

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"

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B - MISSION SUNDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

Jer 31: 7 - 9

The Lord says this:

Shout with joy for Jacob!
Hail the chief of nations!
Proclaim! Praise! Shout:
The Lord has saved his people,
the remnant of Israel!
See, I will bring them back
from the land of the North
and gather them from the far ends of earth;
all of them: the blind and the lame,
women with child, women in labour;
a great company returning here.
They had left in tears,
I will comfort them as I lead them back;
I will guide them to streams of water,
by a smooth path where they will not stumble.
For I am a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my first-born son.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 125

Response: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
It seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 5: 1 - 6

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death,
and brought us life through his gospel.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark
Mk 10: 46 - 52

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 19

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

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

In the oracle (first reading), salvation is an accomplished fact; the return is an event of the future. Only a remnant consisting of the most vulnerable of the people will return. The imagery is replete with allusions to new life. Ephraim, who received his inheritance through adoption by Jacob, was granted the privileges of the first-born in place of his older brother (cf. Gen 48:5-20). Just as the returnees are evidence of God's willingness to grant a second chance, so Ephraim symbolises kinship through God's choice. The restoration promised here is clearly a work of God. Customary human initiative plays no role in it.

Confidence in God's saving power is here based on remembrance of God's former saving acts. Israel's great blessing was the return from exile. In it, other nations see God's preference for the most vulnerable. The reversal of fortune is described in symbolic language: sowing in tears, and reaping in joy; leaving with only the promise of harvest, and returning with its abundant fruits. God will replace the tragedy that marks the circumstances of the people with good fortune. This is their prayer; it is for this that they hope. They are confident that their prayer will be answered and their hope will be realised, because God has been gracious to them in the past.

High priests interceded with God on behalf of the people. Acknowledgment of their commonly shared human limitations and weaknesses prevented them from assuming an arrogant air. No one took the office of high priest upon himself. Like Aaron who was explicitly called by God (Exod 28:1; Num 3:10), the high priest must belong to one of the divinely appointed priestly families. However, Jesus did not trace his ancestry to one of the priestly families, and there was no need for him to make sin offerings for himself. The quotes from psalms identified him as a son of God (Ps 2:7) and as the priest-king Melchizedek of old (Gen 14:18). Like the royal high priest, Jesus is the representative before God.

The account of the healing of a blind man is also a call narrative, for the man interprets Jesus' words in this way. When he hears that it is Jesus of Nazareth who is passing by him, he identifies Jesus as a descendant of David and the long-awaited one who would fulfil religious and political expectations. When Jesus called for him, he threw his cloak aside, leaving behind the alms he had already collected as well as his life of begging. The man who was blind had eyes of faith and he acted on this faith, publicly proclaiming it. As a consequence of his profession, Jesus tells him that it is this faith that gave him his sight. In his eagerness to respond to Jesus' call, he had already left everything. Having been cured, he now follows Jesus.

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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 28, STS SIMON & JUDE. APOSTLES

November 1, ALL SAINTS

November 2, THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS DAY)

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

NOTICE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Our Office will remain closed until the 1st of December, 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.



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

Renovation of Parish Toilets is now complete and we seek your generous contribution toward the cost:



We have received a total of \$8787 in donations to date and to reach our target of \$70,000 your continued support is most appreciated. Donations can be handed into Church or the Parish Office.

Thank you.



Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday from 8pm–9pm.
All are welcome

Mass will resume as normal commencing the 23rd/24th October.

WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday - Friday - 9.15am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT : 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

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

When Christians Make Mistakes

In our everyday lives, we may come across Christians that we know and care about who do or say things that are not good for others, which are contrary to God's desire to love others and offensive to His grace and goodness. This can range from self-destructive, abusive behaviour, to demonstrations of apathy and callousness or simply being rude and unkind to other people. In these circumstances, what should we do? Would it be good enough to just ignore it? No; in reality, Christians should help and guide each other to become better Christians in their behaviour, in their relationship with each other and with God, and in their thoughts and mentality. One way in which Christians support each other is through admonishing a fellow Christian who has made a mistake by doing or saying something that is morally wrong. For St Paul, admonishing a fellow Christian was a form of teaching, 'let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish on another with all wisdom.' (Colossians 3:16). It is important to note here that St Paul reminds Christians that when they admonish another Christian, their admonishment must be guided by the 'word of Christ.' A Christian's admonishment should be based on Jesus' teachings or the principles of His teachings, and should direct a person to accept and live by Jesus' teachings. In fact, admonishment is an act that is endorsed by Jesus. Jesus himself tells his apostles to admonish a person that has sinned, 'if your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them, and if they repent, forgive them.' (Luke 17:3).

So how should we admonish a fellow Christian when they make mistakes? It is important to be aware that you may not necessarily be admonishing another Christian from a position of authority, but merely as a brother or sister in Christ. Your words do not necessarily carry the authoritative weight of a government minister in a department that he or she leads, or the authoritative weight of a boss or supervisor among a staff of employees. A man's advice is not more authoritative than a woman's, nor does a young person's advice inherently carry less weight than an older adult. So, it is important not to try and invoke your own personal authority. Emphasise that your actions are out of genuine concern and care for the Christian, who has the potential to choose to do good and be a holy person. When you admonish a Christian, it may also be useful to focus on how that person's behaviour, actions and words have not only hurt other people, but also on how their relationship with God has been harmed, as their habits and tendencies have made them less holy or Christ like. It is also important to remember that we should treat them with patience and kindness, and this should be reflected in the way we speak, and what we say. Be attentive to what they say, because what they say will inform your response.

Sometimes it may be helpful to acknowledge that not everyone is perfect, that everyone makes mistakes, but that we are all called to change, repent and improve. After all, Jesus warns against hypocrisy of people who point out the mistakes of others but do not pay attention to their own faults (Matt. 7:3-5). Always remember that the goal of admonishing a Christian is to help them be better Christians and better people, and part of that process may involve not only forgiving the Christian who has repented but also involve the admonisher improving him or herself as well.

- Rachel

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 in-person youth group in November, more details to come on our Instagram- excited to see you all soon ^_^**