

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"

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

06TH FEBRUARY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 6: 1 - 8

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out to one another in this way,
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,
your sin is taken away,
your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 137

Response: In the sight of the angels
I will sing your praises, Lord.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways;
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' (R.)
4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

SECOND READING

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

1 Cor 15: 1 - 11

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you - believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come follow me, says
the Lord,
and I will make you
fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 5: 1 - 11

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 106

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

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

Fish in the Sea of Divine Life

Peter was a fisherman. Jesus had been brought up in a carpenter's household. Jesus tells Peter when and how to fish. This gets under Peter's skin. He tells Jesus a few facts of life about night fishing on the Lake of Gennesaret. But, he gives in to this landlubber's directive and casts out the nets and hauls in a very good catch.

Jesus wants to come into the rhythm of our ordinary workaday lives. Surprising things may then happen. You may be commissioned by Our Lord Jesus Christ to become 'fishers of men', fishers of human beings. But don't fishermen fish the fish out of the sea and kill them?

Is being caught up in the net of Christianity to be a deadening experience? Having this in mind, St Luke used a word for netting fish for an aquarium. We who have been caught up in the net of Christianity are meant to be more alive than ever, 'fully alive'. The best analogy I can think of is the stranding of pods of whales, thrashing around in the shallows, barely existing, doomed unless saved. People go down and put slings under them and haul them into deeper water.

We could pause a moment to thank God that we have been guided into the life-giving waters of baptism, and for the strength to help others swim into the Oceanic depths of Divine Love.

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A prayer in this challenging time...

Loving God,
we come to you full of anxiety
about what may happen
in the coming days and weeks.

Shower us with the peace
Jesus promised to his disciples,
and make us into steady pillars
for those around us.

In this time of uncertainty
and epidemic,
wake us up to the reminder
that we are not alone.

Even as we are asked to keep our
distance from others,
help us to find ways to reach out
to those who need our support.

We pray especially for those
whose incomes and livelihoods
are threatened.

For the children who will miss
meals due to school closures.

For those already isolated,
lonely and scared.

Loving God,
give them your peace,
and through our hands ensure
they have what they need.
Sustain, strengthen and protect
all caregivers.

Bless them as they offer
compassionate care and show
selfless courage in the face of risk.

Remind us, each time
we wash our hands,
that in our baptism
you call us to let go of our fears
and live in joy, peace, and hope.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

February 10th, St Scholastica
February 11th, Our Lady
of Lourdes

**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

Andrew Mizzi
Katherine Iwachiv

PARISH ACTIVITES



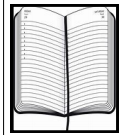
Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Every Thursday from 8pm–9pm.
Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am.



St Monica's Parish Rosary Group every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.



Christian Meditation Every Thursday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm Participation via Zoom is available. 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 deceased 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 **\$ 59,045.30** 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.



Please kindly return your old palms by the end of February in preparation for Ash Wednesday . Please place them in the box provided at the entrance to the Church.



St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation - Registrations on the 19th/20th February after Saturday 5pm Mass and Sunday 9am Mass. (The child is eligible to receive this sacrament if he/she has received the sacrament of First Holy Communion and is in year 5 or above)

**To register please bring in a photocopy of the Child's Baptism certificate along with a photocopy of the First Holy Communion Certificate (if completed at another Parish).

A donation of \$30/- (in cash only) is also payable at the time of registration.

Compulsory Parent Meeting : Monday 7th March at 7pm

Compulsory Commitment Mass : Saturday 19th March at 5pm
Sunday 20th March at 9am

First Lesson (Parish Hall): Saturday 19th March at 4pm
Sunday 20th March at 8am

12th/13th FEBRUARY ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha S. Meleca	C. Cheung J. Jacob	T. Jones M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson M. Wilkinson	A. Falamich A. Bentley	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Rashane Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		

Youth Corner

The Pope on Parenting and Pets

You might have seen earlier last month articles around Pope Francis's strong message to couples who choose to have pets rather than children. In his address, His Holiness declared that when "dogs and cats take the place of children.. (this) denial of fatherhood or motherhood diminishes us...takes away our humanity. Civilisation grows old without humanity because we lose the richness of fatherhood and motherhood, and it is the country that suffers". His words made headlines and stirred the outrage of many pet parents, not least those couples who have opted to not have children but instead to raise fur babies.

The choice to have a child is a deeply personal one between a couple, and there may be many good reasons for holding off till later, such as one's financial situation, current living arrangements, health etc. Pope Francis's words over pet ownership may appear to some to be saying that raising pets is a selfish act, and that couples should try to raise as many children as possible, regardless of financial or other personal circumstances. The reality is, raising a pet is not a bad thing, not at all, but it has the possibility to be if that is the end game for a married couple.

Interestingly, this is not the first time the Pope has made a comment about ownership of pets. In 2014 during an interview, when asked if animals count more than children, he responded that after food, clothes and medicine, the next thing people spend the most money on is cosmetics and pets. Pope Francis commented that pets are sometimes chosen over children because "the emotional relationship with animals is easier, more programmable. An animal is not free, while a child is a complex thing". The challenge of shaping and guiding the course of another little human's life is daunting, but in some way shape or form, we are all called to cultivate and nurture the children God has entrusted in our care. That is not to say that raising a pet is not also a wonderful experience, and indeed Australia certainly thinks, with 61% of Australian households owning pets according to a 2019 study by Animal Medicines Australia. No doubt a household with a pet is happier for it. However, as Sam Rocha, editor of Patheos Catholic, writes from a Latin America perspective, "When you come from a place where people live like dogs, it is scandalous to see dogs live like people.". In this context, if we over-indulge in our attention, time and money in our pets without concern for the children of this world, then therein lies the problem Pope Francis is alluding to. Pets can enrich our lives beautifully, but we also have a duty in raising the next generation that is much more challenging, may cause much more strife, but also has the potential to bring limitless joy into our lives.

- Abby

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 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.