.

In fact, he shares his very life with us, and because his life is gloriously fully human, we become less ghost-like as he heals those parts of our personality which drain goodness and vitality from the world.

We could take a moment to pray to take greater opportunities to share in the Real Presence of Our Risen Lord under the appearance of bread and wine. This will move us from the illusion of being alive to that vitality which is nourished by his glorified humanity.

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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 25, ANZAC DAY

**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

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**



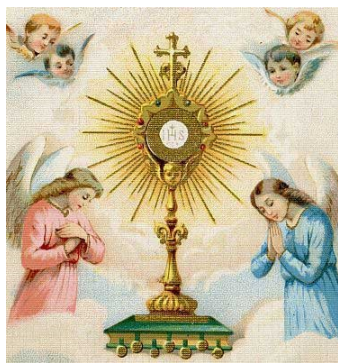
Christian Meditation Every Friday from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Enquiries/facilitator : Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661 or email: pabrown02@gmail.com.



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



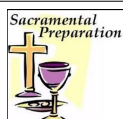
Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday
from 8pm—9pm.

All are welcome.

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com



Confirmation 2021 -

Lessons commence (4th Lesson) after the school holiday break on the 24th and 25th of April at the Parish Hall.
Reconciliation and Rehearsal in preparation to receive the Sacrament will take place on the 22nd of May at 2.00 pm at the Church
**** (Compulsory attendance for all candidates)**

Youth + Corner

Attaining Salvation

Attaining salvation is a key issue in Christian life. After all, a person can only achieve eternal life through salvation. But what is salvation and how can it be achieved? Salvation is God's act of grace in which we are preserved from the consequences of our condition of original sin i.e. a life after death eternally separated from God and His kingdom by re-mitting our sin and making us worthy of eternal life with Him. The act of grace which remits our sin is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus bore humanity's punishment for original sin and rose again from the dead so that humanity does not have to face eternal punishment for sin but can hope in eternal life as long as they believe that Jesus is the son of God who has come to preserve humanity from punishment from sin and 'give' salvation to humanity. Hence, it is this act of genuine faith in Jesus that is central to sinners attaining salvation, as St Paul makes clear in his letter to the Romans (3:21-25), '...but now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.' But if we are saved by God's grace and our faith in that grace, then does that mean good works are irrelevant? Is it sufficient to join God's heavenly kingdom after death by asserting that we believe in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God, regardless of how we have behaved in our lives? Absolutely not. Our faith must bring about personal transformation for us to be made righteous and live in God's grace, otherwise faith has no significance or power. This personal transformation is demonstrated by doing good works, and this is highlighted in a very famous passage from the epistle of James (2:14-20) 'what good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?....So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?' We can never be saved by good works alone because our own good works cannot get rid of original sin, which in itself would make us unworthy of eternal life with God. This is why God's act of salvation is necessary. But any faith in Jesus Christ needs to be demonstrated through good works and through our character, particularly in the way we treat other people. If genuine faith motivates us to do good works, then our faith will help us attain salvation. The Easter season invites us to bear witness to and believe in Jesus' resurrection as an act of salvation. But it is also important to think about how we all respond personally to this demonstration of God's grace.

-Rachel

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Face to face/ in person youth group has resumed at 10:30AM in the community room! Feel free to 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!

Youth Camp 2021

We are happy to announce that our most anticipated event of the year- **Youth Camp**- will be back on again in June! It will be during the Term 2 holidays from the 29th June (Tuesday)- 2nd July (Friday) at Wedderburn Christian Campsite. If you are interested in coming, please grab a form from Cheryl Wong (0481 507 169) or Rebecca Cheung (0449 055 395). Get excited : D

24th/25th April ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha K. Handcock	E. Calabria J, Jacob	R. Wong-Nasara D. Cruz
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 3 – Sisley & Froi		