

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"

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

30TH JANUARY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jer 1: 4 - 5. 17 - 19

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you -
it is the Lord who speaks.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 70

Response: I will sing of your salvation.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. **(R.)**
2. Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. **(R.)**
3. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help. **(R.)**
4. My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

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

1 Cor 12: 31 - 13:13

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away

all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge - for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

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 4: 21 - 30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside." And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.'

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.' When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 30

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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

God-given Identity

Nazara was a village of 300-400 people and it had a small town mentality. The inhabitants were enraged when Jesus found good precedent for extending his saving mission to foreigners outside the community of the Chosen People. Jesus embodied the boundary-breaking nature of God's grace.

Many Christians recite the old formula: 'No salvation outside the Church.' But we Catholics believe that, by responding to God's (often anonymous) grace, a person can lead a good life which prepares them for heavenly glory.

This means that the billions around the world who will never hear the Gospel, or who hear it distorted through the megaphone of an alien culture, can be saved. There is no limit/boundary to the Merciful God's finding a way into the hearts of all human beings.

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for our graced privilege of being members of the Church, nourished within it by the Sacraments and the Gospel, but whose boundaries can never circumscribe the mercy of God.

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A prayer in this challenging time...

May we who are merely
Inconvenienced remember those
whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of
working from home remember
those who must choose between
preserving their health or making
their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to
care for our children when their
schools close remember those who
have no options.

May we who have to cancel our
Trips remember those that have
no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin
money in the tumult of the economic
market remember those who have no
margin at all.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot
physically wrap our arms around
each other, let us yet find ways
to be the loving embrace of God to
our neighbors.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

February 2nd, THE
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
February 4th, St Agatha

**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

Pat Mc Brien
Philomena Mc Brien
Edith Allport

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 **\$ 55,808.50** 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.

Youth Corner

The Importance of Gratitude

Giving thanks to God is a central part of Catholic life. It is
impressed upon us by almost every book in the bible, is
incorporated into every mass we attend, and in general, it is
something that we intrinsically know to be right and unfathomably
important. However, gratitude is not just a one-sided way for us to
show devotion to God – it also strengthens us and benefits us in
ways we probably never even consider.

For one gratitude allows us to see God's presence in the world
around us. When we begin to acknowledge the good things we
receive (even the small and mundane things) it becomes much
easier to recognise God personal touch in all aspects of our lives.
Conversely, it also helps us understand our place amongst
creation. By acknowledging what we have been given, especially
when we may be going through hard times, it becomes that much
easier to really connect with God and to feel at peace, knowing
that he is by our side always, and that his love and generosity
know no limits.

The act of giving thanks also gives us a road straight to God. By
simply praising God, we are not only spiritually communing with
him - we are also showing that we know what we have received
and why. As the bible has shown us many times, obedience and
love go a long way to endearing us further with God. For example,
in Luke 17:11-19, Jesus heals ten lepers but only one returns to
thank him and as such, Jesus recognises the faith of this former
leper. Like the one, we can use gratitude as a path to God – an
acknowledgement that all we have was given through him, and
that it is all due to a mutual devotion.

Gratitude also allows us to focus on what we have, rather than
what we lack. Without it, we would be bitter and resentful, and
this is not how we were made to live. Such emotions lead to envy,
and envy often leads to sin.

While gratitude is easy to give, this doesn't mean it is invaluable.
In fact, it is one of the clearest demonstrations of love and
acknowledgement, and it is one of the few things God asks from
us.

- Rashane

Youth Announcements



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! Over the next few months, we will be
looking at the foundations of our faith/Catholicism, starting with the
Creed, led by Rashane and Ginny. See you there 😊

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 holi-
days 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, espe-
cially 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.

5th/6th FEBRUARY ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca C. Maxwell	R.. Forteleza B. Hookeer	J. Woodbury D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight A. Hernandez	A. Bentley B. Hooker	
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		