

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 IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

23RD JANUARY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Neh 8: 2 - 6. 8 - 10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 18

Response: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.)
4. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 12: 12-30

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,' would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to
bring Good News
to the poor
and freedom
to prisoners.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 1: 1 - 14. 4: 14 - 21

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 22

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Relax: You are Accepted

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth *is* divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would 'set the downtrodden free'.

But, in proclaiming "the Lord's Year of *Acceptance*", Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to *relax*!! Holiness is not a matter of our *striving*, but of *accepting* that we are *accepted* by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don't gain our acceptance by God.

How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus' characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world. It still is.

We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others.

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A prayer in this challenging time...

Lord Jesus Christ,
our true physician and healer,
be merciful to us and bring us
your aid in these troubled times.
Heal all our sickness and
every affliction of your people.

Drive out our infirmities
of soul and body;
free us from all disease and
especially from this pestilence.
We place in your gentle Heart
the elderly, the frail,
people with disability,
children, young people and families,
our indigenous peoples,
those who are poor,
lonely and isolated.
As you walk with us,
free them from fear,
and give them patience and hope
together with our loving care.

In your mercy deal also with
the causes of our pitiful condition,
that in curing our lack of faith
and spiritual weakness,
you may also remedy our bodily ills.

We place our trust in you,
the risen Lord,
who lives and reigns
for ever and ever.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

January 24th, St Francis de Sales
January 25th, THE CONVERSION
OF ST PAUL THE APOSTLE
January 26th, AUSTRALIA DAY
January 27th, Sts Timothy & Titus
January 28th, St Thomas Aquinas

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



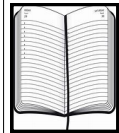
Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Every Thursday from 8pm–9pm.
Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am.



St Monica's Parish Rosary Group Commencing
Wednesday, 2nd February from 10.00am to 12.00pm in
the Parish Centre. All are welcome.



Christian Meditation Commencing Thursday, 4th February
from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Participation via Zoom is availa-
ble. Enquiries/facilitator : Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661
or email: pabrown02@gmail.com.



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 de-
ceased loved ones or family members on the day of
their anniversaries and we will pray for them.



Collections toward Parish Toilets & Kitchenette renovation:

We have received a total of **\$ 55,489.50** 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.



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!



Australia Day Mass:

Wednesday, 26th January at 9.15 am

29th/30th January ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha C. Maxwell	M. Falamich A. Espiritu	A. Dsa D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson L. Iemma	A. Hernandez A. Falamich	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		

Youth + Corner

What is purgatory?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines purgatory as a
“purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy
of heaven,” which is experienced by those “who die in God’s grace
and friendship, but still imperfectly purified” (CCC 1030). It notes that
“this final purification of the elect . . . is entirely different from the
punishment of the damned” (CCC 1031). The purification is necessary
because, as Scripture teaches, nothing unclean will enter the
presence of God in heaven (Rev. 21:27) and, while we may die with
our mortal sins forgiven, there can still be many impurities in us,
specifically venial sins and the temporal punishment due to sins
already forgiven.

Augustine said in *The City of God* that “temporary punishments are
suffered by some in this life only, by others after death, by others
both now and then; but all of them before that last and strictest
judgment” (21:13). It is between the particular and general
judgments, then, that the soul is purified of the remaining conse-
quences of sin: “I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the
very last copper” (Luke 12:59).

Christ refers to the sinner who “will not be forgiven, either in this age
or in the age to come” (Matt. 12:32), suggesting that one can be freed
after death of the consequences of one’s sins. Similarly, Paul tells us
that, when we are judged, each man’s work will be tried. And what
happens if a righteous man’s work fails the test? “He will suffer loss,
though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire” (1 Cor 3:15).
Now this loss, this penalty, can’t refer to consignment to hell, since no
one is saved there; and heaven can’t be meant, since there is no
suffering (“fire”) there. The Catholic doctrine of purgatory alone
explains this passage.

Then, of course, there is the Bible’s approval of prayers for the dead:
“In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as
he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not
expecting the dead to rise again, it would have been useless and
foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the
splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the
dead that they might be freed from this sin” (2 Macc. 12:43–45).
Prayers are not needed by those in heaven, and no one can help
those in hell. This verse so clearly illustrates the existence of
purgatory that, at the time of the Reformation, Protestants had to cut
the books of the Maccabees out of their Bibles in order to avoid
accepting the doctrine. Why would anyone go to purgatory? To be
cleansed, for “nothing unclean shall enter [heaven]” (Rev. 21:27).
Anyone who has not been completely freed of sin and its effects is, to
some extent, “unclean.” Through repentance he may have gained the
grace needed to be worthy of heaven, which is to say, he has been
forgiven and his soul is spiritually alive. But that’s not sufficient for
gaining entrance into heaven. He needs to be cleansed completely.

It is entirely correct to say that Christ accomplished all of our
salvation for us on the cross. But that does not settle the question of
how this redemption is applied to us. Scripture reveals that it is
applied to us over the course of time through, among other things,
the process of sanctification through which the Christian is made holy.
Sanctification involves suffering (Rom. 5:3–5), and purgatory is the
final stage of sanctification that some of us need to undergo before
we enter heaven. Purgatory is the final phase of Christ’s applying to
us the purifying redemption that he accomplished for us by his death
on the cross.

-Article from the website Catholic Answers

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.