

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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

09TH JANUARY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Is 42: 1 - 4. 6 - 7

'Console my people, console them' says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her
that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind
shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all
things to him. The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his
flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his
breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 103

Response: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **(R.)**
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. **(R.)**
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. **(R.)**
4. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. **(R.)**
5. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from St Paul to Titus

Ti 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 3: 15 - 16. 21 - 22

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 1

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of 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.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

Jesus' Baptism is Ours

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity.

His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: 'You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.'

Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: "You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you."

Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a power-full impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity?

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

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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

PARISH ACTIVITES



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



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 12/02/22. 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!

15th/16th January ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell C. Meleca	J. Jacob B. McGettigan	M. Ellis D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight M. Wilkinson	A. Falamich S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Rashane Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		



The Sacrament of Marriage

Last year I was fortunate enough to attend my first Bible Camp/ Young Adults Retreat where we looked at the sacrament of marriage- what it means for us as Catholics, what did God intend for marriage, and does marriage really matter? The Augustine Institute program BELOVED provided deep and spiritual answers to these questions.

Marriage can appear daunting to many, and with the way society promotes an almost egocentric mindset of 'how can I benefit from this relationship?', lifelong commitment, self-donation and the simple act of loving each other wholeheartedly all seem difficult concepts to grasp. However, we know these can be possible through the gift of God's grace- after all, we have been created with an innate desire for profound, genuine love (including marital) and this yearning can only be exemplified if we are to love totally, freely and faithfully- just as Jesus did with his church and his people. Therefore, when the husband and wife become a physical sign of God's grace, and a sacramental bond is formed between not just the two, but also Jesus himself.

Of course, marriage will come with its challenges- it involves accepting and working through each other's weaknesses and imperfections as they are brought into the relationship (which can also be referred to as sanctification of the spouse), but we can overcome these obstacles because God is with us and He is also one of the many reasons why the two should put in effort to resolve issues together. When the two enter into marriage the new relationship that is formed should be fruitful (both should be open to the possibility of having children), exclusive (solely between husband and wife) and indissoluble (cementing the same permanency and commitment Jesus has with the church). It sounds like a lot, but that is the beauty of marriage- it is truly a gift and blessing from God, one which allows us to love as deeply and selflessly as He does for us. Although all this might not seem so relevant right now, it's a gentle reminder for the true meaning of marriage and what God's plan for this sacramental union is- it's a lifelong journey inclusive of love which is fruitful, free, total and faithful that paves the way for Jesus and true happiness.



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 POSTPONED

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 situation over the past few weeks, we will be postponing youth camp again until the **Term 2 holidays in July (Tuesday 5th July- Friday 8th July 2022)**. We're really sorry for having to push it back, but we'd prefer to keep everyone safe, especially during this time. Thank you to those who were so eager to come to camp, the leaders truly appreciate your enthusiasm! Let's keep it up until July 😊! In the meantime, we hope to see you at youth group for a new year of topics and games! Please see Cheryl Wong (0481507169) or Rebecca Cheung (0449055395) for any further questions/ queries.

Also hoping you have all had a wonderful start to 2022! Stay safe everyone 😊