

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B

05TH SEPTEMBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 118

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 35: 4 - 7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap
like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land
springs of water.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145

Response: Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *(R.)*
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. *(R.)*
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

Jas 2 : 1 - 5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ,
our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions
between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes
into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold
ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in
shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed
man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you
tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on
the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have
used two different standards in your mind, and turned
yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?
Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor
according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith
and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised
to those who love him.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Mk 7: 31 - 37**

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of
Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the
Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who
had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to
lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away
from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and
touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to
heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that
is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the
ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke
clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it,
but the more he insisted, the more widely they published
it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all
things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the
dumb speak.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 41

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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	
ANOIDING OF THE SICK/ EUCARIST AT HOME	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951	
PARISH PRIEST/ 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 this oracle of salvation, the prophet depicts two ways in which the renewal promised by God is manifested: those who suffer physical maladies will be healed of their infirmities; and the barren wilderness will be filled with the promise of new life. The prophet is told to announce salvation to those who have been broken by the hardships of life, those who are weak and filled with fear. The salvation that is promised will not be limited to human beings. All of creation will be renewed. Just as deprivation and infirmity were considered signs of evil in the world, so this restoration was perceived as a sign of the transformation that only God can effect.

The responsorial psalm is a hymn of praise of the Lord (Hallelujah in Hebrew). It lists examples of God's indescribable graciousness. As special patronal deity, God granted special protection to the children of Jacob, particularly during their sojourn in the wilderness. God's graciousness to the vulnerable is also extolled. God was particularly concerned for aliens who lacked certain legal rights as well as women and children who did not benefit from patriarchal privilege. The final verse praises God as sovereign and eternal ruler in Jerusalem. A God who cares for needy people such as these certainly should be praised.

The author of the Letter of James insists: Show no partiality! The setting is the assembly of the believers, a gathering of men for the purpose of teaching and study. The author sketches a picture of unacceptable discrimination. Preference is given to one dressed in fine clothing, while the one shabbily dressed is treated contemptuously. The first is given a place of honour; the second is told to stand or to sit at the feet of the others. This is not merely social snobbery; it is in direct violation of principles of the reign of God. The final admonition clearly defines God's preferential option for the poor, those who value God rather than money.

Though Jesus is depicted as a miracle worker like others, each detail in the account points to a feature exclusive to Jesus. When he lays hands on people, he is also overturning the purity prohibition against touching what is unclean and contaminating oneself in doing so. His use of saliva reflects the belief that it contained some of his own personal power. He looks up to heaven and groans, but it is considered by many to be a form of prayer. The healing may have been surrounded by familiar miracle elements, but the miracle itself is accomplished by Jesus' command: Be opened!

At the heart of Jesus' ministry is his teaching about the reign of God. Here he unstops the man's ears so that now he can hear and be open to the message of this reign.

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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 8, THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

First Reconciliation 2021

Compulsory Parent Zoom Meeting with Father Lam on 21st September at 7.30pm

Reconciliation



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

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.

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

What is the point of Youth Group?

Youth Groups are extremely important, and pretty much every church has one in some form or the other. Some are huge, with hundreds of members, some may only have four to five, and other have anywhere in-between. Most Youth Groups have their own unique identity and approach to activities. However, at the core of every Youth Group is something known as Youth Ministry. While the term may sound extremely formal, it really just refers to promoting the involvement of young people in the faith community, and in turn making faith an integral part of their daily lives.

Considering this, it may seem a bit redundant, because don't people attend Mass every week so that they can practice their faith? That being said, while Mass itself is an integral part of a faith filled life, Youth Ministry is just as important for young people.

For one, Youth Groups give the youth a community of likeminded individuals – people who they can relate to and make friends with. Similar to how most schools and universities work, it is easier to learn when surrounded by likeminded people, because not only does it supply an open atmosphere, it's also easier for most people to ask questions or point out things they don't understand when with people who are just like them and with similar life experience.

Furthermore, being active in Church life through Youth Ministry helps you get used to being active in the wider faith community, which is extremely important for spiritual wellbeing and growth. Like with most things, you benefit the most when starting early, and Youth Groups highlight what it is like to actively participate in a Church community, whether it be through social events, faith education or even trying to teach others. As part of this, Youth Ministry also gives young people the chance to lead. It enables them to step out their comfort zone and to lead, in the same way Jesus did, by being confident in their faith and by putting others before themselves, and experiencing such things is invaluable.

Finally, Youth Groups are great places to simply make friends. As mentioned earlier, you are guaranteed to find like minded people there. I remember when I first joined Youth Group, it was because my parents pushed me into it. Even though I didn't think I'd like it initially, I had so much fun and learnt so many things that I kept going back.

And just to finish, St Monica's Youth Group is still going strong online! We have a zoom session every Saturday from 8:00pm to 9:30pm, where we have an educational session and a few games to end.

- Rashane

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Online youth group continues! In September we are looking at the Philippians and Colossians books! 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!