

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"

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

27TH FEBRUARY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.

FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Sir 27: 4 - 7**

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the
quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.
This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 91

Response: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 1 Cor 15: 54 - 55**

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability,
and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then
the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed
up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is
your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its
power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat;
keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that,
in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.
This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke
Lk 6: 39 - 45**

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man
guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple
is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will
always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the
splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in
your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let
me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you
cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the
plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see
clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your
brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor
again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every
tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs
from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good
man draws what is good from the store of goodness in
his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of
badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his
heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 12

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me,
singing psalms to the name of the Lord 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

Disciples or Mask-Wearers?

In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus.

He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality.

For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts *our* vision. We should not rush to judgment.

The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, Who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22)

This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God.

Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'

We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.

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A prayer in this challenging time...

Loving God, Holy One,
Your desire is for our wholeness
and well-being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer
the collective suffering
of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost
and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves
and our neighbors, standing before
an uncertain future.
We pray: May love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern
and choose wisely,
aligned with the common good.
Help us to practice social distancing
and reveal to us

new and creative ways
to come together in spirit
and in solidarity.

Call us to profound trust
in your faithful presence,
You, the God

who does not abandon,
You, the Holy One,
breathing within us,
breathing among us,
breathing around us
in our beautiful
yet wounded world.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

March 2, ASH WEDNESDAY
(day of fasting and abstinence)

**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

Cyril & Florence
Rodrigues

PARISH ACTIVITIES



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.



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.**

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

Parent Meeting : Monday 7th March at 7pm
Commitment Mass & First Lesson : Saturday 19th March at 5pm
Sunday 20th March at 9am



St Vincent De Paul News

As Jesus said "I came to serve not to be served"

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021 Resilience is often a word used in
conjunction with this Pandemic over the past 2 years and once again
the School and Parish Communities have come together to ensure
the needy and distressed of our Society were not forgotten at
Christmas. We were inundated with both food and gifts that ensured
the identified needy were adequately given sufficient so they could
enjoy a happy Christmas. In all we collated 100 food/gift parcels of
which 80 were distributed and accepted with both joy and gratitude.
The 20 residue that remained will be distributed as the need arises.
On behalf of the SVDP our most heartfelt thanks to all with special
mention to Lisa and Andrew from School and also our fellow
members/volunteers who helped collated and deliver.

DONATIONS Despite periodic closures and lockdowns Christmas
Appeal raised \$1608 and special thanks to Ian Goldthorpe, Catholic
Women's League/Rosary Group and Fr Ephraim for their ongoing
support.

SVDP RECRUITMENT DRIVE St Monica's SVDP has an excellent
record over many years in looking after the needy of our Community
however over the past 20 odd years our membership has declined
and we are now looking for new blood both men and women to keep
the Society progressing and ensure the needs of the less fortunate
are met. Please contact Peter on: 9639 2544 or 9630 8027 for
further information if interested. **SVDP**

5th/6th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock G. Basha	A. Espiritu R. Forteleza	J. Woodbury A. Dsa
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson M. Samson	J. Skulander S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		



Feast of the chair of St Peter

On Tuesday (22/2/2022!) we celebrated the feast day of the chair of St Peter, which sounds a bit odd considering a chair is often just thought of an object that we sit on, whether that be in our office, classroom or at a restaurant. But the chair the Church commemorated on Tuesday is more like the heroic-sized marble chair which holds the giant body of President Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial. It is not an ordinary chair. It is a seat of authority and judgment. They hold power more than people. We stand before them while their occupants sit. Judges and kings retire or die, but chairs and thrones remain to hold their successors. The Nicene Creed even describes Jesus as "seated" at God's right hand. The fuller, symbolic meaning of the word "chair" is what the feast is all about.

To celebrate the Chair of St. Peter is to celebrate the unity of the Church. The chair is a symbol of Saint Peter's authority, and that authority is not meant for conquest like military power. Peter is considered the foundation of the Christian Church, and is known to have been given the keys to the kingdom of heaven as entrusted by Jesus himself. On this feast day, the universal Church acknowledges that St. Peter was the first pope and that his mission continues through the Holy Father today. Simply stated, that mission is to care for the people of God; to carry on the customs, rituals, teachings and truths of Jesus; and to uphold the unity of His Church. Moreover, the Church proclaims that the authority given to St. Peter by Our Lord has been handed down to Peter's successors for the past 2,000 years.

This day is not just about apostolic succession in respect to the pope and the bishops. Among the laity, it symbolizes an unspoken confidence that the Church of Jesus does not change from age to age; that the truths of the Gospel still form the basis of our faith; that these eternal truths are reflected in every Catholic parish and in every Mass. It is a confidence that the leader of our Church adheres to and will never deny the precepts and principles of the Church of Jesus. We firmly believe that we are part of the mystical body of Christ, a holy people, a holy priesthood.

Adapted from D.D. Emmons Simply Catholic

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