

# 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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B**

**19TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis 2: 12, 17 - 20

The godless say to themselves,  
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man,  
since he annoys us  
and opposes our way of life,  
reproaches us for our breaches of the law  
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.  
Let us see if what he says is true,  
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.  
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part  
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.  
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,  
and thus explore this gentleness of his  
and put his endurance to the proof.  
Let us condemn him to a shameful death  
since he will be looked after - we have his word for it.'  
*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 53

**Response:** The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayers;  
listen to the words of my mouth. (R.)
2. For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God. (R.)
3. But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

Jas 3 : 16 - 4: 3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.  
*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark

Mk 9: 30 - 37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.  
They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'  
*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 118

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm	
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am	
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Thursday 8pm—9pm Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,	
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request	
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior	
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151	Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

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## COMMENTARY

The ungodly conspire to assault the righteous. This honourable person stands in opposition to the wrongdoings of the wicked, denouncing them for their sin and accusing them of not being faithful to their upbringing. Plagued by this criticism, the wicked put the righteous one to the test to see if God will save the person of virtue from the onslaughts that are being planned. The mistreatment planned is extreme, even fatal. The righteous one, described as gentle and patient, is now an innocent victim of the evildoers' resentment. The reading ends on a note of apprehension. Will the righteous one succumb to the persecution of the wicked? Will God in fact intervene on behalf of this just person?

The psalm is a prayer to God for deliverance in time of need. The petition indicates that God's name, as part of the very essence of God, possesses divine power. The fact that 'name' in a parallel relationship with 'might', further emphasises the character of God's name. The affliction is caused by enemies described as haughty and ruthless. Regardless of how bleak the situation, the psalmist is filled with confidence. God is already present as a helper; those who rise up against the psalmist will be subdued. In the end, the psalmist promises to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to honour the name of God.

The focus of the instruction in the Letter of James shifts from the vision of peace to the reality of conflicts within the community. There is no peace because the people do not choose the path that leads to peace and the path that they do choose leads to frustration. The community has failed to travel along the path of wisdom. James wants to know the cause of these conflicts, not so that he can reprimand them, but that he might instruct them. The frustration or pointlessness that they have chosen is laid bare. The Christians have no one to blame but themselves for the lack of harmony in their personal and communal lives.

Away from the crowds, Jesus identifies himself as the mysterious Son of Man and predicts his passion, death and resurrection. The disciples did not grasp the meaning of Jesus' words, and they engaged in a heated discussion about status within the community. Jesus had just admitted his ultimate vulnerability, and they were quarrelling about rank. Jesus seized the moment to teach an important lesson: following his own example, those who would be first must be willing to be last. In the world of Jesus' time, neither servants nor children had any legal rights or social status. Jesus turns the social ranking system upside down. Those who hold the highest positions within the community must be willing to take the lowest place and be the servants of all. He offers himself as an example of one who empties himself for the sake of others.

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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 20, Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions

September 21, ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST  
September 23, St Pius of Pietrecina (Padre Pio)

### 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 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

### St. Monica's Sacraments

[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)



Reconciliation

#### First Reconciliation 2021

Compulsory Parent only Zoom Meeting with Father Lam on Tuesday 21st September at 7pm



### 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](http://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](mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com) and we will get back to you as soon as possible. **Thank you.**

## Youth Corner

### How to Enjoy Wealth For God's Glory

How do we use our wealth to glorify God? Timothy 6:17-19 is one of the clearest and best passages that addresses our use of wealth: 'As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.' Paul begins with 2 charges:

1. First, "don't be haughty." It's easy for the rich to think they're somebody; to think, *My right arm has gotten me this wealth* (Deut. 8:17). It's easy to live as though life consists in an abundance of possessions; that if we have the big house or the big car or the big vacation, then others will admire us and respect us and do what we say. Wealth and haughtiness often go hand in hand. There's a smug satisfaction that creeps in and lords our riches over others. And so, Paul's first word to the rich is, "Don't boast! Don't puff yourself up in your riches."
2. Second, don't set your hope on the uncertainty of riches. Our riches are uncertain because we can't take them with us (1 Tim. 6:7). All the wealth in the world won't keep us from dying. It's not wrong to be rich, but Paul says, to desire to be rich, to crave wealth is a deep temptation, a snare, and all kinds of evil flow from it (1 Tim. 6:9-10). Instead of setting your hope on riches, set it on God. There's a clear contrast here. Unlike riches, God isn't uncertain or unstable. Moth and rust don't destroy him; thieves can't steal him from you. You can take God with you out of this world. Indeed, he will never leave you nor forsake you, in this life or the next. The love of God is the root of all sorts of goodness, and to crave *him* brings the deepest and most lasting joy (Ps. 16:11).

Paul then explains why God has given us wealth (1 Tim. 6:17-19). The first purpose might surprise us. Paul tells the rich that God "richly provides us with everything to enjoy" (v. 17). Personally, that's not what I would've expected Paul to say to the rich ("Enjoy what God gives you!"). Nonetheless, he says it. So the question becomes, how do you enjoy what God richly provides without setting your hope on the uncertainty of riches? The other three purposes of wealth help clarify how we can enjoy what God has provided without setting our hope on it. The next three purposes are: (2) "to do good," (3) "to be rich in good works," and (4) "to be generous and ready to share" (1 Tim. 6:18). How do we test whether we're enjoying God's gifts rightly? Answer: by our generosity. If wealth comes to us and we're enjoying it, but it's not spilling the banks and flooding the lives of others, then something has gone wrong in our souls. Our goal is this—we want to be as generous with others as God has been with us. We want to freely receive (because he richly provides us with everything to enjoy) and therefore freely give (because he richly provides us with everything to share). Paul concludes with a promise. When those of us who are rich set our hope on God, enjoy his provision, and then use our wealth to meet needs through generosity, Paul tells us we're storing up heavenly treasure and taking hold of life (1 Tim. 6:19).

**Rachel (Adapted from Gospel Coalition Article written by Joe Rigney)**

### Youth Announcements



#### St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Online youth group continues! In September we are looking at the Philipians 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> Hope everyone is doing well during this time- stay safe and if you ever just want to chat, our Instagram @fyrestmonicas are always open!

#### Trivia Night Friday 1st October

We will be having another trivia night this upcoming school holidays on Friday 1st October 7:30PM-9:30PM on discord! Please fill out the link to the google form for attendance here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9yQhNXIK0Vrw0lgrnB39vLaXxoWEBJSIWqIuaYPKq5WodZzg/viewform> see the link in our Instagram bio 🤗 Hope to see you all there!