

# 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"*



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

26TH DECEMBER 2021

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the first Book of Samuel**

**1 Sm 1: 20 - 22. 24 - 28**

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 83**

**Response:** How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,  
Lord, God of hosts.  
My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
to God, the living God. **(R.)**
2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.  
They are happy, whose strength is in you;  
they walk with ever growing strength. **(R.)**
3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,  
gave ear, O God of Jacob.  
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,  
look on the face of your anointed. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

**1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24**

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people,

if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of  
your Son.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke**

**Lk 2: 41 - 52**

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Bar 3

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among 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>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

## TWELVE YEAR OLD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

### Adolescent impatience

Forget the tinselly sentimentality of most depictions of the Holy Family. This Gospel is real life. Anyone who has temporarily lost their child in a crowd knows the stabbing pain of uncertainty and fear. Even more real, and occurring more often, is the adolescent impatience of Jesus: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

Every parent, bewildered and saddened by the growing up and the growing distance of a son or daughter, knows what Mary and Joseph must have felt.

By the time Mary and Joseph found Jesus, he had found the words to express his unique identity. In this little scene so full of pathos and heartbreak, we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospels: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

What was his 'Father's business' which was so engaging for Jesus? To draw every human being into the same family relationship as He enjoys.

But did you note that it is our privilege to celebrate this realisation as a community? Only Jesus can say 'My Father'. We say 'Our Father'. We enter into the grace of intimate relationship with God, not as an atomised individual, but as a person within a society of baptised Christians – the Church.

We could take a moment to pray for the integrity which will enable us to express this sense of identity in the unfolding of our lives. We can pray also for those saddened or bewildered by our following of the One who taught us to pray 'Our Father'.

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### FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

December 27, ST JOHN THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST  
December 28, THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS  
January 01, MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

**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

Karam & Houch Karam  
Avtel Basha



# 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 **\$ 50,348.50** 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 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.

### New Year Mass Time Table :

<b>Solemnity of the Mother of God</b>		
01st January (Saturday)	9am	English
<b>Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord</b>		
01st January (Saturday)	5pm	English
<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>		
02nd January (Sunday)	9am	English
	11.30am	Cantonese
	6pm	English



### Holiday Office Hours:

It is highly recommended to please call the office on 02 9630 1951 prior to visiting the Parish office during the school holiday break.

**Happy Holidays!**

### 01st/02nd January ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	K. Handcok S. Meleca	A. Espiritu R. Forteleza	J. Woodbury A. Dsa
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma M. Samson	S. Joseph B. Hooker	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Patrick Senjak	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 Vera		



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

As we come closer to the end of another year and celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we can take the time to reflect on what we can learn from them, despite it being seemingly difficult to relate to.

The Holy Family can inspire us by their example of being richly and warmly present to each other, to their extended family, to their community and to the world they found themselves in. The fact that Jesus, a holy man and preacher, was so comfortable in the company of outcasts and sinners bears testimony to the hospitality and compassion expressed in the family home at Nazareth.

Jesus learnt in the family home to be compassionate, accepting and merciful. The fact that Jesus loved to share meals, to tell stories and to attend celebrations shows that his home life was rich and celebratory. The fact that his stories are full of images from domestic life – cooking and cleaning; from agriculture, to business and nature; indicates that his parents encouraged a grounded, well-rounded appreciation of all aspects of human existence. The fact that Jesus, while gentle and humble of heart, was also free in speaking his mind, calling out hypocrisy and expressing his grief, anger, joy or affection, bears testimony to a home environment which “held space” for robust conversations and the healthy expression of emotion.

It is also worth noting there is nothing superhuman about the Holy Family- the fact that we know next to nothing about the details of Jesus' first 30 years of life denotes that those around them noticed nothing “novel” or “exotic” about them; they were fully human and extra-ordinary. They had to live and grow through space and time like the rest of us, trusting that God is good and that ultimately he has everything in hand. They had to exercise faith. They had to choose hope and they had to learn how to accept and appreciate the gift of each other's unique personhood just like we do.

The story of Jesus being lost for days reveals how God has willed the reality of human experiences in relationships- Mary, Joseph and Jesus' separateness whilst striving for communion would have produced similar frustrations and anxieties in everyday interactions. The Vatican II document describes the complexity of mankind, where every person has “a secret core and sanctuary” where he “is alone with God, whose voice echoes in the depths” (GS 16). By his innermost nature, man is a social being, and unless he relates himself to others he can neither live nor develop his potential (GS 12). Thus Jesus, Mary and Joseph had to undertake the same fundamental human task we all do of growing in self-knowledge and self-possession and of learning how to freely give themselves to each other and enter into communion with one another and with God (CCC 357). This all took time, patience, forgiveness, understanding, humility, growth in maturity, life experience, openness and learning skills of trust and communication. The Holy Family are much more like us than they are different from us and they have much to teach us about what it means to be fully human. Let's draw close to these good people, who learnt through trials and sufferings and joys how to walk humbly with God and to trust in his provident goodness.

- Adapted from Catholic Weekly

### 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 2022: Mission Impossible

Youth Camp will be on this January from 18th Jan (Tuesday) to 21st Jan (Friday)! Get excited! Please see Cheryl Wong (0481507169) or Rebecca Cheung (0449055395) for forms and/or questions.