

# 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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B**

**26TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord,  
you have done with true judgement,  
for we have sinned against you  
and not obeyed your commandments.  
But give glory to your name  
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Numbers**

**Nm 11: 25 - 29**

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18

**Response:** The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. **(R.)**
3. So in them your servant finds instructions;  
great reward is in their keeping.  
But who can detect all his errors?  
From hidden faults acquit me. **(R.)**
4. From presumption restrain your servant  
and let it not rule me.  
Then shall I be blameless,  
clean from grave sin. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St James**

**Jas 5 : 1 - 6**

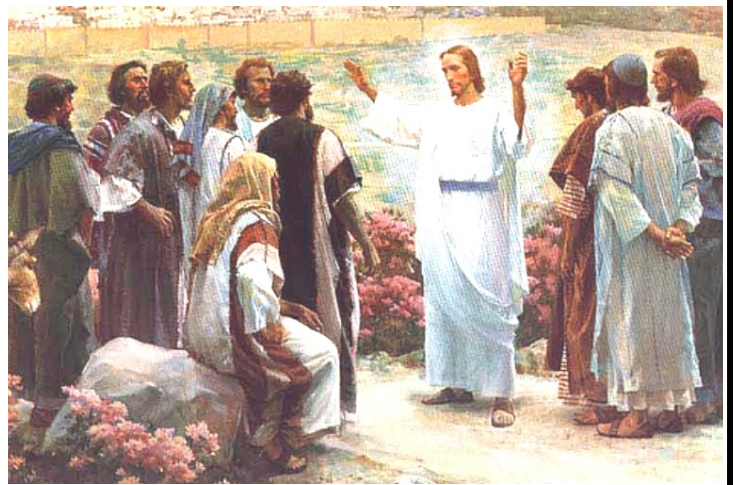
An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a

life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your word, O Lord, is truth:  
make us holy in the truth.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

**Mk 9: 38 - 43. 45. 47 - 48**

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 118

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,  
by which you have given me hope.  
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

# 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

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## COMMENTARY

The spirit of prophecy conferred on Moses is shared by others. This spirit is also bestowed on men who were absent from the group. Joshua is upset that these latter presume to prophesy. The primary role of Moses is prophet or spokesperson of God. In fact, Moses appears to be the fountainhead of prophesy. Though the principal site of revelation was the tent of meeting, which was located outside of the camp, two men who remained within the camp receive the spirit. Though Joshua criticises their prophesying, Moses does not hinder them. For Moses, the work of God takes precedence over the institutional ordering of the community.

The psalm exalts the glories of the law. It describes the blessings that acceptance of the law can impart in order to persuade people to embrace it as the will of God and to live in accord with it. The law belongs to the Lord. It is not just any religious law; it is uniquely Israel's, because in a very specific way it represents the will of the God of Israel. The effects of the law are all relational, enhancing human life itself. The law imbues the soul with new vitality; it gives wisdom; it is constant and just; it establishes an enduring attitude of awe; it is a path to righteousness.

Although the reading from the Letter of James resembles a prophetic pronouncement of doom, it is really a wisdom teaching. It describes the consequences of living in a way that does not conform to the path of righteousness. Preoccupied with their own comfort, the wealthy ignore the needs of others. They are busy accruing money rather than sharing it with the poor, and this selfish attitude will be a testimony against them. They foolishly enjoy their wealth and comfort, oblivious of the fact that they are being fattened for the day of slaughter, the impending day of judgment. The author does not really denounce wealth. Rather, he condemns injustice and inhumanity that frequently accompany it.

The gospel is a collection of pronouncements of Jesus on the topics of acceptance, hospitality and scandal. Like Joshua in the first reading, John challenges someone who is not a member of the close knit group of disciples, but who presumes to perform the marvels that they have been commissioned to perform. Jesus responds that this man is not an enemy, nor do his exorcisms undermine Jesus' ministry. Jesus continues to justify works of mercy performed in his name. They are commendable and will be highly rewarded regardless of how insignificant they may appear to be. Jesus then warns against giving scandal. Those who cause Christians to sin will be severely punished.

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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 26, St Cosmas & St Damien, Martyrs  
September 27, St Vincent de Paul, Priest  
September 29, Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels  
September 30, St Jerome, Priest & Doctor

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



Reconciliation

#### First Reconciliation 2021

Compulsory Parent only Zoom Meeting with Father Lam was cancelled due to an unforeseeable circumstance. A new date will be emailed to the registered as soon as its decided.



#### Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:

We have received a total of \$8787 in donations to date and renovations are taking place right now. 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.**

#### 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.**

#### 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.

## Youth + Corner

### The book of Philippians

For the first two weeks of September, we looked at the book of Philippians, one of the four prison epistles written by Paul during his imprisonment in Rome. Philippians is considered the most joyful, personal and hopeful letter as Paul directly addresses it to the people of Philippi, whom he had formed a strong connection to when he travelled there during his second missionary journey. It was actually here that he established the first of many churches throughout the Mediterranean, which is probably why his speech is enriched with deep appreciation, care and love for these believers. Because of its encouraging nature (which is encapsulated within just four chapters), Philippians is definitely a book which you can turn to if you are feeling a bit lost and uncertain, or are going through a difficult time in your life as it brings us back to one of the core reasons why we need God in our lives- that no matter what circumstance we may find ourselves in (good or bad), God is with us, working within us and providing the strength we need to overcome whatever situation. When we have reassurance like that, this is why we must learn to, as Philippians 4:4 neatly summarizes, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Rejoice!"

What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? Rejoice means 'to have or feel a sense of joy or great delight'- and we should definitely feel this way when we know Jesus- because there is no one other who will love us as deeply or as purely as he does. We often forget just how much suffering Jesus had to endure for us- we are encouraged to reminisce on this during Good Friday especially, but there is no denying his death and agony should be acknowledged in our day to day life. Yet, he continues to look out for us from above, and we are able to witness the marvelous ways in which he works- not just in us but in other people too. This is also what Paul calls the Philippians (and now us) to do too- rejoicing not just in the Lord, but also in the those around us. We rejoice when we witness our family and friends doing God's work, or seeing them mature in their love, holiness, and knowledge of their faith. It's knowing they are just one step closer to knowing Christ better, which is why we remain joyful, even in difficult circumstances. Paul lets us in on his little secret to true Christian joy and contentment in Philippians, and it remains a key reminder for us all- whether or not we've had a good or bad day, whether or not the sun is shining- we belong solely to the Lord, and our challenges can be reframed in light of Christ, giving us a reason to rejoice in Him and those around us pursuing spiritual maturity and happiness.

### Youth Announcements



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

Online youth group continues! In October we will be looking at James, Jude and Peter! 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 DMs 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/1FAIpQLSf9yQhNXIK0Vrw0IgmB39vLaXxoWEBJS1WqluaYPKq5WodZzg/viewform> see the link in our Instagram bio 😊 Hope to see you all there!