

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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B

12TH SEPTEMBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Sir 36

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Is 50: 5 - 9

The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?
This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 114

Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

1. I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him. (R.)
2. They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me! (R.)
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me. (R.)
4. He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James
Jas 2 : 14 - 18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.
This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'
This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark
Mk 8: 27 - 35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him, 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.
And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 35

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter
in the shadow of your wings.

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 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Classified as one of the Servant Songs, this passage resembles a personal lament. Despite all the suffering that he is forced to endure, the author is confident that God is on his side. This is a remarkable statement since suffering was generally thought to be deserved recompense for some transgression. There is no suggestion that God will take the suffering away. Instead, God is present with the afflicted one, and the suffering itself is no cause for shame. In fact, suffering actually strengthens the one who laments. The righteous one knows that even in suffering, God is there as an advocate.

The psalm is an individual prayer of thanksgiving. The ancients believed that death was an elemental force that could take possession of people, undermining their lives and draining them of vitality. Any ailment was considered some form of death. After the psalmist's suffering is reported, the mood shifts from one of despair to one of grateful praise. God is acclaimed as gracious, just and merciful. These covenant qualities are the very qualities that inspired the psalmist's confidence and devotion. The psalmist illustrates God's power in three ways: the soul or life force is freed from death; eyes are freed from tears; feet are freed from stumbling. It is no wonder that the psalmist breaks out in a song of thanksgiving.

The author of the Letter to James addresses a misunderstanding regarding the nature of true faith. He insists that genuine faith is not simply orthodox doctrine. It must be practical, expressed in action and authentic worship. The people involved are referred to as brothers and sisters, indicating that the conflict is taking place within the community. Some members are in dire need of food and clothing, and others simply tell them to 'Go in peace'. This is not the lively faith called for by Jesus who spent himself for all people even unto death. James' opponents want to separate faith and works. James insists that faith that does not manifest itself in action is dead.

In the gospel, Jesus asks what people are saying about him. Some believe he is John the Baptist; others that he is Elijah; still others that he is one of the other prophets - all religious figures who have already died. Speaking in the name of the others, Peter proclaims that he is the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one of God. Hearing this, Jesus elaborates on the character of his messiahship. He will be a messiah like the Son of Man, the enigmatic figure who will come on the clouds at the end of this age. To this he adds that he will suffer and die, an aspect not part of the ancient messianic traditions. Peter's rebuke exemplifies this. Jesus persists, adding that his followers will also suffer. This is indeed a hard saying.

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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 13, St John Chrysostom

September 14, THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows

September 16, Sts Cornelius & Cyprian

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

"We are one, but we are many.

And from all the lands on Earth we come~"

- 'I Am Australian', The Seekers

In the last two months, every Australian household would have been notified of the national census which was being conducted at the time. We need not look far from the census survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to see that here in Australia, we are no stranger to diversity and multiculturalism. In fact, we pride ourselves in it. As such, in welcoming people from nations all around the world, naturally we see in our everyday living a myriad of different religions co-existing, for the most part, peacefully and respectfully.

Perhaps though as Catholics, there may be times where we wonder why, given that the fullness of truth subsists in the Catholic Church, God allows other religions to continue, and has done so since from ancient times as shown by the writings of the Bible which often mention the worship of false gods like Baal. God is almighty, so we must bear in mind that if he really wanted to eradicate all other religions from this world, he could easily do that. The reason why he has not done so, is because what some theologians call "God's permissive will". God himself did not create religious diversity, but he has allowed it to happen because it is a part of the free will he gave to us. God does not prescribe or prohibit the practice of other religions, but he leaves it to our own judgement. He will always look to draw us back to Him, but he does not force us to.

In addressing this topic on why there are so many different religions co-existing in this world, Pope Francis said "What God wants is fraternity among us; we must not be frightened by difference. God has allowed this.... This reality of many religions. Some emerge from the culture, but they always look toward Heaven and God.

At the Second Vatican Council in 1965, the Catholic Church declared its stance on other non-Christian religions through the release of a short document called *Nostra Aetate* (meaning 'in our time'), noting in no uncertain terms that "The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions. She regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones she holds and sets forth, nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men. Indeed, she proclaims, and ever must proclaim Christ "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), in whom men may find the fullness of religious life, in whom God has reconciled all things to Himself."

Nostra Aetate goes on to talk briefly about our other religious brothers and sisters like Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists before concluding that the Church condemns all forms of discrimination, be it race, skin colour, condition of life, religion etc. and reminds us that at the end of the day, God wishes for all of us to live peacefully in fellowship with one another and with Him.

- Abby

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/81229135805#success>

We will keep you updated on whether online youth group continues on our Instagram page @fyrestymonicas!