

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"

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- YEAR C

28TH NOVEMBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Jeramiah

Jer 33: 14 - 16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks –
when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House
of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 24

Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians

1 Thes 3: 12 - 4: 2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and
make you love one another and the whole human race as
much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts
in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our
God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with
all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the
Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind
of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants,
as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it.

You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on
the authority of the Lord Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke
Lk 21: 25-28. 24-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun
and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony,
bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves;
men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world,
for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they
will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and
great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand
erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is
near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with
debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and
that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it
will come down on every living man on the face of the
earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to
survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with con-
fidence before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 84

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

Jeremiah announces a future wherein God's promise of redemption will be fulfilled. Though Jeremiah is a southern prophet, the redemption that he announces is for all the people. A shoot, a sign of new life springing from previous life, will be raised up for the Davidic house. Jerusalem, the city whose name means 'foundation of peace', is here given a new name, 'the Lord our justice'. Thus the real foundation of the city's peace is justice, and the basis of this justice is the quality of its commitment to the Lord. The oracle itself sketches the character of the future covenantal relationship between God and the people.

The psalmist asks for insight into God's saving ways, presumably in order to walk according to those ways, to sing God's praises, and to offer thanks for God's goodness. The righteousness of God is attentive to both the sinners and the anawim or humble (vv.8-9). Sinners too will be taught that wickedness will be punished, while the humble will be assured that their righteousness will be blessed. The 'way' that the Lord shows is probably the law. It is in obedience that the will of God is to be found. The psalm clearly draws the connection between covenant and wisdom. An intimate relationship with God calls for a response from the covenant partners.

Paul prays for the spiritual growth and maturity of the Thessalonians. He does not pray that love increases, but that their capacity for growth be expanded so that they can fill it with love. Such love breaks out of any ethnocentric bounds and, like the love that Paul himself possesses, resembles the inclusive love of God. Paul implies that the coming of the endtime should be an incentive to righteous living. Such a way of life will ensure that his converts will be found blameless in holiness when they must appear in the light of God's glory at the time of the coming of Christ. His urgent exhortation encourages the Thessalonians to conduct themselves according to the ethical and moral standards of the Christian tradition.

Jesus speaks of cosmic disturbances and distress on earth that are coming. These upheavals are really signs that portend the advent of redemption. They are probably less predictions of actual historical events than they are metaphorical images portraying the end of one age and the birth of another. Apocalyptic imagery is frequently employed in describing the entrance of God onto the stage of world history. While a theophany of this kind is generally associated with divine judgment (cf. Ezek 32:7-8), in this case it precedes the coming of the Son of Man and a time of redemption. The fundamental exhortation is: Beware! Take Heed! Be Alert! Don't be caught by surprise! The exact time of the revelation is unknown. That is why believers must avoid any kind of behaviour that might jeopardise their watchfulness.

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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 30, ST ANDREW, ASPOSTLE
December 3, St Francis, Xavier

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

Margaret Knox

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 live streaming will cease after this weekend as we are back to normal Church attendance.



There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the 2nd Dec (Thursday) and 3rd Dec (Friday) as Father Lam will be away on a retreat. The Mass on 3rd Dec (at 9.15am) will be said by a guest priest.



Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:

We have received a total of **\$ 26,612.75** 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 any queries please contact the Chinese Chaplaincy using its hotline 0411 192 278.



Parramatta Catholic Foundation Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2021

There will be a special collection this weekend - 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.

Timetable for Christmas Masses are available at the main entrance to the Church. Please take a copy.

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.

04th/05th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha C. Maxwell	R. Forteleza P. Fleming	J. Woodbury A. Dsa
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 Chinese Chaplaincy		

Youth + Corner

The Book of Revelations

As we reach the end of our collective journey in dabbling into and exploring different books of the Bible in youth group, our final session in November revolved around the book of Revelation (and not Revelations as many have thought). The book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, can often be intimidating to many due to its complex and extensive use of symbolic imagery and the abundance of apocalyptic visions.

During John's exile on the island of Patmos due to his preaching of the gospel in Asia, John (most likely John the Apostle) writes a prophetic letter to the seven Churches of Asia to pass on his account of the prospective vision provided by God. Throughout the book, John conveys the messages and warning from God to each of the seven churches and describes the time of judgement through a series of twenty-one events (or more specifically, three sets of seven events). From the breaking of the seven seals to the blowing of the seven trumpets and the pouring out of the seven bowls, each of these led to different consequences such as the seven final plagues. The description of this grand judgment on the sins of mankind shows the grave consequences of sinfulness. This, however, is not to scare us from God but to encourage us to stay strong in our faith and live holy lives.

The book of Revelation provides the clearest portrayal of tribulation and what occurs during it. Undoubtedly, the events that occur during tribulation are horrific and those who do not believe will suffer. You may wonder; if God is loving and forgiving, why would he bring upon this chaos and destruction? First of all, we should understand that God is not harsh nor cruel and he does not delight in making people suffer. He sends these apocalyptic events so that mankind will turn to him. He encourages us to turn from sinful actions and lead holy lives. God loves every single one of us and wants us all to be saved and to rejoice in eternal life. God assures us of Christ's future triumph over evil and His re-creation of the world for believers. Whilst it is easy to dwell on the judgment so prevalent in the book, we should remember that the message of this book is indeed hopeful amidst the horrifying visions: there is a promise of Paradise for the faithful. Revelation reminds us that there is hope beyond hardships and that we should trust in God's plan for us. It is a constant reminder of the need for reflection, repenting and faithfulness, and an encouragement to embrace God's love for us. He promises that one day, the darkness will disappear and we will all dwell in eternal light and happiness!

— Charlotte

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!

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 18th January- Friday 21st 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 28th December 2021.**

Puddle Jumpers December 2021

This December youth group will be running a 'social justice' month to support **Puddle Jumpers**, a non-profit, non-government organization which aims to help vulnerable and less advantaged young children. We will be putting together some small boxes filled with gifts and essentials, so if you have any toys, stationery, unused toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste), feel free to bring them in! Second-hand items are accepted, but please make sure they are still in good condition before donating. **Other optional extras (for ideas)-** pencils, colouring books, reading books, toy cars, hair brushes, hair ties, sunscreen, face wash, body wash. Cut-off date for bringing in items will be the **12th December**. Thank you in advance ☺

Youth Christmas Party 20th December

As we near the end of the year, we will also be having our annual Christmas Party on 20th December (Monday) at 6PM-9:30PM! It will be held in the hall, with \$10 entry fee as food will be provided. Hope to see you all there !