

# 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"*

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -

YEAR B

11TH JULY 2021

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 16: 15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the prophet Amos

Am 7: 12 - 15

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets.' Amos replied to Amaziah, 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 84: 9-14

**Response:** Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 1 : 3- 14

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determined that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight.

He has let us know the mystery of his purpose,

the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon when the times had run their course to the end: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came. Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it: and you have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 6: 7 - 13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals, but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 83: 4-5

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

# 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## COMMENTARY

Amos was called by God and sent to prophesy to the people of Israel. Amaziah, on the other hand, was an official employee of the crown and was responsible for the cultic activities at Bethel, the royal shrine. This passage does not explicitly tell us why Amos was not wanted. It simply states that Amaziah tells him to flee, lest harm come to him. The prophet defends his call from God and his right and responsibility to prophesy in Israel. He was not connected with the court or with a particular shrine, nor had he belonged to any prophetic guild. His coming to Bethel was due entirely to the command that he had received from God.

The verses of this passage presume a community waiting for God's word, a prophetic oracle that will announce peace. Confidence that God will respond rests in the conviction that they are God's own people; they are faithful people; they trust in God. The salvation described is associated with prosperity, suggesting that the people's distress has something to do with economic misfortune. Love, truth, justice, and peace are characteristics of covenantal relationship. Love is covenantal loyalty; truth is covenantal faithfulness; justice is the covenantal righteousness that comes from God; and peace is the wholeness or harmony that results from the covenantal relationship. These covenantal virtues are telltale marks of God's manifestation. This revelation of God is the salvation for which the people long.

The second reading opens with a benediction, a blessing from God that comes to us through Christ. Believers are not chosen because they are holy and blameless, but that they might be made holy and blameless. Salvation is the cause not the consequence of righteousness. Furthermore, believers are chosen for adoption into the family of God. This grace is received through Jesus, God's beloved son who redeemed us by his blood. The author insists that this was done so that God's plan would be brought to fulfillment, the plan to bring all things together in Christ. Adoption, redemption, and forgiveness of sin are all pure grace, gifts from God, bestowed on us through Christ.

The gospel recounts the first missionary venture of the Twelve. Although they are given the power to drive out unclean spirits, it is quite clear that they can only do this through the authority of Jesus. They are initiated into the mission of Jesus and they must participate in it in a truly self-sacrificing manner. They are directed to preach repentance, drive out demons, and heal the sick. Since the presence of demons and the diminishment caused by illness were considered concrete evidence of the power of evil in the world, people believed that exorcisms and healings were victories of God's power that broke the bonds of evil. The reign of God is established in place of the reign of evil. Thus Jesus brings the Twelve into God's saving work.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

## 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

July 15, St Bonaventure  
July 16, Our Lady of Mount Carmel

## 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, Maria Itang Tagle, Sheila Watts, Tina de Larrazabal, Rosa Santos, Llave Family, Gloria Cherote,

## MASS INTENTIONS

All parish Masses and activities are cancelled due to lockdown. Please go to our parish facebook : **St Monica's North Parramatta** for the most up-to-date announcement.



**Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:** Special envelopes are available at the entrance to the Church and collections will be taken up to August. Please place your donation envelopes in the collections boxes.

**We have received a total of \$8787 in donations to date (our target is \$70,000).** Please continue to support us. Your generous donations toward this much needed renovation is greatly appreciated. **Thank you.**

**Act of Spiritual Communion**



My Jesus, I believe you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things and desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

**17th/18th July ROSTERS**

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Maxwell K. Handcock	J. Jacob C. Cheung	A. Dsa R. Wong-Nasara
<b>Acolytes</b>	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorpe	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 – Vera		



**The Catholic Church in Canada – A Painful Reminder**

If you've been following the news of late, amidst news of COVID-19 outbreaks across the country you might have read about the hundreds of graves, often unmarked, of indigenous children in Canada that have been uncovered at several residential schools across the country. This includes the remains of 215 children in Kamloops Indian Residential School on June 6 2021, and a further 751 unmarked graves at the Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan, majority believed to be of school children, on June 25 2021.

While these schools are not in operation any longer, they were from the 19th century right up until as late as 1998. Some 150,000 Indigenous children were forced to attend these state-funded Christian schools, where children were exposed to physical and sexual abuse and thousands died from diseases and poor living conditions. Children were beaten for speaking their native tongues, reminiscent of the kind of treatment that the children from our own Indigenous people's Stolen Generation were subjected to under the assimilation policy.

Cities in the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick have cancelled several celebrations for Canada Day which was on 1 July in the wake of what the Indigenous communities calls the "cultural genocide" in the residential schools system.

Three-quarters of such schools were said to have been run by Catholic missionary congregations, with the remaining quarter being run by United, Presbyterian and Anglican churches. On 4 June 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called on the Catholic church to 'step-up and apologise' for the role the Church has played in the abuse of children at these aforementioned church-run boarding schools, many of whom never made it back to their families. On June 25 he said he was "deeply disappointed" that the Roman Catholic Church has yet to offer a formal apology and urged Pope Francis to fly over and apologise on Canadian soil. Pope Francis has expressed his sorrow at this matter, and has come out urging the full cooperation of Canadian political and Catholic leaders to help shed light on this matter, and to seek reconciliation and healing. This comes at a time when there have been reports of at least six Canadian Catholic churches being burned and destroyed on Indigenous land in response to the news of these mass gravesites at residential schools.

In the face of such traumatising news, we may be left wondering how it can be that such unspeakable evil be done by one of our own, by people belonging to the universal community of faith. We are taught to love others as ourselves, to have respect for the dignity of all humans, and to promote values of charity, love and hope and yet events like these remind us of the weakness and depravity that we can all fall into. When we see the use of power gone wrong, and deeds meant "for the greater good" being carried out in scandalous fashion (scandal in this context meaning leading others to spiritual ruin), we can start to understand that if we don't regularly check-in with God, open up our lines of communication and read his teachings carefully, we as a community can lose sight of God and stray from His ways.

- Abby

**Youth Announcements**



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

Youth group will be online again for the rest of July. Join us every Saturday night at 8PM on Zoom! Feel free to come along ☐ Our sessions will continue to focus on books of the Bible from both Old and New Testaments- in July we are looking at the Acts of the Apostles! The zoom link is attached- <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/5735998128?pwd=bn1XMnJtT0hnNW9GQ09xc1EzQkpHUT09> We will keep you updated on whether online youth group continues on our Instagram page @fyrestymonicas! Stay safe everyone!