

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"

SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS (MARY MACKILLOP), VIRGIN

08TH AUGUST 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Mt 25: 34,36,40

Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord:
I was sick and you visited me.
Amen, I say to you: whatever you did
for one of the least of my brethren,
you did it for me.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings

1 Kgs 17: 7 - 16

And then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, 'Up and go to Zarephath, a Sidonian town, and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to give you food.' So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please,' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 62: 1 - 8

Response: My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Col 3 : 12 - 17

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Many women were there by the cross,
watching from a distance,
the same women who had followed Jesus
and looked after him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 6: 25 - 34

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin: yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you have so little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?" It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 13: 35

This is how all will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another, says the Lord.

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

Mary MacKillop



Mary Helen MacKillop RSJ (15 January 1842 – 8 August 1909) was an Australian religious sister who has been declared a saint by the Catholic Church, as St Mary of the Cross.

Of Scottish descent, she was born in Melbourne but is best known for her activities in South Australia. Together with Julian Tenison-Woods, she founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites), a congregation of religious sisters that established a number of schools and

welfare institutions throughout Australia and New Zealand, with an emphasis on education for the rural poor.

The process to have MacKillop declared a saint began in the 1920s, and she was beatified in January 1995 by Pope John Paul II. Pope Benedict XVI prayed at her tomb during his visit to Sydney for World Youth Day 2008 and in December 2009 approved the Catholic Church's recognition of a second miracle attributed to her intercession.

She was canonised on 17 October 2010, during a public ceremony in St Peter's Square at the Vatican. She is the first Australian to be recognised by the Catholic Church as a saint. Mary MacKillop is the patron saint of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Excerpt from Wikipedia

Mary MacKillop Prayer

Ever generous God,
You inspired
Saint Mary MacKillop
To live her life faithful to
the Gospel of Jesus
Christ and constant in
bringing hope and
encouragement to those
who were disheartened,
lonely or needy.

With confidence in your
generous providence
and through the
intercession of
Saint Mary MacKillop
We ask that you grant
our request

(mention request)

We ask that our faith
and hope be fired
afresh by the Holy Spirit
so that we too,
like Mary MacKillop,
may live with courage,
trust and openness.

Ever generous God
hear our prayer.

We ask this through
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Mary MacKillop
(Pray for us)
Amen

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

August 10, St Lawrence
August 11, St Clare
August 14, St Maximilian Mary
Kolbe

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

Mr. & Mrs. Murney

PARISH ACTIVITIES

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.**



St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

First Reconciliation 2021

Registrations are open for children who have received the sacrament of Baptism and are in year 3 or above. Please send an email to Shanika Joseph at stmonicasacraments@gmail.com for details and a copy of the registration form.

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.

NOTICE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Our Office is closed during lockdown and if you need to contact us for any emergency, you can call on **02 9630 1951** and leave a short message or email us at stmonicanp@bigpond.com and we will get back to you as soon as possible. **Thank you.**

Youth + Corner

Lockdown Lamentation

The people are restless and afraid. They hunger for the light while they wait in darkness.

Angrily they throw out their condemnations, whilst grieving for those lost to the sickness. They cry out in their despair.

These are not just some words written in the Bible about a peoples who existed thousands of years ago, though it might sound like it to some. No, they are words written today, about the people of today. About us.

As Sydney continues to be locked down, dissent and unrest continues to bubble beneath the surface. We are willing to come together as a community, as one people, to defeat a common foe and yet, with every drawn out battle, the onset of fatigue manifests itself into another silent but deadly enemy. Weariness, be it mental or physical, can easily provoke baser emotions. Take being hangry for example – sometimes we are just angry because our basic need for food has not been met and it shortens our tempers, making us unable to focus and think things through logically. We become angry because quite simply, we are hungry.

Justifiably so, this lockdown has many feeling angry and frustrated. People are fighting all kinds of struggles in this lockdown, be it to make ends meet, or connecting with friends and loved ones, or just plain living in fear of catching the virus and falling ill.

Understandably, many Australians are angry at those in power regarding the supply and rollout of the vaccines. Every man, woman and their dog have something to say about this matter. However, lest us call to mind that this is a time for us to exercise our patience and trust in the Lord. We must still strive for mastery over our spiritual lives, passions and our temper.

“In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:26-27). What we need to understand is that as a passion, anger itself is neither good nor evil. “They [passions] are morally qualified only to the extent that they effectively engage reason and will”. (CCC 1767). Anger can be used for noble causes, especially when used in the light of injustice or wrongdoing. Strong feelings are not decisive of the morality or the holiness of a person, but it is what we do with such passions that defines us. Here in this time and place, let's continue to pray. Pray for an increase in patience and charity. And pray for the leaders of community, for our state, for our country and for the whole world, that they may have the wisdom to make prudent decisions for those in their care in the fight against this pandemic.

- Abby

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

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=bnlXMnJtT0hnNW9GQ09xc1EzQkpHUT09>

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!