

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"

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B

31ST OCTOBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Dt 6: 2 - 6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17

Response: I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be to the God that saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown love for his anointed. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 7 : 23 - 28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high

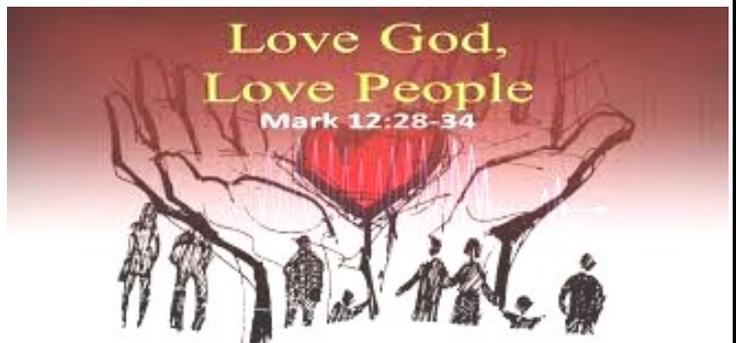
priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark

Mk 12: 28 - 34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 15

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

The first reading contains what many consider the most significant prayer of the Israelite religion. It is a profession of faith in the one God to whom belongs Israel's exclusive and undivided commitment. This God is the patron deity of Israel, the one who drew the people out of Egyptian bondage, led them through the perils of the wilderness, and brought them into the land of promise. This profession of faith is found within a summons to obedience. This obedience cannot be simply external conformity to law. It must be total commitment to God, and all of their interior faculties must be involved in this commitment – the heart, the soul and the strength.

The psalm of praise for deliverance contains an array of metaphors characterising God. They include: rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, horn of salvation, stronghold. Although they each have their respective meanings, they all embody some aspect of deliverance. The victory cry 'The Lord lives!' is a cultic formula that extols God's dynamic activity. Because the psalm speaks of the psalmist's need for defence and deliverance, the reference is certainly to God's saving activity in history. What began as a hymn of thanksgiving is now a doxology of praise of God's mighty accomplishments. The very last verse introduces a royal theme. The God who has been the defence of the psalmist has also secured victory for the king.

Three aspects of the extraordinary high priesthood of Jesus are celebrated in the second reading: its permanence, the holiness of Jesus the high priest, and the legitimacy of the high priesthood. This passage underscores the excellence of Jesus' high office by contrasting its divine character with the very human character of the Levitical priesthood. The permanent nature of Jesus's high priesthood enables him to intercede for others, as the high priests did, but without interruption. Four adjectives describe the holiness of Jesus – holy, innocent, undefiled, and separated from what is sinful. They recall the attributes that constitute Levitical purity. Finally, Jesus' high priesthood is legitimated by identifying Jesus with Melchizedek, whose priesthood was established by a divine oath (cf. Heb 7:20; Ps 110:4).

By the time of Jesus, 613 commandments had grown up surrounding the official biblical law. While all were considered delivered by God to Moses, some were more important than others. The scribe should have understood this. Jesus does not single out any particular law, but endorses the summons that constitutes the Shema, the most significant prayer of the Israelite religion (cf. Deut 6:5). Jesus was asked to identify one commandment, and he offers two. The second is a citation from the Book of Leviticus (19:18). By bringing these admonitions together as he does, Jesus shows that, though not identical, they are interrelated. No one dared challenge Jesus again. What else was there to ask? What other answer could be given?

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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

November 1, All SAINTS
November 2, ALL SOULS DAY
November 4, St Charles Barromea

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

M. S. Mariadoss
Avtel Basha
Saville & Sonberg
Families

PARISH ACTIVITIES

NOTICE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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



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



Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:

We have received a total of \$10,137.00 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.



Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday from 8pm–9pm.
Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,
All are welcome.

Special Masses:

Masses on **1st November 2021 (Monday, All Saint's Day)**
2nd November 2021 (Tuesday, All Soul's Day)

9.15 am (English)
7.00 pm (English + live-streaming)
8.00 pm (Cantonese + live-streaming)

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.

06th/07th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock G. Basha	P. Fleming B. Hooker	J. Woodbury A. Dsa
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorp	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera		

Youth + Corner

James/Jude/Peter

This month, I was pleased to lead a session with Brian Wong on four of the seven Catholic letters in the Bible. Now, before this session I had always wondered to myself, why were they called the Catholic letters, are they only found in the Catholic Bible? It turns out that is false. These seven books, Letter of James, 1&2 Peter, 1,2&3 John and Letter of Jude are also found in the Protestant and Orthodox Bible. It turns out these seven letters are called Catholic the same way our church is called Catholic, these letters with the exemption of 2&3 John were addressed to the universal church at the time, not just to a local church or individual. As we wanted to ensure that the books we covered were done so in depth, we were only able to present the Letter of James, 1&2 Peter and the Letter of Jude throughout the month.

The Letter of James is a truly powerful letter. According to church tradition, written by James son of Alphaeus, he was the Bishop of Jerusalem at the time. Strongly influenced by the Sermon on the Mount and the Book of Proverbs, the main emphasis is to love God and your neighbours as yourself. The letter has a lot of harsh truths. He tells us not to discriminate against the poor, to genuinely care about everyone, especially those who are helpless. He then discusses the notion of money, emphasising the importance of acquiring it legally and morally sound. More importantly, he emphasis the need to not acquire money for the sake of acquiring it. Rather, it should be done with the intention to give back to the poor and to use the power for goodness in this world. He discusses the importance of watching the language that exists one's mouth but also the importance of prayer, providing the textual basis for the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. James ends off the book imploring Christians to live a life of humility, as the grace of God is given freely to those who are humble. It is quite clear that actions should come from a devout faith and one should always place complete dependence on God.

1st Peter emphasises the importance of faith, as the resurrection of Jesus Christ has provided us with new life. We have been born again. Peter implores us to love one another fervently, as true love is the greatest virtue. Peter then informs us that we are to be model citizens, that we shouldn't separate ourselves from society. As such, taxes and legitimate duties towards the state should be followed. However, we should stay firm against evil. God must always come first. 2nd Peter and the Letter of Jude have a similar arching theme. That we must stay well clear of individuals who corrupt others and encourage others to commit sinful deeds. Evoking Old Testament literature, the authors of Jude and 2nd Peter warn us that false teachers, those who prey on the vulnerable will be punished and receive divine justice from our God.

It has been a wonderful month and I implore all of you to read the letters yourself. It's always better when you read it yourself.

- Gabriel

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

We are returning to face-to-face youth group in November (7th November) in the community room! We will be looking at the Book of Revelation to finish off the year ☺ We are super excited to see everyone back at church again, so feel free to drop by!