

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"



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

27TH MARCH 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Joshua

Jos 5: 9 - 12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 33

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2 Cor 5: 17 - 21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father
and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against
heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke
Lk 15: 1 - 3. 11 - 32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Lk 15

You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.

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

Truth and Reconciliation

For Jews, pigs are ritually unclean, so that living in a pig sty would make this young man unapproachable.

So, imagine the reaction of his Jewish audience when Jesus told the story of the father running to his son and embracing him still stinking of the pig sty, exclaiming, 'You were lost and now you are found.'

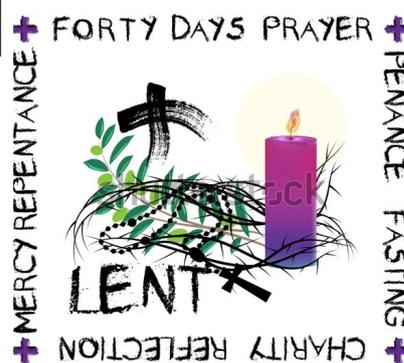
That is Jesus' portrayal of his heavenly Father's relationship with us.

Of course, sometimes we are the older brother, resentful that someone seems to have had too easy a time of God's forgiveness. Is this the attitude of many who challenge the emphasis by Pope Francis on Mercy as the core of God's relationship with us?

More often, we are like the younger brother who has strayed to a far off place, sometimes quite deliberately.

We could resolve to approach the Sacrament of Mercy during Lent, knowing that our heavenly Father will run towards us, embracing us, exclaiming, 'You were lost but now you are found.' That is worth a celebration!

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Prayer during lent.

Loving God,
you call us back to you
with all of our hearts.

I feel your call for me
deep in my heart
and I know
you want me back
as much as
I want to return.

Please, Lord,
give me the wisdom
to know how to return.

Make my journey
back to you this Lent
one of grace,
forgiveness and
gentle love.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

April 2, St Francis of Paola

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

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 the 4th Monday of the month at 10.30am in the Parish Centre. Enquiries : Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361



St Monica's Piety Stall (open alternate weeks commencing this Sunday 27th March)
Stall is open on Saturday 4.40 - 6.15pm
Sunday 8.40 - 10.15am



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.



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 or place them in the Box provided at the entrance to the Church. All donations above \$2/- is tax deductible.



The Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal –

will take place this weekend (26th/27th March). Please use the envelopes provided. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please place your completed donation envelopes or cash donation in the box marked for the Appeal.

Lent 2022



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

ROSTERS : The following Rosters are available - Lectors/ Readers, Communion Ministers, Acolyte and Morning Tea. Please pick up your copy at the entrance to the Church.

Holy Week and Easter Mass Timetable pamphlets are also available at the entrance to the Church. Please take a copy

2nd/3rd April ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock C. Maxwell	S. Younes M. Joseph	V. Cruz M. Novak
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock M. Samson	A. Bentley S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		

Youth + Corner

The Annunciation of the Lord

On Friday March 25, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, a feast day which celebrates the coming of Angel Gabriel declaring to Mary that she would be the mother of the Lord's only son. Solemnities in the Catholic Church are celebrations of high importance. Mary was the first to hear and believe that God would do what he promised the world. She also discovered that she would play a special role in God's plan for salvation. Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she would care for him.

Mary agreed to God's plan because she wanted her will to be God's will. And she was willing to accept the joy and pain that came along with it to bring Christ to a world that waited for him. On this day, we do not only celebrate the announcement to Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, but also her willing acceptance of the news.

Marking this important event on March 25 is a tradition that has existed since the seventh century after the date for celebrating Christmas was universalized throughout the Church. It occurs exactly nine months before December 25, the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The story of the Annunciation has also produced three important liturgical texts: the Ave Maria, the Angelus, and the Magnificat. The angel's greeting to Mary is translated as "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee," and this is the opening of the Ave Maria and a part of Rosary prayers. The Angelus is made up of three Ave Maria's, along with additional material. This is said three times a day in the Roman Catholic Church. And the Magnificat (in Luke 1:46-55) is the poem that Mary says to respond to the Annunciation and celebrates God's power.

The Magnificat demonstrates that Mary became the herald of salvation. Some theologians suggest that the story of the Annunciation emphasizes the status of women because God enlists the help of a woman to create the savior of the world. As the herald of salvation, she becomes a spokesperson for justice and marginalized people who also became both the focus of Jesus and Christians in the Church.

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 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!!

Good Friday Night Walk

The Good Friday Night Walk is back on this year on April 15, starting at 10PM! Come join us (and many other young Catholics from across the diocese) on this overnight pilgrimage! Please note this is open to anyone 14 and above- if you are interested, please let any of the leaders know 😊