

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"

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD -

YEAR B

16TH MAY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 11 : 1 - 11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 4 : 1 - 13

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 16 : 15 - 20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, 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 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, 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: 8832-4199

Email: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

REFLECTION

Resurrection for the whole cosmos

Our Risen Lord could have appeared to groups of followers generation after generation until now. But he withdrew his visible bodily presence from us. Why? I think because he needed to wean human beings from our tendency to be self-centred. The Resurrection starts the transformation of the *whole* of creation, not just us.

Ordinary human beings are the heart and mind and voice of non-angelic creation. We love and understand and speak on its behalf. The transforming effect of Our Lord's glorified humanity is much more profound. Every molecule, every quantum of energy, the past, present and future are all in the process of being changed towards 'the fullness of him who fills the whole creation'.

At every Mass, this divine resurrection power is at work. Elements of the universe, wheat-bread, grapes-wine, become the Real Presence of Our Lord's glorified body.

The privilege of a ministerial priest is to be the ritual servant of this divine transformation. Invoking the Holy Spirit and reciting the words of the Last Supper is the priest's role in Our Lord's creative real anticipation of the end of time.

We could take a moment to pray for the grace to let go of our self-centredness, to stop staring into the empty sky as though lamenting Our Lord's absence, and to savour the privilege of receiving his Real Presence in the transformed elements of creation as we and they share in that Holy Communion which is the destiny of the whole cosmos.

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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

**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

Alfio Bonamna
Florence Rodrigues
S. SriPathmanathan

PARISH ACTIVITIES



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



First Holy Communion 2021

Registrations will take place on the 29th/30th May weekend after 5 pm and 9 am Masses only. The child is eligible to receive the sacrament if he/she has received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and is in year 4 or above. Please bring in a copy of the child's baptism certificate if First Reconciliation was received at another Parish. A donation of \$30/- is payable at the time of registration.

Confirmation 2021

22nd of May (Saturday) at 2.00 pm - Reconciliation and Rehearsal, for the candidates (ONLY) who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

(Compulsory attendance for all candidates)

Confirmation Mass - Saturday, 29th May at 5 pm.

Help them answer God's call

AND SUPPORT THE FUTURE SHEPHERDS OF OUR CHURCH



Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal 2021 supporting the Seminarians and the Holy Spirit Seminary

Appeal weekend : Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 May 2021

Envelopes will be available near the sacred heart Statue. Please place your cash donations/complete envelopes in the box provided. Gifts over \$2/- are tax deductible.

22nd/23rd May ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Melecca C. Melecca	E. Calabria B. McGettigan	W. Sassine M. Ellis
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera		

Youth Corner

Jesus' Humanity

OK, let's admit it. We love superhero movies. Or at least that's what the box-office numbers are telling us. By the end of 2019 (2020 doesn't count), superhero movies represented a mind-blowing 25 percent of the domestic movie marketplace. But this fascination is nothing new. I can still remember watching the reruns of *Superman*—the original starring George Reeves—on TV. For most of the show he was just Clark Kent, a normal, mild-mannered reporter. But at the end of each show, he would show up as Superman and save the day. That's the thing about Superman. He *looked* like an ordinary human—he walked, talked, and ate food. But, in reality, he wasn't human at all. He was an alien being from the planet Krypton. His humanity was only an illusion. Indeed, Superman was able to save people precisely because he *wasn't* human like us. When it comes to the person of Christ, however, things are very different. The author of Hebrews reminds us: "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things . . . For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham" (Heb. 2:14–16). This remarkable passage presses home a truth we often forget; Jesus was a real human being, just like us. Indeed, the very raw language of "flesh and blood" heightens the author's point. Of course, many biblical texts confirm Jesus's true humanity. He was born of a real woman (Luke 2:7), he was hungry (Matt. 4:2), he was thirsty (John 19:28), he became exhausted (Mark 4:38), and, of course, he died (Luke 23:46).

To be sure, there are very few instances when we feel the need to defend the humanity of Jesus today. Most scholars—and most people—are quite willing to accept that Jesus was a human who really lived in history. If you have a disagreement with your non-Christian friend about the person of Jesus, it's probably about whether he was really divine, not whether he was really human. Why can't we have a Superman Jesus? We need a saviour who *sympathizes* with us and *understands* us. We need someone who knows what it is like to live in a fallen world. Since Jesus became a real human being, he experienced the life humans live. The author of Hebrews says "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every way, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest" (Heb. 2:17).

When you think of the many hardships of a human life, Jesus experienced them. He was tempted (Matt. 4:1–11), sorrowful (Matt. 26:38), angry (Mark 3:5), betrayed by a friend (Luke 22:47). He cried out in desperation to God (Luke 22:44). He wept after hearing of Lazarus' death (John 11:35). When we struggle with life in a fallen world, no one can say, "Jesus doesn't understand what it's like." Yes, he does. He lived a real human life and joined us in the muck and mire of a broken world.

But there is one difference. There is a place where Jesus is *not* like us. He is sinless—"holy, innocent, unstained" (Heb. 7:26). Therefore, he could be the perfect sacrifice when he "offered up himself" on our behalf (Heb. 7:27). In the end, we don't have a Superman Jesus. We have someone better. We have a Saviour who shared in our infirmities and weaknesses.

—Rachel (adapted from article *Why Jesus' Humanity Matters as Much as His Divinity* written by Michael Kruger, published in The Gospel Coalition)

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! 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 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