

# 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 EASTER -

YEAR B

02ND MAY 2021

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations  
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts 9 : 26 – 31**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** I will praise you, Lord,  
in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.  
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.  
May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him.  
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. (R.)
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.  
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,  
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:  
'These things the Lord has done.' (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

**1 Jn 3: 18-24**

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever

accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you,  
says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**Jn 15: 1 - 8**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;

these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches,  
says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in him,  
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

# 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 Thursday 8pm—9pm Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,	
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, 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: 8832-4199 Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## REFLECTION

### Spiritual Drink

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vigneron desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

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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

May 03, STS PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES

**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

Thomas 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



## Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday from 8pm–9pm.  
All are welcome.

## St. Monica's Sacraments

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



### Confirmation 2021 -

**Reconciliation and Rehearsal for the candidates receiving Confirmation** will take place on the 22nd of May at 2.00 pm at the Church  
(Compulsory attendance for all candidates)  
**Confirmation Mass : Saturday, 29th May 2021 at 5 pm**

# Youth + Corner

## April- The Book of Psalms and Book of Proverbs

Throughout April last month we delved into the Book of Psalms and Book of Proverbs as we continued our endeavour in better understanding the Bible. Psalms and Proverbs are the only two composite books; books comprised of written works by multiple authors. Although the two books are vastly different in structure, and style, both explore the concept of wisdom providing spiritual guidance for a rewarding life in faith.

The Book of Psalms is a collection of 150 poems which were traditionally sung as songs. Together, the collection is an expression of praise and worship which illuminates God's greatness and reminds us of the absolute centrality of His Word. Because the Psalms are quite poetic, they are often not meant to be taken literally. Beyond the use of literary devices and surface imagery, there are often much deeper spiritual lessons to be uncovered upon further meditation and reading. The collection of Psalms are largely topical with specific categories prayed based on the personal experience of different emotions and situations. For example, the praying of wisdom psalms can provide guidance for doubts and questions regarding the future. With each category exploring timeless themes, these Psalms are written for God, the people of Israel and us for endless revision and reflection! Beyond personal reflection during mass, the Responsorial Psalm serves as the congregation's acknowledgement and response to God's word, allowing the readings and its meaning to reverberate in our hearts and minds. It is encouraged that we incorporate Psalms more regularly in our daily prayers to familiarise ourselves with the word of God and its graces.

The Book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom written mostly by Solomon designed to prompt us to pursue wisdom in order to live a life of holiness and reward. Proverbs are meant to be taken practically despite their figurative nature as they are instructions and guidelines from God. The concept of wisdom is often modernised with the connotation of knowledge. However, in the context of Proverbs, we should interpret wisdom from its Hebrew origins, Khokhman, meaning skill or applied knowledge. Thus, Proverbs is intended to teach us practical skills and valuable lessons for living in God's world so that we may also practice wisdom in our own lives. If we recall our exploration of the book of Kings, last month, Solomon was considered the wisest king yet ultimately his lack of devotion contributed to his own downfall. He wrote this book in order to offer guidance and wisdom in exploring the fear of the Lord. He urges us to seek wisdom, emphasising that God is the source of all wisdom and that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7). As Solomon learned, immense diligence against temptations and distractions is necessary for one to strive for wisdom even if granted it initially. In order to live a fruitful, faithful and rewarding life, we must guard our hearts from temptations and remain focused in our journey towards true wisdom - this is the overall message we can meditate upon from exploring the Book of Proverbs. In our daily lives, have we made a step towards acquiring true Wisdom and in doing so, have we simultaneously guarded our hearts against the temptations of life? What have we done to act wisely?

- Charlotte

## Youth Announcements



### 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 May we will be looking at the book of Job/Ecclesiastes! 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: Mission Impossible

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 29<sup>th</sup> June (Tuesday)- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## 08th/09th May ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	G. Basha T. Wehbe	R. Fleming B. Hooker	M. Ellis D. Llevado
<b>Acolytes</b>	Patrick Senjak	Jeffery Lau	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy		