

# 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"*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

03RD APRIL 2022

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**Is 43: 16 - 21**

Thus says the Lord,  
who made a way through the sea,  
a path in the great waters;  
who put chariots and horse in the field  
and a powerful army,  
which lay there never to rise again,  
snuffed out, put out like a wick:  
No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about what was done before.  
See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?  
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.  
The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in the wilderness  
(rivers in the wild)  
to give my chosen people drink.  
The people I have formed for myself  
will sing my praises.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 125**

**Response:** The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians**

**Phil 3: 8 - 14**

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God

and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John**

**Jn 8: 1 - 11**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.  
The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 8

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.  
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Thursday 8pm—9pm Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630 -1951 Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151 Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

### The Gaze of Jesus

The accusers of this woman make her 'stand there in *full view* of everybody.' She is surrounded by the hostile glare of eyes filled with blood lust.

It is only when the accusers have left in embarrassment that Jesus, who has been bent to the ground, looks up at her. He adopts the posture of a slave, seeing her as she could be if she gives up her current pattern of behaviour.

Up till now, *no-one* has spoken to this woman. Now Jesus treats her as a human being worth speaking to. And what does she hear? That he does not condemn her but points her to a new sort of life in the future.

We could pause for a moment to allow Jesus the time to look at us, talk to us, in that way. Do you have the courage to 'lock eyes' with Jesus and live out the consequences?

'The eyes have it.'

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#### Prayer during lent.

Dear Lord,  
I know you receive  
what is in my heart.

Let me be inspired  
by your words  
and by the actions  
of your son, Jesus.

Guide me to make  
sacrifices this Lent  
in the spirit of self-denial  
and with greater  
attention to you  
and to those around me.

Help me to  
believe that you  
will grant me this  
because of the sacrifice  
Jesus made for me.

Amen

#### FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

April 4, St Isidore

April 5, St Vincent Ferrer

April 7, St John the Baptist de la Salle

April 10, PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

#### 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

Br Henry Spinks  
Thomas O'Dwyer  
Kevin Harris  
Cyril & Florence Rodrigues  
Teresa Yeung  
Ante Matek  
Lucy Dsavid

# 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** 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)  
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 return your Project Compassion boxes by Good Friday (15th April) 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.

## 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

## 9th/10th April ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	S. Meleca C. Meleca	A. Espiritu B. Hooker	T. Jones O. Holsinger
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Wilkinson L. Iemma	J. Skulander A. Falamich	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Patrick Senjak	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera		

# Youth + Corner

## Story of The Woman Caught in Adultery

In today's Gospel reading, the Pharisees were trying to lay a trap for Jesus – if he had refused outright to stone her, this stance would have been seen to be dismissive of the Law of Moses, and if he has said yes to stoning here, someone would have reported him for breaking the Roman law which states that Jews weren't allowed to execute their own criminals.

And so how does Jesus respond? He pitches it back to the Scribes and Pharisees by asking which of them had not themselves been guilty of sin. We are all people who have received forgiveness, but sometimes we don't act like that. If we stop to consider our own shortcomings, we come to realise none of us has the right to stone that woman. That is **Lesson #1** we learned. We are neither judge nor jury – only God can do that.

*What are some other important lessons we can learn from the Woman Caught in Adultery?*

**Lesson #2 We cannot force someone to repent, and publicly announcing their sin does no one any favours.**

Repentance is a private and personal thing. How can we expect someone to sincerely repent if we publicly announce and shame them for their sins and failings? Acknowledging our sins is a very private affair; we may choose to disclose it to close friends or family, but ultimately it is between ourselves and our Heavenly Father (and perhaps though a priest). That is why Reconciliation is a private matter, as we know true repentance is something that we decide for ourselves and through God's grace, love and mercy, we receive forgiveness from our sins.

**Lesson #3 The Law of Moses is replaced by Higher Law**

The Pharisees tried to tempt Jesus into showing contempt for the Law of Moses, but Jesus actually showed that a higher law exist. The Law of Moses are laws to institute justice and regulated things such as priesthood, sacrifices, rituals, offerings etc. For example, if the woman committed adultery, she should be stoned to death. But such laws were temporary; Jesus brings in the Higher Law which does away with the physical punishments required under the Law of Moses and teaches about mercy. Jesus teaches that when people practice mercy, they are no longer blindly following rituals and rules. To extend mercy to another is to extend forgiveness and that is what Jesus does at the end of the story. He forgives the woman and sends her away.

We are able to love because God loved us first. We are able to forgive because God forgave us first. When we repent, we must do our utmost to avoid repeating the same sin. Jesus didn't just say 'Go (your sins are forgiven)'; he also said '**sin no more**'. He inspires us to live as he lived, and at times when we have lost our way, to repent and return to Him.

- Abby

## 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, and in April we are looking at prayer, led by Rebecca and Brian! See you there 😊

### Youth Camp: Mission Impossible 2022

Youth Camp is back on this year (for real this time!) from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>. Please see Cheryl Wong (0481507169) or Rebecca Cheung (0449055395) for any questions/queries. We hope you are as keen as the leaders are!!