

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"



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

13TH MARCH 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 15: 5 - 12. 17 - 18

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 26

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' (R.)
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. (R.)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

SECOND READING

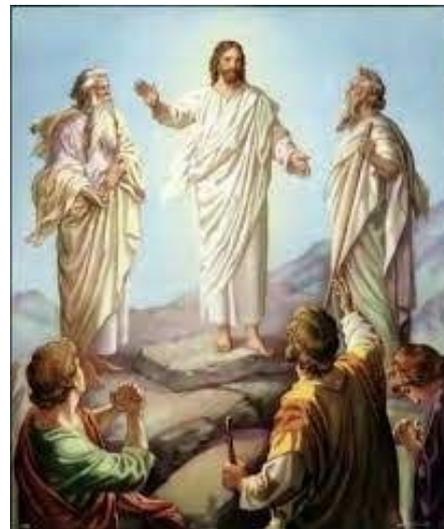
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philipians

Phil 3: 17 - 4: 1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of

the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud
the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son,
hear him.
Glory and praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 9: 28 - 36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 17: 5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

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

Transfigured Bodysouls

One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person?

What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief.

Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' *body* was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' *body* was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory.

That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, *bodysoul*. That is our *ultimate* destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dazzling bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.

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Prayer during Lent.

Lord God Almighty,
shaper and ruler of all creatures,
we pray for your great mercy,
that you guide us towards you,
for we cannot find our way.

And guide us to your will,
to the need of our soul,
for we cannot do it ourselves.
And make our mind steadfast
in your will and aware of our
soul's need.

Strengthen us against the
temptations of the devil,
and remove from us all lust
and every unrighteousness,
and shield us against our foes,
seen and unseen.

Teach us to do your will,
that we may inwardly love you
before all things
with a pure mind.
For you are our maker
and our redeemer, our help,
our comfort, our trust, our hope;
praise and glory be to you now
and forever.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

March 17, St Patrick
March 18, St Cyril of Jerusalem
March 19, ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**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

Elizabeth Poh
Hanna Younan
Carrie Cheung
Ivan Pavlovec
Rafael Pavlovec

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.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ST MONICA'S BRANCH meets on Monday the 28th of March at 10.30am in the Parish Centre. Enquiries : Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361



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.



St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation

First Lesson & Commitment Mass : **Saturday 19th March** at 4pm followed by 5pm Mass
Sunday 20th March at 8am Followed by 9am Mass

Lent 2022



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



St Patrick's Day Mass
17th March (Thursday) 9.15am (English)



St Joseph's Day Masses
18th March (Friday) 7.00pm (English)
8.00pm (Cantonese)
(Stations of the Cross cancelled)
19th March (Saturday) 9.15am (English)



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.
All donations above \$2/- is tax deductible.

19th/20th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha C. Maxwell	B. McGettigan C. Chueng	R. Wong-Nasara M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma A. Hernandez	B. Hooker S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Ian Goldthorpe	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		

Youth Corner

The leadership of Jesus

When the idea of 'Christian leadership' is evoked, many people automatically think of Jesus washing His disciples' feet at the Last Supper, saying the famous words to His disciples, 'You call me 'teacher' and 'lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet....very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.' (John 13:12-16). Many people have interpreted Jesus' teaching and instruction to 'wash each other's feet' as a metaphor for 'serve each other as I have served you.' Jesus Himself, as a leader of His disciples, demonstrated His intent and desire to serve His followers through washing their feet. It is important to remember that Jesus' act of washing His disciples feet was, in fact, more of a symbolic action; one that (very subtly) hinted at Jesus' great act of sacrifice by dying on the Cross for the sake of His people. Both the act of 'dying on the cross' and 'washing the feet of His disciples' was an act of humility, as it does not bring prestige, nor great praise, nor were they acts that demonstrated overt, societal power and authority. Both are acts that, in people's eyes, potentially *lower* the status of the person engaging in the act, because servants who wash people's feet are subject to the whims and instructions of those that they work for and serve and being condemned to die on the cross was reserved for people that society considered to be criminals or subversives. But, from Jesus' perspective, these acts of humility are an important element of His leadership, because Jesus' leadership is guided by a keen sense that His mission is to work for the benefit of people who follow Him. As Christians, we all know what Jesus' main mission was; the salvation of souls through His death and resurrection.

But we can see the act of Jesus fulfilling this important mission as an act of servant leadership, because Jesus was willing to engage in self-denial i.e. suffering physical and emotional pain by dying on the Cross, for the good of those who believed in Him. The aspect of this mission that makes it an act of leadership is that Jesus' self-denial is the mindset that leaders should follow when leading other people. Not only does self-denial require setting an example through actions, but a leader's actions also must be directed to goals that promote the welfare and good of others, and goals that promote righteousness within social groups and communities, such as seeking peace, not creating hate and enmity between people and wanting revenge on enemies, not giving in the lust for power or wealth, or hedonism. Self-denial is an important aspect of servant leadership because the goals of promoting the good of others and promoting righteousness may require a renunciation of things that a leader may want, may feel that he or she deserves, or may require a willingness to give up things that provide comforts and pleasure, or other things that a leader may personally benefit from. And ultimately, those who are not willing to be humble, such as those who take pleasure from being high in rank and exercising power over others, will not be the kind of people who are willing to engage in self-denial when it may be necessary. This is why humility, which Jesus showed by washing His disciple's feet, is the basis of servant leadership.

- Rachel

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: Mission Impossible 2022

Youth Camp is back on this year (for real this time!) from Tuesday 5th July to Friday 8th July in Gerringong. Apologies for all the pushbacks these past two years so thank you all for your patience 😊 The theme will still be the same (Mission Impossible) and we will be going over some of the challenges we youth might face in our modern society today, and how we can best tackle them. Please note forms are due by June 5th. Please see Cheryl Wong (0481507169) or Rebecca Cheung (0449055395) for any questions/queries. We hope you are as keen as the leaders are!!