

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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B

07TH NOVEMBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings

1 Kgs 17: 10 - 16

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145

Response: Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 9 : 24 - 28

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his

own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

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 12: 38 - 44

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 22

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me
repose, near restful waters he leads me.

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

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Email: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

The woman in the first reading has very few resources to call upon. Despite the fact that she is a widow, she is still required by custom to provide hospitality to whoever approaches her, regardless of the cost this might exact of her. She followed the word of the prophet, and God's word came to pass. Her miraculous supply of flour and oil lasted for a year. In her oath, she had declared that Elijah's God lives. She made this proclamation in the face of what appeared to be inevitable death. The miracle showed the woman that this God who lives can and will grant life even in the face of death.

The psalm is a hymn of praise of the Lord – Hallelujah in Hebrew. The word is used as a refrain, a response to a series of statements that offer examples of God's indescribable graciousness. 'God of Jacob' (v.7) refers to the special protection that was given to the ancestor after whom the nation was named. God's graciousness to the vulnerable is next extolled (vv.8-9). The final verse praises God as sovereign and eternal ruler in Jerusalem. All of the verses of the psalm testify to the glory of this God who reigns forever from the very hill that is at the centre of the lives of the people. Such a God surely deserves praise.

The argument in the second reading plays on the difference between the true sanctuary and the one patterned after it. It claims that while high priests performed their sacrificial duties in the earthly temple, the exalted Jesus entered the true sanctuary. It insists that the cultic system, established to enable people to participate in cosmic events by re-enacting them, was only able to actualise those events for a short time. This explains why the ritual of the Day of Atonement was re-enacted year after year. In contrast to this, Jesus offered himself once for all. His sacrifice, like all cosmic acts, was unrepeatable. Earthly ritual may re-enact his sacrifice, but there is no need for Jesus himself to repeat it.

In the gospel, Jesus condemns ostentation. Some men wore religious robes in public, hoping that people would consider them prayerful. Others sought the most important seats in the synagogue or at banquets. Still others made sure that their temple offerings were acknowledged. In contrast to this, Jesus pointed out the offering of a poor widow. She offered the smallest coins in circulation at that time, but she gave out of the generosity of her heart. Jesus spoke of the source of the offering. The wealthy donated from their surplus, what they did not need. The woman gave what she herself needed. Her total giving implied absolute trust in God. The passage that opened with a condemnation of the false piety of the unscrupulous, closes with praise of the genuine piety of the simple.

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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 9, THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
November 10, St Leo, the Great
November 11, St Martin of Tours
November 12, St Josaphat

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

C & F Rodrigues

PARISH ACTIVITES

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 \$23,082.00 in donations to date. To achieve our target of \$70,000 your continued support is most appreciated. Donations can be handed into Church or the Parish Office once the lockdown is lifted. Please use the special envelopes provided at the entrance to the Church

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.

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.

13th/14th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	J. Jacob C. Cheung	R. Wong-Nasara A. Deramos
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera		



All Souls Day

This week, Catholics around the world observed All Souls Day – a day set aside for the remembrance of the faithful dead and dearly departed. For a time, this special mass was a holy day of obligation, and in some places, it still is, but while a fair number of Catholics attend this mass, chances are that a lot of people may not understand its true significance. If you were to ask the general person what the significance of the day was, they'd likely say something along the lines of "it's to celebrate the dead," and while this is partly true, it doesn't capture the full scope of this special day.

Yes, we do honour the dead, and yes, we pray for them, but there is more to it – much more in fact. As Catholics we believe that after death, a person will be sent to either heaven or hell, depending of course, on their state of sin. If a person dies in a state of grace, with no unrepented sins and with communion in God, then they go to heaven. Conversely, if a person dies in a state of mortal sin, then by their own choices and actions they are doomed to hell. However, mortal sin and grace are not the only two states – what about the middle ground? Not everyone will have the chance to repent before death, but this doesn't mean they go to hell. There is a third place, where people who are under venial sin go. This place is purgatory, and it is here that these souls undergo a cleansing. While I would have liked to go a bit deeper into the theological concept of purgatory, it is something that I would not be able to efficiently fit on a single page, so if you are interested, I highly recommend looking deeper into it. But, you may ask, what does this have to do with All Souls Day?

Well, on All Souls Day, we pray for those who are still in purgatory – we pray for the cleansing of their souls and their hasty admittance into heaven. Sure, we pray for our loved ones who may have already passed on, but we also pray for all the souls who wait in purgatory, who look forward to the prospect of heaven. We come together as a community and pray not just for those we knew, but those who follow Jesus as we do, those who look forward to eternal life in him. Our faith is something that brings us together under an ideology of love and self-sacrifice, and All Souls Day is a great example of this. We come together to pray for all those who went before us, though we may not have known them, and all those who still remain in purgatory. Really, it's a comforting notion, to know that even after death, there will be people who come together and pray for you, not only because they may have known you, but because that is what Christianity is all about.

- Rashane

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!