

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 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B

10TH OCTOBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis 7: 7 - 11

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered
This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 89

Response: Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!

1. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger forever?
Show pity to your servants. (R.)
2. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune. (R.)
3. Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 4 : 12 -13

The word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.
This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark
Mk 10: 17 - 30

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.
Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'
Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land - not without persecutions - now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 33

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

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

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Phone: 8832 4100

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COMMENTARY

Wisdom is personified as a woman and is praised as a priceless treasure beyond compare. The speaker prefers her to anything that is normally cherished. Although he spurned riches, in the end he received them along with the wisdom he sought. To choose wisdom over everything else is the wisest action one can take, and, according to this theory, it will result in the greatest blessings. Some scholars believe that this personification is a remnant of ancient Near Eastern worship of a goddess of wisdom. Others maintain that it merely reflects the feminine form of the Hebrew word for wisdom. Wisdom is depicted as a cherished female companion, who gives extraordinary meaning to life.

If suffering was punishment for sin, it was considered a necessary recompense for restoring the harmony disturbed by the sin. The guilty were expected to recognise their error and reform their ways. Daybreak usually brings thoughts of hope. When it appears that relief is not on the horizon, hope evaporates like early morning dew. The deliverance of the faithful will glorify God, who will be known as the one who hears the cry of the afflicted and who rescues them. The psalm focuses on the reversal of fortune of the faithful. Everyone who sees their deliverance will see and acknowledge God's graciousness. God will be known as the one who hears the cry of the afflicted and who rescues them.

The word of God is here extolled in the Letter to the Hebrews for its creative and its juridical force. It is living and effective, because it is the expression of the living God. God's word is incisive and probing; it is comprehensive and profound. The identification of God's word with God's very self becomes clear as the scope of God's influence is further revealed. Nothing is concealed from God; everything is exposed. Such exposure is hazardous only if one has something to hide. Then it can work to one's detriment. The word realises what it set off to do, and it enhances the life-giving reality that it discovers and it condemns whatever is unauthentic. Everything that stands open before this great God.

The initial exchange between Jesus and the rich man raises the question: Can one gain eternal life, or is it a gift from God? This is an honest and upright man, one who has been observant from his youth, but who realises that there is still something missing in his life. Even the righteous find it difficult to respond to the radical demands of discipleship. Nowhere does Jesus say that wealth is bad. In fact, riches were considered an indication of divine favour and a reward for piety. Jesus is claiming that they can be a diversion from the real goal of life, a hindrance to entrance into the reign of God. Jesus admits that this is 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

October 15, St Teresa of Jesus

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

According to the Bishop's order, St. Monica's Parish will remain closed at the first stage of re-opening of NSW. Live-streaming of Masses will be continued. Announcement about resuming of Sunday and Weekday Masses will be done later.



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 will remain closed 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

Our Lady of the Rosary

On October the 7th, we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. Our Lady of the Rosary, as you would expect, is one of Mary, Mother of Jesus' many titles. However, the history behind the day is something amazing in its own right.

To give a bit of background, in the early 1200's, Venetian crusaders sacked the city of Constantinople, taking various relics, vestments and other valuable items back to Italy in repayment of the debts that Constantinople owed Rome. Of course, having your home sacked and your valuables stolen would leave deep scars, and in the 1400s, when the Ottoman Turks laid siege to Constantinople, these bitter feelings were once again resurfaced. As the last Christian stronghold within territories that had otherwise fallen to Islamic control, the only hope of Constantinople was to unite with Rome. However, even when a deal was struck, the orthodox faithful could not forgive the humiliation from centuries ago, and eventually Constantinople fell.

With Constantinople lost, there was very little between the Ottoman's and the rest of Europe- very little except the combined naval fleet of the Holy League of Catholic Kingdoms and the Papal states. The creation of this league itself was quite a task, and was headed by Pope Saint Pius V, who also asked the European faithful to pray the Rosary and to ask Mary to intercede for them. However, even with all this effort, the League was highly outnumbered. Not only were the forces of the Ottomans much larger, but they also had training and that gave them quite the edge.

They would need nothing short of divine intervention. However- miraculously, through the grace of God, they were victorious. They turned back the Ottoman navy in the Battle of Lepanto at the Gulf of Patras. To honour the day and reaffirm the power of faith, Pope Saint Pius V created the 'Feast of Our Lady of Victory' which would eventually be changed into 'Our Lady of the Rosary,' as we know it today.

While a series of events like this may seem like it was taken right out a movie, it was all very real, with real people and seriously high stakes. It goes to show the power of God, the love of Mary and the support we can rely on if we keep Faith. These lessons are especially relevant today, where often we might find ourselves outnumbered, or where we feel our Christian values are looked down upon. There have been many instances where Christianity has faced adverse odds, but through our faith, we will always be saved, and with God at our side, there really is nothing to fear.

- Rashane

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!