

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"



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR C

05TH DECEMBER 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Baruch

Bar 5: 1 - 9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation
under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has
remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.
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 of St Paul to the Philippians

Phil 1: 3 - 6. 8 - 11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering
how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day
you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that
the One who began this good work in you will see that it is
finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how
much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My
prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and
more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening
your perception so that you can always recognise what is best.
This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare
you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect
goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and
praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 3: 1 - 6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every
mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be
straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIphon

Bar 5

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from 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.stmonicancp.org.au
Office Hours:	Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm	Phone: 9630-1951 Fax: 9630-8738 Email: stmonicancp@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School

School Principal: Lisa Crampton

Phone: 8832 4100 Fax: 8832-4199

Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Two movements appear in this dramatic depiction of reversal of fortune. The grieving city of Jerusalem is told to replace its mourning garb with garments that bespeak splendour and rejoicing. The city whose name means 'foundation of peace', is given a new name: 'the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship'. Jerusalem is also told to stand on the heights and watch the resplendent return of its previously captured citizens. No reason is given for God's remarkable magnanimity. It is simply extended to Jerusalem and to its children. It is God's mercy that prompted the reversals, and the reversals witness this mercy to the rest of the world.

Believers trust that God will surely act on their behalf, because God has done so before. The great blessing of Israel's past was the return from exile. The response of the returnees was amazement. The graciousness of God, seen in this deliverance, speaks volumes to the other nations. It throws into bold relief God's saving power. This is a God who shows preference for those who are poor and marginalised in society, the homeless and the foreigner, the displaced and the refugee. The prayer for deliverance is straightforward: Restore us now as you restored us in the past. The people are confident that they will be heard.

Paul's affection for the Philippians is evident. It is more than merely human sentiment, as noble as that might be. It is identified with the affection that Christ has toward them. It is really the love of Christ expressing itself through him. Paul acknowledges that the spread and fruition of the word is really God's doing. Paul is merely the instrument that God has used to plant the seed. The eschatological character of this passage becomes clear when Paul identifies the time of full flowering as the day of Christ Jesus. Paul prays that their love for each will increase; and that they will be pure and blameless for the coming day of Christ.

The account of the ministry of John the Baptist is steeped in imagery that suggests new life. Some form of baptism was one of three requirements for becoming a Jew (along with circumcision and sacrifice). It was an ascetic act that at times signified turning away from evil, and at other times represented cleansing from sin, which was the divine answer to repentance. In either case, it carried an eschatological importance, marking the entrance into a new form of living. The baptism of John called for repentance (*metánoia*), a conversion or change of heart. This conversion was for the forgiveness of sin. Clearly the eschatological significance of John's baptism was salvation, not judgment. John is the herald of the coming of the Lord. Just as the exodus and return from exile involved a desert crossing, so the eschatological renewal proclaimed by John begins in the desert.

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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

December 7, St Ambrose
December 8, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

Cerelita Viana
Jesus Viana

PARISH ACTIVITIES



Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Every Thursday from 8pm—9pm.
Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am.
All are welcome.

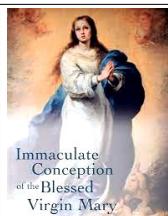


Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:

We have received a total of \$ 30,152.75 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.**



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.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Mass on 8th December at 9.15am



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



Youth Group Christmas Cards

At the upcoming fete, the Adult Youths are selling Christmas cards designed and drawn by us! Scan the QR code to access our pre-order form. After submitting the form, simply pay, click and collect on the day. We will also be selling bookmarks and Christmas tags on the day so look out for our

stall! You can also access the form here: <https://forms.gle/LybhDVctATrrKCLC6> or contact Krystal Au on 0415347333. Thank you for your generosity and support!



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our traditional Christmas Appeal will take place over the next few weekends, envelopes will be placed at the back of the Church for the time being and you may place your donations in the 2nd Collection bucket or the Poor Box.

Christmas Cards will also be available along with Columban Calendars and the proceeds of these may also be placed in the POOR BOX.

CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE/CHRISTMAS TREE (HAMPERS)

These will be in place at the back of the Church and the usual generosity of gifts and Christmas food items will be appreciated, please ensure such items are in place by Sunday night Mass 19th December as Hampers will be collated on Monday 20th December and delivered the next day. **SVDP**

11th/12th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	C. Cheung B. Hooker	A. Deramos D. Llevado
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Ian Goldthorp	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 Vera		

Month + Corner

Youth Group Fundraising- Puddle Jumpers

In previous Youth Camps and through our weekly youth group sessions, we have often looked briefly into a concept called the corporal works of mercy. There are seven of them, and while each of them is extremely important, they all have one central aspect – that is giving to others, whether it be food, clothes and other material items, or even things like giving up your time. These corporal works of mercy are extremely important, because not only do they demonstrate our love for others in a very Christian way, but they also bring us closer to Jesus as we emulate his very actions during his time on Earth.

This December St Monica's FYRE will be organising gift hampers for young children who have gone through rough times and experiences that leave them especially vulnerable. To do this, we are partnering with Puddle Jumpers Inc (PJs), an amazing non-profit organisation that addresses the needs of these children through camps, activity days and free-food nights, to name a few. PJs aims to empower children to not only recognise and express their individual abilities and talents, but also to create a sense of community – one that promotes social inclusion, one that tolerates social diversity, one that allows kids to just be kids and jump in all the puddles. For more information or if you are interested in PJs' mission statement, please check out their website.

Each hamper will be the size of the shoebox and will be filled with essential items such as toiletries. On top of this, small surprises are also welcome, and these can include things like teddy bears, crayons, small books and so on. The sky's the limit! (or rather the size of the shoebox is the limit, but who says small things can't have a big impact?) These shoeboxes will be sent to a number of different age groups – 5-8 years, 8-12 years, and 12-15 years – for both boys and girls. If you are interested in donating feel free to ask one of the youth leaders, or contact us through our Instagram @fyrestmonicas. The cut-off day for donations will be the 12th of December! Even something small can mean a lot to someone, so please don't hesitate to give!

- Rashane

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 !