

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 NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B

17TH OCTOBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Is 53: 10 - 11

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.

If he offers his life in atonement,
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life
and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.
His soul's anguish over
he shall see the light and be content.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,
taking their faults on himself.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32

Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love.
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 4 : 14 - 16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
Let us be confident in approaching the throne of grace.
Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme
high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven,
we must never let go of the faith that we have professed.
For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable
of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who
has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is
without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the
throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and
find grace when we are in need of help.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for all.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark
Mk 10: 35 - 45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him, 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.' When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 32

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

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

The suffering of the servant in Isaiah was brought on by God. God's role in suffering has long plagued religious people. The misfortune of sinners is seen as the just punishment for their offences, but the suffering of the righteous has always been disturbing. The servant is cast in the role of the scapegoat, the sacrificial animal upon whose back the sins of others are placed and whose death expiates the guilt of the very ones who killed it. This brutal death appeases the guilt of the blameworthy and puts an end to the violence perpetrated by the original transgressions and the violence inherent in the savage sacrifice itself. With this vicarious offering, reconciliation with God is accomplished.

The psalm states that faith is rooted in the truth of God's word, in the faithfulness of God's works, in the justice of God's covenant, and in the steadfastness of God's love. These four attributes encourage the people to place their trust in God. Fear of the Lord is the posture of respect with which one stands before the awe-inspiring God. Those who fear the Lord turn to God for relief in their distress, and they are rescued. Those without faith look elsewhere for help, and they are confounded. The psalm ends with a final reference to covenant commitment or loving-kindness, a bond that will act as a protecting shield, warding off dangers and bestowing kindness and blessing.

The second reading contains a double exhortation: to hold fast to faith and to approach the throne of grace with confidence. It develops the theme of Jesus the high priest who intercedes for all those who turn to him. This is a high priest who was tempted in all things and, therefore, can sympathise with human struggle. Jesus' exalted state has not distanced him from us. On the contrary, he shares our limitations. As an authentic human being, he carries all of the members of the human race with him as he approaches the heavenly throne. Unlike former high priests who approached the mercy seat alone and only on the Day of Atonement, Christ enables each one of us to approach God, and to do so continually.

The gospel is filled with misunderstandings, paradoxes and reversals. James and John seek places of prominence in Jesus' kingdom and Jesus informs them that real prominence is found in service, not in wielding authority over others. The willingness of the sons of Zebedee to accept the cup that Jesus will eventually drink and to be baptised in his baptism is another example of their misunderstanding. They could hardly have imagined the implications of their words. Jesus never denies that he would be prominent in the reign of God. However, whenever he discussed either the reign itself or the role that he will play in it, he always indicated that it was God's reign and that he had been appointed by God to do God's work.

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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 18, St Luke the Evangelist

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 Larrabal, 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

Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought
-Pope John Paul II

As the people of NSW advance ever closer to what the officials are calling "Freedom Day" from harsh lock down restrictions, let us reflect on what it truly means to be "free".

If we looked at the Cambridge English Dictionary, it would read something like

freedom

noun

UK /'fri:.dəm/ US /'fri:.dəm/

B2 [C or U]

the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited:

However, is that really all there is to freedom? Being able to do whatever we want, when we want it and how we want it? In history, certainly there has been terrible instances of slavery and emancipation, the liberation from which is a kind of freedom, freedom from tyrannical oppression unjustly imposed on other humans. But what does Pope John Paul II mean in his quote up above about it being the right to do what we ought?

For the purposes of this article, let's view freedom as a coin with two sides. One side – the concept of being free *from* something, e.g. addiction, financial stress, lock down restrictions etc. This is what we normally associate freedom with and is easy and straightforward to understand. The second side – the concept of being free *to do or be* something. This is the true freedom which Pope John Paul II talks about, a freedom of the heart to know and therefore choose the right course of action. A central theme of John Paul II writings is his observation of the connection between freedom and truth. Authentic freedom can only be obtained if one has the whole truth on a matter. Therefore freedom cannot solely be to do as we want as what we want may not be healthy or even good. There are many things that we may like or want to do which can enslave us, addicting things like drugs, alcohol, video games, social media etc which can be difficult to moderate. Once enslaved by such pleasures, our freedom becomes lost to us. It is only in knowing the truth and being able to decipher what is good that one is able to then freely choose to do the right thing. Even in the bible, truth and freedom are inexplicably linked as stated by Jesus in John 8:31-32 - "Jesus went on to say to the Jews who believed in him, "if you live in my word, you will indeed be by my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free".

God's Word is truth, and if we allow our hearts to be open to His Word, then the freedom we gain in following Him is of divine origin that the world with all its earthly temptations has no hold over.

- Abby



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!

We will be resuming face to face youth group soon, so keep an eye out for future announcements here or on our Instagram ^ _ ^