

# 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"*

ST MONICA'S  
CATHOLIC PARISH AND PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE - YEAR B 21ST NOVEMBER 2021

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and divinity,  
and wisdom and strength and honour.  
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Daniel

Dn 7: 13 - 14

'I gazed into the visions of the night.  
And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,  
one like a son of man.  
He came to the one of great age  
and was led into his presence.  
On him was conferred sovereignty,  
glory and kingship,  
and men of all peoples, nations and languages  
became his servants.  
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty  
which shall never pass away,  
nor will his empire be destroyed.  
*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 92

**Response:** The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;  
the Lord has robed himself with might,  
he has girded himself with power. **(R.)**
2. The world you made firm, not to be moved;  
your throne has stood firm from of old.  
From all eternity, O Lord, you are. **(R.)**
3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted.  
Holiness is fitting to your house,  
O Lord, until the end of time. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

Rev 1 : 5 - 8

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits  
the kingdom of David our Father;  
blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jn 18: 33 - 37

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 28

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm	
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am	
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Thursday 8pm—9pm Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,	
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request	
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior	
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951	
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151	Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

Visions and dreams were traditionally considered avenues of divine revelation. The seer is on earth, but the vision takes place in heaven. Everything about this vision bespeaks revelation, yet it is symbolic with all of the ambiguous traits of symbol. The vision reveals only the symbol; the seer must interpret it. The mysterious figure comes on the clouds, the most frequent accompaniment of a theophany or revelation of God. He is installed by God as ruler over the entire universe. His will be an everlasting kingdom. Finally, this 'Son of Man' may have been in heaven when he received his commission, he may even rule from some exalted place, but his kingdom belongs to the earth.

The psalm is a hymn in praise of God's kingship. Military and creation themes are closely associated with divine kingship. In several ancient myths, creation followed the primordial battle between chaos and order. The culminating event of this drama was the instalment of the victor as king over the universe. Having established the trustworthiness of God as cosmic champion and creator, the psalmist moves to the praise of God's decrees or testimonies. This takes place in the temple, which was considered a copy of the heavenly palace constructed after the cosmic battle. The primordial and cosmic feats of the Lord continue to be celebrated in the temple.

Revelations' Christological statements are followed by a doxology praising Christ for the salvation that he has won for others. Jesus is the anointed one (the Christ), a witness who faithfully mediates the message received from God, the firstborn to whom belong priority of place and sovereignty (cf. Ps 89:27a), and the ruler over all the kings of the world (cf. Ps 89:27b). The final statement reinforces the more-than-human character of Jesus. Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Together they include all letters and, by implication, connote total inclusivity. Jesus, the one who will come amid the clouds, appropriates to himself attributes that belong to God.

The kingship of Jesus is the subject of Pilate's interrogation. 'King of the Jews' was a messianic title of the descendant of David who would inaugurate the reign of God. The Jewish leaders considered Jesus' messianic claim blasphemous. The title made political claims that challenged the absolute authority of Roman control. From the perspective of the Roman occupiers, such revolutionary contentions were dangerous. Jesus is asked: 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answers: 'Yes and No!' His kingdom is not of this world. It does not belong to it. However, it is in the world. Both the Jewish leaders and the Roman officials had reason to be concerned about Jesus' claims. Though not of this world, his kingdom would indeed challenge both religious messianic expectations and the political powers of this world.

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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 22, St Cecilia  
November 24, St Andrew  
Dung-Lac & Companions

### 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

Rodrigues & Hart 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.



### 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



### Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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



### Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:

We have received a total of **\$ 26,132.75** 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. Please use the special envelopes provided at the entrance to the Church. **Thank you.**

### MINI FETE 12 Dec 2021

St. Monica's Parish and the Chinese Chaplaincy will host a mini fete on **12th December 2021** (Sunday) during the morning. We have handmade cookies, finger food, clothes, handmade cards, artificial jewellery and plants available for purchase. The money raised will support the recent renovations at the parish. If you have gifts donating to us for sale at the mini fete, please contact the Chinese Chaplaincy using its hotline 0411 192 278. Your generous support will be much appreciated.



### Parramatta Catholic Foundation

### Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2021

There will be a special collection on the weekend of 27th and 28th November. Please use the envelopes provided near the Sacred Heart statue if you wish to claim a tax return or you can place your cash donation directly in the special Collection basket. All donations above \$2/- placed in envelopes provided are tax deductible. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## 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.

## 27th/28th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	G. Basha C. Melecca	A. Espiritu M. Falmich	T. Jones D. Cruz
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock	Jeffery Lau	Adrian Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 Chinese Chaplaincy		



## The Mission of the Church

The mission of the church is the task given by God for the people of God to accomplish in the world. In simplest terms, the mission of the church is the Great Commission—what Philip Ryken calls “a clear, unambiguous statement of the church’s mission to the world.” Our task as the gathered body of Christ is to make disciples, by bearing witness to Jesus Christ the Son, the power of the Holy Spirit and the glory of God the Father. Before the sixteenth century, “mission” was primarily a word used in connection with the Trinity. The “sending” theologians talked about was the sending of the Son by the Father, and the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father and the Son. This is a crucial point. We will not rightly understand the mission of the church without the conviction that “the sending of Jesus by Father is still the *essential mission*.”

And what was the nature of Jesus’s ministry? Jesus ministered to bodies as well as souls, but within this holistic ministry, he made preaching his priority. Preaching is why he came out in public ministry and why he moved from town to town (**Mark 1:38-39**). The purpose of his Spirit-anointed ministry was to proclaim good news to the poor (**Luke 4:18-19**). He came to call sinners to repentance and faith (**Mark 1:15; 2:17**). Although Jesus frequently attended to the physical needs of those around him, there is not a single example of Jesus going into a town with the purpose of healing or casting out demons. The Son of Man never ventured out on a healing or exorcism tour. His stated purpose was to seek and to save the lost (**Luke 19:10**).

The mission given to the disciples was not one of cultural transformation—though that would often come as a result of their message—but a mission of gospel proclamation. It is telling that while the church is not commanded to participate with God in the renewal of all things—we are often told to bear witness to the one will do all these things. In short, while the disciples were never told to be avatars of Christ, it is everywhere stated, either explicitly or implicitly, that they were to be ambassadors for Christ (**2 Cor. 5:20**).

Acts of the Apostles provides great insight into the mission of the church, led by Paul and Barnabas and prompted by the Holy Spirit. Through his missionary, the early church aimed for: **new converts, new communities and nurtured churches**. Evangelism, discipleship, church planting—that’s what the church in Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to do, and these should be the goals of all mission work. Missionaries may aim at one of these components more than the other two, but all three should be present in the church’s overall mission strategy.

Adapted from the Gospel Coalition article ‘the Mission of the Church’, written by Kevin DeYoung

## Youth Announcements



### St Monica’s Youth Group (FYRE)

We have resumed face to face youth group! Feel free to join us in the community room at 10:30AM where we will be looking at the Book of Revelations ☺

### Youth Camp January 2022- Mission Impossible

For those who were disheartened by our cancellation of youth camp this year (☹), we have managed to reschedule it to next year Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022! Hope to you all there! Please see Cheryl Wong (0481507169) or Rebecca Cheung (0449055395) for forms and/or questions. **Also note forms need to be returned by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021**