

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"

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -

YEAR B

25TH JULY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 67

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Kings

2 Kgs 4: 42 - 43

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 144

Response: The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 4 : 1 - 6

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, through all and within all.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has
appeared among us;
God has visited his
people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 6: 1 - 15

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

In an episode in the life of the prophet Elisha, a man who brings grain comes from a place that is named for and probably devoted to Baal, the Canaanite god of fertility. Presumably he intends it to be offered to the god worshipped at that shrine. The prophet directs that the bread and grain be given to the people who were suffering from famine. Those who ministered at the shrine objected, but Elisha insisted, and his insistence overrode their objection. This is clear evidence of the authority that the 'man of God' wielded, and that the others recognised. One hundred men were fed by a mere twenty loaves. The miracle reveals the bounteous generosity of God.

The responsorial psalm is a hymn of praise. The psalmist invites all of God's works to give thanks, proclaims the Lord's universal providence, and extols divine righteousness. The works of the Lord include everything that God has made as well as everything that God has done. The faithful of the Lord are those who are bound to God in covenant loyalty. They are summoned to praise God in reverence and awe. A vivid image is used to depict both the dependence of all living creatures and the generosity of God. All of life stands needy and trusting before God in whose hands is the sustenance upon which life depends, and God is open-handed in satisfying this need.

Paul exhorts the converts to live according to social virtues that characterise the Christian life. His imprisonment demonstrates the price that he himself is willing to pay for his convictions. All the virtues are relational attitudes that foster community harmony. This harmony is grounded in their belonging to the one body of Christ, their being filled with and fashioned by one Spirit of God, and their being moved by the one hope of their call to salvation. Their life is Trinitarian; they have all been called by God to salvation in Christ through the Spirit. This unity is expressed in their allegiance to one Lord, their commitment to one faith, and their celebration of one baptism.

The power of Jesus had a mesmerising effect on the crowds. They followed him from place to place. However, they did this less out of faith than out of the hope that they might witness the performance of some marvel. Jesus took the barley loaves (note the link with the Feast of Unleavened Bread), gave thanks (eucharisté), distributed them, and then did the same with the fish. The Eucharistic allusions here are obvious. Once again the crowds were overwhelmed by Jesus. They had followed him to the other side of the lake in order to witness his exceptional power. They were not disappointed. However, they now recognise him as more than a wonder-worker. He is the long-awaited prophet like Moses (cf. Deut 15:18), the one who would usher in the messianic age.

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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

July 26, Sts Joachim & Anne
July 29, Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus
July 31, St Ignatius of Loyola

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

PARISH ACTIVITES

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 announcements.



Sunday Mass is live streamed!

Please add Fr Lam (Shing-man Lam) on Facebook as a friend to watch the Live stream. Saturday (English) 5pm & Sunday (Cantonese) 11.30am

Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:



We have received a total of \$8787 in donations to date.
To reach our target of \$70,000 your continued support during these troubled times is most appreciated.

Donations can be handed into Church or the Parish Office once the lockdown is lifted.

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 I 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.

31st July/01st August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca C. Maxwell	R. Forteleza E. Espiritu	R. Wong-Nasara M. Ellis
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Jeffrey Lau	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera		

Youth + Corner

The Acts of the Apostles

This past month in (online) youth group we looked at the Acts of the Apostles, a book also written by Luke, which serves as the second installment to his first gospel. It tells the story of Jesus's promise of salvation to the Israelites being extended to the Gentiles through the continued teachings of his twelve apostles. This is the mission Jesus commands his disciples with before his ascension into heaven- that "when the Holy Spirit comes upon you... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Just like the disciples, we too are being called by God to spread the good news about the kingdom within our communities- of course we are not expected to be the missionaries the apostles were (the book is called Acts of the Apostles for a reason), but we have a role in promoting the gospel which the disciples (and Jesus) themselves proclaimed in the Bible. Whether that be praying for the ongoing success of God's mission, standing up and being bold for our faith or always striving to live and love like Jesus so that more people are drawn to him- these are all ways in which we can live out God's commandment.

Of course, none of this would be made possible without the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, sent down by Jesus in heaven following his ascension. This is the driving force behind many of the signs and wonders performed by the apostles, including the conversion of Jews into followers of Christ. We saw this through the story of Stephen, the first Christian to be martyred for his beliefs. Despite his suffering and ultimate death, his boldness and steadfast trust in the Lord is something we can reflect on in our everyday lives, especially when we encounter difficult situations which challenge our faith. As missionaries of God's plan, we are continually strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And this gift allows us to be more like the kind and merciful Jesus- throughout Acts, Luke emphasizes the theme of generosity (yes, the classic sharing is caring)- we looked at how the Jews were willing to give up their material possessions and property to those in need. When their love for Jesus and others was strengthened, they learnt to let go of what was actually unimportant. The Holy Spirit is truly one of God's greatest gifts to us, because with it, we can become active members and witnesses to some of the most courageous, loving and faithful miracles.



Youth Announcements

Online youth group continues! Thank you to everyone who came along to July's youth group sessions- it was really wonderful to see so many familiar faces. In August we are looking at the book of Romans, led by Rashane and Sam! Join us every Saturday night at 8PM on Zoom- feel free to come along 😊 The zoom link is attached- <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/5735998128?pwd=bm1XMnJtT0hnNW9GQ09xc1EzQkpHUT09> We will keep you updated on whether online youth group continues on our Instagram page @fyrestmonicas! Hope everyone is doing well during this time- stay safe and if you ever just want to chat, our Instagram @fyrestmonicas DMs are always open!

Online games night 31st July

We will be holding an online games night on the last Saturday of the month at 8PM (31st July), so if you would like to relax and have a bit of fun you are more than welcome to join 😊 same zoom link as above- see you there!