

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"

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

20TH FEBRUARY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel
1 Sm 26: 2, 7 - 9, 12 -13, 22 - 23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.

David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?'

David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 15: 45 - 49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new
commandment;
love one another
as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke
Lk 6: 27 - 38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.

To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 9

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

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

Learning the Language of Heaven

Jesus challenges us to unlearn the language of the world and to learn a language which is counter-cultural, paradoxical, perplexing, such as: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' etc, etc. Are such attitudes and actions possible?

Our Lord is the best model. Jesus *is* the Word of God in human history. Jesus *is* the language of Heaven spoken in a human life. We have to read the Gospels and then imitate His dialect. Otherwise we might merely mutter to ourselves which would end up being eternally Hellish.

When we become aware of our language malpractice, i.e., sinning, and if we become *really* tongue-tied, i.e., seriously sinning, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and emerge articulate and conversant with Christ again. We can talk with Our Lord again. We are singing the same tune.

Then at the moment of death we can gracefully pass over to our intended destiny which is not incommunicado, but communicado, holy communicado, holy conversation with God and with every creature.

We might pause for a moment and resolve to practise the language of Heaven and to 'walk the talk' every day.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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

February 21, St Peter Damian
February 22, THE CHAIR OF ST
PETER, THE APOSTLE
February 23, St Polycarp

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

Florence Rodrigues

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 **\$ 63,870.30** 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.**



Please 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.

Lent 2022

Ash Wednesday Masses (Day of Fasting and abstinence)

2nd March 9.15am (English)
7.00pm (English)
8.00pm (Cantonese)

Stations of the Cross (Confession available)

Every Friday from 4th March to 8th April
7.00pm (English)
8.00pm (Cantonese)



St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation - Registrations on the 19th/20th
February after Saturday 5pm Mass and Sunday 9am Mass.

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

Congratulations to the Raffle winners. Winning ticket number are:

1st Prize: 002514	6th Prize: 002849
2nd Prize: 001039	7th Prize: 000654
3rd Prize: 004389	8th Prize: 000451
4th Prize: 003710	9th Prize: 001206
5th Prize: 003840	10th Prize: 003844

26th/27th FEBRUARY ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C.. Maxwell K. Handcock	S. Joseph M. Falamich	D. Cruz T. Jones
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge A. Bentley	A. Falamich B. Hooker	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		



Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

On Thursday February 17, we celebrated the Saints of Bonfiliius, Monaldi, John Bonagiunta, Gerard Sostegni, Bartholomew Amidei, Benedict dell'Antella, Ricoverus Uguccione, and Alexis Falconieri- seven wealthy merchants leaving their homes and professions, and going into solitude for a life directly given to God. That is what happened in the cultured and prosperous city of Florence in the middle of the 13th century. The city was torn with political strife as well as the heresy of the Cathari, who believed that physical reality was inherently evil. Morals were low and religion seemed meaningless.

In 1240, the seven noblemen of Florence mutually decided to withdraw from the city to a solitary place for prayer and direct service of God. Their initial difficulty was providing for their dependents, since two were still married and two were widowers. Their aim was to lead a life of penance and prayer, but they soon found themselves disturbed by constant visitors from Florence. They next withdrew to the deserted slopes of Monte Senario.

In 1244, under the direction of Saint Peter of Verona, O.P., this small group adopted a religious habit similar to the Dominican habit, choosing to live under the Rule of St. Augustine and adopting the name of the Servants of Mary. The new Order took a form more like that of the mendicant friars than that of the older monastic Orders.

Members of the community came to the United States from Austria in 1852 and settled in New York and later in Philadelphia. The two American provinces developed from the foundation made by Father Austin Morini in 1870 in Wisconsin. Community members combined monastic life and active ministry. In the monastery, they led a life of prayer, work and silence while in the active apostolate they engaged in parochial work, teaching, preaching, and other ministerial activities.

Adapted from Franciscan Media

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 😊

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