

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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

02ND JANUARY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Is 60: 1 - 6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 71

Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 3: 2-3. 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Mt 2: 1 - 12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Bar 3

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

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| 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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

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FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

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



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.



Remember the Deceased There is an open diary and pens next to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue and you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased loved ones or family members on the day of their anniversaries and we will pray for them.



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!



There will be no weekday Mass from the 4th January to the 7th January 2022 as Father Lam will be away.

There will be no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the above period.

New Year's Resolutions

As the new year approaches, many of us often decide to take up new resolutions – practices we believe will help improve our lives or at least will help us be better people than we were the year before. A lot of the time, these resolutions are practical things. Things like; I'll try not to stay up late, I'll go for a run each morning, or sometimes even bigger things, like I'll change jobs, or I'll start learning a new language. Even though these things may be tremendously beneficial, it's hard to change old habits – it takes the average person 2 months to make something a habit – and because of this, a lot of the time, these resolutions fall by the wayside and are swept away in the rush of daily living. As a result, it's often a better idea to make these new year's resolutions small and easily achievable.

Going into 2022, one of the best and most meaningful resolutions we can possibly make is that of growing closer to God. It may seem like a huge task, but really, all it takes is a few minutes each day where we can pause and reflect on all we have and where we can thank God for all that he has given. Prayer is an immensely important part of faith, and it's possibly one of the easiest things we can do regularly to create and maintain a relationship with God. However, like with many of the simple things, it's easy to forget and easy to skip over.

Therefore, as we turn over a new leaf and as we put all the uncertainty and problems of 2021 behind us, we should make sure we put aside a few minutes a day to just pray, whether it be in the morning, before meals or even before we sleep. It's easy, and as long as you remember to continue doing it, it will become an easy part of your routine before you know it.

Another great resolution is to start reading the bible. Unlike praying, reading the bible is a long process and depending on the book can be quite a difficult task. It's daunting, but it is not impossible. As most university students know, it's easier to start on an assignment early and do a little bit each day, rather than doing it all in one go on the last day when you are stressed and tired. (though knowing and doing are quite different). Reading the bible is quite similar in that regard. Breaking it down to a small passage or even a verse a day will not only make it easier and less tiring to read, but it will also allow you to properly spend the time to make sure you understand the meaning and messages.

While I can't say for certain how 2022 will turn out, I do know that if you take those two suggestions into consideration, you will find yourself growing closer to God, developing in your faith and just becoming happier in general.

- 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**

We hope you all have a wonderful rest of the year, stay safe, and God bless in 2022!

08th/09th January ROSTERS

| | 5pm Vigil | 9am | 6pm |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Readers | S. Meleca C. Maxwell | B. Hooker C. Cheung | R. Wong-Nasara A. Deramos |
| Acolytes | P. Handcock | N. Joseph | A. Cheung |
| Cleaning | Group 1 Chinese Chaplaincy | | |