

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"



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

06TH MARCH 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Dt 26: 4 - 10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 90

Response: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R.)
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 10: 8 - 13

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord

who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 4: 1 - 13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 4: 4

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

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

Temptations

After his baptism Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where the devil put him to the test. Jesus was offered three shortcuts to his living in harmony with the will of his Heavenly Father.

First, when *he* was hungry there would be bread out of stones.

Second, when he wanted to change the world he could have absolute political power.

Third, when he needed to take risks, angels would keep him safe.

Our baptism does not insulate us from the same threefold pattern of temptation. Do you find yourself saying:

I want the whole world to change to satisfy me, *or*

I want to exercise power over others, *or*
I want to take stupid risks and come out unharmed, *or* all three!

What must we do when such temptations assail us? Realise that such temptations are much less powerful than they seem – the last gasp of the vanquished devil. Imitate Jesus in going to the Scriptures, preferably the Gospels, in order to have the words to hurl back at the devil as you are tested.

We could pause to make a Lenten resolution to read a Gospel, and to do so confident of our Baptismal identity as beloved daughters and sons of God.

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Prayer for people who are facing tragedy and immense loss and loss of life during the floods in Queensland and New South Wales.

Creator God,
We pray for all those in farms, small towns, and cities in Australia whose lives have been disrupted and whose dreams have been dashed by the floods that have devastated the country.

We pray for those who have lost their homes, their cars, their treasured possessions, their crops, their animals, and their livelihoods. It is a terrible thing to be homeless and helpless.

Be with and sustain those whose entire world has been torn apart and washed away. Assuage their fears and be patient with their anger. Grant them patience and hope that eventually they can rebuild their lives and start afresh.

We are grateful to the emergency flood workers and all those who were heroes in helping those in distress during the floods. May they continue their missions of mercy.

Be with those who are caring for flood victims that their compassion and presence will be life-sustaining.

May they continue their missions of mercy. We are thankful for those who serve others and provide us all with the inspiration to do the same.

We are sending love, peace, strength, and courage to all our brothers and sisters in Australia.

May this nightmare end shortly.
May healing begin swiftly.

Amen

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

March 7, Sts Perpetua & Felicity

March 8, St John of God

March 9, St Frances of Rome

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

Gabriella Wehbe

Mouris Takchi

Hasna Takchi

Joseph S Wehbe

Hinid Wehbe

Elias Hkeik

Ante Matek L Zita

David Saville

Katherine Iwachiu

Joe Moses & Family

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.



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.



We have reached our target of \$70,000/- for the renovation of the Parish toilets and kitchenette. We could not have done this without your unwavering support and kindness. It is truly appreciated.



St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

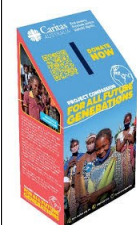
Sacrament of Confirmation

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



Stations of the Cross

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



Project Compassion 2022

Please collect your project compassion boxes from the entrance to the Church and return them by Good Friday to the Parish Office or to Father Lam and or place them in the Box provided at the entrance to the Church

Youth Corner



They say that time seems to fly by faster as we grow older. If we consider that with each passing year, one year (being 365 days roughly) begins to constitute an ever smaller percentage of your entire life, it makes sense. A whole year feels a lot longer to a 5 year old (that's almost a quarter of his whole life!) then it does to a 50 year old.

When seen in this manner we begin to understand how our perception of time changes as we tick off more calendar years. With each passing year, the big events in our liturgical year seem to come around again sooner than we can blink! We are once again in our Lenten period which began on 2nd March, Ash Wednesday and will continue until 14th April. Sometimes people can approach Lent with a bit of apprehension due to thoughts like "Oh no...what will I give up this year?", "Is it enough?" "I wonder what other people are giving up – theirs seems harder than mine", "I gave up the same thing last – will God be displeased?"

To give up something for Lent is to sacrifice something of value to you. But it doesn't just end with refraining from eating a food, giving up time or engaging in a certain activity like extra prayer time. Every time you say no to eating your favourite food, or you stop yourself from hitting the snooze button or whatever it may be, call to mind why we are doing this. This is the season for us to repent, ask God for forgiveness and reflect on our relationship with him. Prayer, fasting and performing works of love are the pillars of Lent. In giving up something or doing a little extra in His name, we offer up this personal sacrifice to him as an intentional action to him. That is why what one person's sacrifices for Lent will differ from another's, because each person values things differently. In this Lenten season let us take the chance to stop, reflect, and pick a sacrifice meaningful to us to give to the Lord.

As Lent calls for a time of reflection, consider praying for the people of Ukraine, even if its something simple like for their safety and protection. If you want a bit more guidance you can use this prayer (from Archbishop Peter Comensoli)

*Gracious God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine suffering from war.
May they be held in your loving care and protection and given the strength to endure their suffering and hardship.
Transform the hearts and minds of those who perpetuate the violence and oppression.
Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference.
We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and in the name of your Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.*

- Abby

12th/13th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	B. Hooker J. Jacob	A. Deramos D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock J. Knight	J. Cruz A. Falamich	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Rashane Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		

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.