

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"

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B

29TH AUGUST 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 85: 3 - 5

Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Dt 4: 1 - 2. 6 - 8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 14

Response: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. (R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

Jas 1: 17 - 18, 21 - 22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 7: 1 - 8. 14 - 15. 21 - 23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 30: 2

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

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

COMMENTARY

The address of Moses opens with the exhortation to hear. The word is a solemn summons that assembles the people for consultation, worship or war. Here it stresses the significance of the proclamation of the law. The blessing of possession of the land is contingent on obedience to God's commandments. Israel's compliance to the law will also serve as a witness to the other nations of the extraordinary character of these statutes and decrees. The nations will recognise the wisdom in this law, and conclude that only a great people would merit a God who was so close to them and so concerned for their welfare.

The psalm addresses the question of religious fitness for standing in the presence of God. The requirements for such access are communal in nature, based on righteousness or justice. Those who stand in the presence of God do not take advantage of others. Walking on the path of righteousness calls to mind the wisdom theme of choosing the way of wisdom over the way of foolishness. The righteous person disdains the reprobate who has rejected God, but honours those who fear the Lord. If one is to live in the presence of God, one must choose the way of God. Those who live with others in righteousness will know peace and security.

The reading from the Letter to James includes three discrete themes. It praises God's goodness and generosity, God's changelessness, and God's recreative power. It also insists that the word of truth that first gave the Christians re-birth remains in them as a force of ongoing transformation. Finally, the concreteness of true religion is outlined.

Admonished to preserve themselves from the practices of the world that might militate against Christian values, believers are counselled to intervene on behalf of the community's most vulnerable – the widows and orphans who have no legal status in a patriarchal society. Doing this, the word of truth will take concrete form in their lives.

The gospel reading recounts an incident of conflict over ritual cleansing between Jesus and some of his opponents. Hand washing probably originated as a regulation observed by the priests when they were offering sacrifice. General hand washing was not mandated by the law itself, but was a custom included in the oral law, 'the tradition of the elders'. This public criticism was an attempt to shame Jesus so that he would be minimised before others and, having lost his reputation, would cease being a threat to those who opposed him. Jesus' rebuttal is swift and incisive. He explicitly draws a comparison between those whom Isaiah condemns and the scribes and Pharisees who condemn the disciples. Uncleanness or impurity are not determined by anything external. Defilement originates from the innermost recesses of the heart.

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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

September 3, St Gregory, The Great

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

Marie B Attard

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.

BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL



Due to the COVID lockdown, the Clergy Support Foundation is postponing the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal in-Parish collection to a later date, when Churches will once again be open. Parramatta Catholic Foundation is assisting us with a mail and online appeal

around the beginning of September. Your thoughtful gift to the Appeal will mean so much to our retired priests who have put the care of others before themselves. For more information on the Clergy Support Foundation's work or to make a kind donation today, please visit parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal.

Thank you,
Clergy Support Foundation Committee



St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

First Reconciliation 2021

Reconciliation 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 at stmonicasacraments@gmail.com for details and a copy of the registration form.

Please register early to facilitate preparation of lesson material and delivery of same via post to families in time for Compulsory Parent Zoom Meeting with Father Lam on 21st September at 7.30pm

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

The book of Romans

This month in Youth Group, we looked at one of the most educational books in the bible- Paul's letter to the Romans. It is in this letter that Paul explained some of the most foundational aspects of our faith as Catholics, and it was so impactful that it would be hard to find a branch of Christianity that hasn't been in some way influenced.

Through this letter, Paul seeks to not only reach out to the Roman Church and establish a relationship, but also to explain what being a Christian is, and how it impacts both Jew and Gentile. As a Gentile in that time, you would have found out that all of a sudden, you had a chance at salvation, and as a Jewish Christian, you would have been given the revolutionary news that you were no longer guaranteed salvation for the pure virtue of keeping Jewish customs. As you can expect, this led to so much uncertainty, division and often discrimination in and amongst the Church as well. It is with this in mind that Paul wrote Romans. However, what exactly does he talk about? For one, he explores the importance of 'the Law,' and while he does use this phrase for a range of things, in this case it refers to the Law of Moses and the original covenant with the people of Israel. Paul explains that the observance and practice of the law is no longer they key to salvation. Instead, it becomes something of a stumbling block, something that can often pull us away from the true guarantee – Faith in Christ. He explains that too much importance is put on the law, and while the law itself is not a bad thing, it can often lead us towards ignorance and sin (Romans 7:7). However, for those who choose to move on from blind adherence to it, there is another path to salvation, the graceful gift of God, given to us through the sacrifice of Jesus. This gift is not deserved, and yet it is given, and all we need to do earn it is to have faith in Christ and to imitate him. This is also why Gentiles – those not born under Jewish law – are able to experience salvation.

Paul then goes on to consider whether God has given up on Israel, whether he has doomed them, and to us it may seem that way. However, building upon some of his previous letters, Paul explains that God has not abandoned them or doomed them. He gives everyone a choice, to accept or to reject Him, and allows them to choose. Even though he already knows that everyone will say to this choice, he still gives us a chance. You may ask, does that mean God has already chosen people to reject him and be doomed?

No. God, who is all powerful, sees everything that can and will be. And though he knows what will happen, and what we will say, he still leaves the choice to us. We still have our own free will.

As you can see, much of what Paul discusses is complex and quite philosophical, and you most likely won't understand it without reading it yourself and doing so research. It may be a bit of work, but if you do it, you will come away with a stronger understanding of your faith, and of yourself.

- Rashane

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Online youth group continues! In September we will be looking at the book of Philippians and Colossians. 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!