

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"

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

13TH FEBRUARY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jer 17: 5 - 8

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 39

Response: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. **(R.)**
2. He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. **(R.)**
3. Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

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

1 Cor 15: 12, 16 - 20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke
Lk 6: 17. 20 - 26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor:
yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.
Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich:
you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.
Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 77

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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

Not a Celestial Joke!

Blessed are the poor? – the hungry? – those who mourn? What is Jesus doing in these Beatitudes?

Jesus was not a 'pie in the sky' dreamer saying: 'You are destitute, hungry now. Don't worry, you will be okay in paradise in the long distant future.' *That* would be a cruel celestial joke.

Rather, Jesus was setting about the task of creating a new sort of society, the Kingdom of God on earth, in which the destitute, the starving, the weeping, are *blessed* in the sense that they can expect their suffering to be alleviated, companions to be found in their distress.

The Divine imperative is that His followers break out of their comfort zone of plenty of money, full stomachs, much to laugh about. They must enter into the harsh reality of other people's destitute, starving, weeping lives. Woe to them if they do not.

Can Our Lord look into the heart of each one of us living in our comfortable world, and then with confidence turn to that *other* world and recite the Beatitudes?

We might pause for a moment, recognise that Jesus' credibility is on the line, and pray that His Father's will be done on *earth* as it is in Heaven.

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The Eight Beatitudes

01. **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Be the last of all, the servant of all, do not judge others and share all.

02. **Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

Consider well the people you and others have lost, the things you have not done well, and the things you long for.

03. **Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.** *Be slow to anger and drop the ego.*

04. **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.** *Love peace and be involved in helping others to make peace. Trust everyone and know they may let you down.*

05. **Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.** *Strive to do the right thing. Forgive others then yourself.*

06. **Blessed are pure in heart, for they shall see God.** *Look at things from the eyes of others.*

07. **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.** *Build your castle with blameless foundations.*

08. **Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** *Do not stop doing the right thing because of others.*

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

February 14th, Sts Cyril & Methodius

February 17, The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order


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


Philomena McBrien
Zita
Patrick Danaher


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 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Participation via Zoom is available. Enquiries/facilitator : Patricia Brown, 0418 406 661 or email: pabrown02@gmail.com.


 **Christian Women's League** Meeting for February is Monday 28th at 10.30 in the Meeting Room.

 **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 \$ 63,070.30 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** The Lucky draw of the raffle tickets will be held on Sunday the 13th February at 12.45pm at the Parish Hall. The lucky winners can take their prizes once the draw is done. Good Luck!

 Please kindly return your old palms by the 20th 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 ONLY. 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

19th/20th FEBRUARY ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C.. Meleca C. Meleca	B. McGettigan P. Fleming	R. Wong-Nasara A. Deramos
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma K. Handcock	J. Skulander S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Ian Goldthorpe	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		

Youth Corner

The Power of promise keeping in a 'maybe' world: Reflections from 1917

We live in a world where promises are broken every single day. Your tenant breaks contract. Your friend changes plans last minute. Your parent fails to show up. Your colleague misses a deadline. Your partner who promised to *always* love you just ran off into the arms of another. When I was younger, a broken promise would shake me to the core. These days, I've learned to shrug it off as a normal part of life.

I recently watched '1917', an Oscar-winning film that was inspired by the events of war in April 1917. The movie begins by introducing us to two characters, Will Schofield and Tom Blake, who agree to being sent on a dangerous mission to deliver an important message to the 2nd Battalion. The mission required them to walk across enemy territory, to deliver a message by dawn. In doing so, they could stop the 2nd Battalion from walking into an enemy trap and saving 1,600 lives.

The mission was suspenseful and had me questioning whether Schofield and Blake would survive the barrage of bombs and bullets. With time their enemy—and as they became increasingly injured—I was curious to see whether they would abandon the mission or have the grit and courage to persevere to fulfil their promises. Schofield and Blake show us the power of promise keeping in a 'maybe' world. They promised to deliver an important message that would save thousands of lives, and they selflessly persevered through blood, sweat and tears to make that happen. The movie celebrates them as heroes of their word and mighty pillars of strength.

Whenever I meet people of their word, they tend to earn my trust and loyalty for life. This is precisely why I worship a God who is faithful to His promises. The cross shows me that God's talk isn't cheap. He doesn't back out of a promise when times get tough. Like Schofield and Blake, Jesus was committed to God's plans for salvation and he persevered through blood, sweat and tears to complete his mission. While the generals in 1917 hid in bunkers, sending out ordinary men to fight their cause, Jesus reveals the God who stepped into our world to do the dirty work himself. God initiated a rescue mission to save humanity from sin and death—a mission only he could complete. The incarnation is significant because only Jesus—fully man and fully God—could pay a high enough price for human sin and conquer death itself.

Yet being 'fully God' did not make him immune to anxiety or sorrow. The mission still required courage and commitment. Before his crucifixion, Jesus sweated blood—his soul was 'overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death' (Matt 26:38). Yet still he volunteered to lay down his life by his own accord (John 10:18). The cross is the most powerful demonstration of faithfulness and promise-keeping, and it empowers me to 'hold unswervingly to the hope we profess' (Hebrews 10:23). Knowing that Jesus defeated sin and death on my behalf, gives me so much hope whenever I feel weak, tempted or powerless. No matter the depth of my sin and struggle, I can trust that Jesus fought to save my soul and he will continue to do so, until the fight is finished (Philippians 1:6).

-written by Heidi Tai and published by the Gospel Coalition

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 😊

World Youth Day 2023
The next World Youth Day will be from 1st August- 6th August 2023, and will take place in Lisbon, Portugal! For those who don't know, WYD is an international pilgrimage for young people with the Pope, celebrated every three years or so- it's a unique experience which aims to empower the youth and is a way to bring them closer to Jesus! We will need to start fundraising ASAP, so if you are 18 and above and are interested in attending, please see Cheryl Wong (0481507169) for any questions/details.