

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 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B

03RD OCTOBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 2: 18 - 24

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127

Response: May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 2 : 9 -11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything

exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.
This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark
Mk 10: 2 - 16

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.

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/ 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

In the account of the creation of the woman, the word for partner (ezer) does not mean 'helper' but 'source of blessing'. In an ancient Sumerian myth, the goddess Ninti was the 'woman of life' (cf. 3:20), a phrase from the same Hebrew root as 'woman of the rib' (v.21). Just as the man (adam) comes from the ground (adamah), so the woman (issah) comes from the man (ish). These poetic constructions indicate that the author did not set out to provide an accurate account of the creation of the first couple, but sought to focus on their relationship. Finally, the word pair 'bone and flesh' is a typical way of expressing comprehensiveness. With the woman, the man is complete.

The psalm is a wisdom psalm. It contains wisdom themes such as reward and punishment, happy or blessed, ways or path. The fear of the Lord denotes profound awe and amazement before the tremendous marvels of God. The blessings promised here are both material good fortune and a large and extended family. The reference to children's children refers to long life and the continuation of the family. It also implies that the nation is prospering and that it will endure. The good fortune of the individual is really a share in the good fortune of the nation. The final statement is an exclamation: 'Peace upon Israel!' Peace, shalom, is fullness of life.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews uses an anthropological tradition to explain the solidarity of Jesus with humankind. For him being made lower than the heavenly beings was a humbling experience, not an elevating one. He emptied himself in death for the sake of all women and men. Jesus is the one who, through his death, brings others to the glory intended for them from their creation. He is the one who consecrates; they are the ones who are consecrated. Like all others, he is made a little lower than the angels, and he is not ashamed of the human nature that he shares with all the rest.

The Pharisees were not asking about the acceptability of divorce; it was permitted by law. Jesus responds to their challenge with one of his own. Without undermining the authority of Moses, he goes beyond the Mosaic tradition to the original intent of God as found in the creation account. In God's design the couple become one flesh and must not be separated. Later Jesus explains his challenge of the patriarchal understanding of divorce and remarriage. Jesus then makes children the symbol and model of those who would receive and enter the reign of God. The reign of God must be accepted as children might accept a gift. Furthermore, it must also be entered with the unself-consciousness of children.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

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

October 4, St Francis Assisi
October 7, Our Lady of the Rosary

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

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.*



Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:

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

Youth + Corner

The Most Important Question in the World

I wanted to start this week's youth corner off by asking: What is the most important question in the world? Before reading on, take a moment to really contemplate and challenge yourself – what do you think? Could it be: "What is my purpose in life? Why do I exist?" Or perhaps a simpler approach: "Am I happy?" I think there are many very valid responses to this question, which no doubt is greatly influenced by your upbringing, experiences, and personal beliefs; but despite this, there is a question which makes strong argument for claiming the prized spot: "Is there a God?"

It's a question which really encompasses all others and has profound significance, because the answer you come to shapes every facet of our lives and affects every important decision we make. It's a question we need to ask ourselves often – especially as youth and especially in this day and age, because being a believer in God is rapidly going out of fashion. In fact, it already has – in 2020, the proportion of Australians identifying as atheist finally eclipsed those identifying as Christian (Roy Morgan Research, 2020), and it's easy to see why – for the first time in nearly two millennia, being a Christian in western society is countercultural, and it seems more and more that society is bearing down on Christians, urging them to 'get with the times.'

But this is not the first time in history that Christians have been in the minority. In the first century AD, the early Christian Church of Colossae faced similar pressures to reject their young faith and conform to societal norm (which at the time was polytheistic Roman culture). It was at this time that St Paul wrote to them in his Letter to the Colossians, encouraging them to stand firm in their belief, and challenging them to a renewed, strengthened faith in Jesus. Paul empathised with the Colossians, recognising the very real pressures (and at times discrimination and persecution) that the Christians of Colossae were facing, and that we too are facing today in some way or another. In the epistle, Paul urges us to remain steadfast, not compromising on where it matters most – our faith in Jesus Christ. Paul compels us to embrace sacrifice and servitude for our neighbours, just as Jesus did for us when he reconciled our sins through his blood on the cross, and reiterates the sovereignty of Jesus Christ who shares in the identity of the one true God, author and king of all creation.

Though only four short chapters, the Letter to the Colossians provides us with an opportunity to honestly reflect on our identity and relationship with Jesus. Over the past month at Youth Group, we've dived a little deeper into its pages, contemplating what it might mean for us and the way we choose to live our lives. In summary: no, it is often not easy to live as a Christian, but to do so is to give your personal answer and testament to The Most Important Question in the World.

- Ryan

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Online youth group continues! This month in October we are looking at James/Jude/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

Thank you to everyone who came along to trivia on Friday- we hope you had fun! In the meantime, stay safe and we hope to see everyone back at the Parish centre soon 😊