

# 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"*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR C

12TH DECEMBER 2021

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

Zep 3: 14 - 18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Is 12

**Response:** Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and  
Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Phil 4: 4 - 7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat,  
what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident  
to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry;

but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for  
it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God,  
which is so much greater than we can understand, will  
guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 3: 10 - 18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Is 35

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

# 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>ANOIDING 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

The exaltation in this oracle of salvation is stated clearly at the outset: 'Shout!...Sing!... Be glad and exult!' The people are told to cast aside all cautious reserve and to rejoice wholeheartedly. The reason for this rejoicing is their deliverance by God from their enemies. 'On that day' is an allusion to the Day of the Lord, a time in the future when the justice of God will be executed throughout the world. The concluding verses express God's love. They describe both the tenderness that God has for this restored people, and the joy that their restoration elicits in God. The people are called to rejoice in God, because God rejoices in them.

In the response, God is declared the source of salvation. Bolstered by this assurance, the writer claims to be unafraid and filled with courage knowing that the source of salvation is the Lord rather than a mere human being. Here water is transformative. It is the water of salvation and all who draw from this well will be refreshed by God's salvific power. Jerusalem, the royal capital of the Davidic dynasty and the site where the temple was built, is called upon to rejoice, for God is in its midst. The presence of God in the midst of the people is the source of the writer's confidence of future deliverance.

Twice Paul calls the people to rejoice. This is followed by another, perhaps more forceful, admonition: 'Have no anxiety'. The joy that Paul advocates is not merely the happiness that comes from enjoyment of life. It is a special kind of joy, joy in the Lord, the kind that is grounded in faith in Jesus Christ. 'The Lord is near' is an eschatological watchword, acclaiming the future coming of the Lord to set all things right. If the Christians live righteously, God will come as a Saviour. The reward for such commitment to righteousness is peace, which originates from God, transcends everything imaginable, and withstands anxiety that might threaten human equanimity.

Although John himself lives an austere life removed from the ordinary pursuits of people, he does not ask his inquirers to dissociate themselves from their own lives or occupations. Rather, he challenges them to continue where they are, but to carry out their daily responsibilities with concern for others, with honesty and integrity. The expectation that filled the people was eschatological; they were looking for the Christ, the 'anointed one'. John was not this one. His baptism with water was a ritual of repentance and cleansing; Christ's baptism of the Spirit will purge and transform, and his coming will be a time of judgment, when the wicked will be separated like chaff from the wheat and will be thrown into the fire. John's ministry calls for the change of heart required of those who would be saved from this distress.

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

December 13, St Lucy  
December 14, St John of the Cross

**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

Mitchell & Connon Families  
Matija Bonic

# PARISH ACTIVITES



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 \$ 32,522.75 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.**



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



### St Monica's Parish and Chinese Chaplaincy Raffle tickets

will be on sale from the 12/12/21 to 15/01/22. All monies collected will go toward the Renovation at the Parish

Centre. For inquires please contact the Chinese Chaplaincy on 0411 192 278. Tickets are priced at \$2/- each. Please refer to the Poster on the notice board for prize list.



### 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**

## 18th/19th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	K. Handcock G. Basha	B. McGettigan J. Jacob	R. Wong-Nasara M. Ellis
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 Vera		

# Youth Corner

## Christmas is God's meeting with His people

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, or 'Joyful Sunday'. As you may have observed, it is best associated with the colour rose as that is the liturgical colour for joy. Gaudete Sunday reminds us that the whole world rejoiced at the birth of Jesus and in the centuries since then, we as the faithful Church continue to rejoice in celebration of his birth, and in anticipation for his second coming. So what is it about the birth of Jesus that invokes such joy in our hearts? Let's have a read of what Archbishop Samuel of Denver had to say on the topic of the joy of Jesus's birth:

*Pope Francis in a 2013 exclusive interview with the Italian newspaper La Stampa spoke that the essence of Christmas is "the encounter of Jesus.... God has always sought out his people, led them, looked after them and promised to always be close to them. This is a beautiful thing. Christmas is God's meeting with his people".*

*The appeal of the message of Christmas, even to non-believers, is present all around us. The parties, the presents, the gatherings with friends and family, and yes, even the hot chocolate, are wonderful demonstrations of this joy that dwells in our hearts. Nobody throws a party when they are fearful of the future. We don't give presents if there is no movement of joy and love in our hearts.*

*We Christians have a great responsibility to let everyone know that Christmas is about the infinite mercy of God, especially because this reality is what unleashes the deepest joy anyone could experience. And for those who don't share the Christian belief, everyone should be at peace celebrating even the concept that there is hope in such a love.*

*To Christians, I encourage you to remember, as Pope Francis reminded us in the aforementioned interview, that "Christmas is joy, religious joy, God's joy, an inner joy of light and peace." We must be witnesses of such joy, and we must contemplate the great mystery of God, who came to dwell among us. Pope Francis invites us all to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.*

*To both Christians and non-Christians alike, I urge you to take another look at Christmas. Look at it again with fresh eyes. Look at what we celebrate: let the eyes of your souls go past the presents, the trees, the fat Santa and red-nosed Rudolph, and stop at the center of the manger. Listen to the everlasting message of love and peace, and you will know what Christmas is all about, the God who loves you eternally even if you do not wish to receive that love. It's a message that benefits us all.*

**Most Rev. Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.**  
Archbishop of Denver

For the full article, visit <https://denvercatholic.org/joy-christmas-contagious/>

## 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 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.**

### 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 **12<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you in advance 😊