

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 EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - YEAR C

24TH APRIL 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 5: 12 - 16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117

Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)
3. O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the true God is our light. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

Rev 1: 9 - 13, 17 - 19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

This is the word of the Lord

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jn 20: 19 - 31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where

the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 20

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

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

The disciples did not purge their group of 'doubting Thomas'. They remained his companions, waiting for something or Someone to be revealed to him with them.

Doubt and questioning are a normal and proper part of being human. We should allow for this within the community of the Church. A point may come where a person may no longer remain in the Church with any integrity. But a dismissive, excluding Church is not the Church of this gospel story.

Within the companionship of the Church a doubter may hear the words: 'Peace be with you.' What sort of peace? It is that inner assurance that, in the midst of all the tribulations and the turmoil and the myriad precursor deaths which we suffer on all sorts of levels, the Conqueror of Death wants to be with us.

How can the Risen Lord be with us? In Holy Communion, and in those counted as least in the world. According to Matthew 25, He is those without the necessities of life: food, shelter, medical care, comfort in distress.

We could pause for a moment to savour that Peace which comes from faith in the Conqueror of Death and in his Real Presence in Holy Communion and in those in dire need.

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Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Using the Rosary make the

✠ Sign of the Cross
Then Recite the :

Our Father
Hail Mary
The Creed

On the large bead before
each decade:

Eternal Father,
I offer You the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
in atonement for our sins
and those of the whole world.

On the ten small beads of each decade:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Conclude with:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One,
Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us
and on the whole world. (Three times)

Closing Prayer (optional)

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless
and the treasury of compassion —
inexhaustible, look kindly upon us
and increase Your mercy in us, that in
difficult moments we might not despair nor
become despondent, but with great
confidence submit ourselves to Your holy
will, which is Love and Mercy itself.



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

April 25, ANZAC DAY

April 26, ST MARK,
THE EVANGELIST

April 27, St Louis Grignon
de Montfort

April 28, St Peter Chanel

April 29, St Catherine of Siena

April 30, St Pius V

**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 Do-
rahy, Heidi Ellich, Josie
Ester, Philippe Kalife,
Tim Kelly, Mary Korunic,
Lillian Leigh, Monique
Malouf, Maria Itang Ta-
gle, Sheila Watts,
Tina de Larrazabal,
Rosa Santos, Llave
Family, Gloria Cherote,

MASS INTENTIONS

Houda Chehade, Karam
Karam & Escandro Risk
Michael 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.



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.



St Monica's Art Group From 30th April 2022, 6pm–
8pm, a new Art Group will gather at the Parish
Centre every Saturday. Mini workshops are
available.
Please contact Vera (WhatsApp 0402936947) for
details or take a pamphlet at the main entrance of the church.



ANZAC Day Mass
25th April 2022 Monday
9:15am



St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation 2022

Lesson resumes : Saturday 7th May at 4pm

30th April/1st May ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C. Meleca	S. Joseph M. Joseph	W. Sassine M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley J. Knight	J. Skulander A. Hernandez	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorpe	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
Morning Tea	Regina Astorga/Sanchia Pinto		



Divine Mercy Sunday

In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II announced the celebration of a new feast to take place every second Sunday of Easter- Divine Mercy Sunday which was a request from Jesus Christ himself, written in the diary of a young Polish nun. Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska was one of 10 children born to a poor family, and she felt a calling to religious life after receiving a vision of Christ suffering. She was later accepted into the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy after being rejected from numerous previous orders at age 20, where she continued to foster her strong love and trust in the Lord. During her time there she kept a diary, which was filled with the invitations from the Lord Jesus Christ to celebrate with him the great feast of the Divine Mercy.

Through a range of diary entries, God reveals to her his desire for this special occasion, such as why he wanted to initiate such feast in the first place. According to diary entry 965, Jesus said "Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them ... the Feast of My mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity. Secretary of My mercy, write, tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice is near." In other words, Jesus is calling those who are suffering, in despair and struggling with sin to come and rest in the grace and comfort of Christ himself. He also describes who is 'invited' to the Feast "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet." He directs his attention to everyone, but with particular focus on the 'poor sinners' who are in most need of his mercy- but it is those poor sinners who are aware of their wrongdoings and seek repentance who are able to receive God's grace on this day. It's a time for us to reflect more personally on the significance of Christ's life, death and resurrection and gain greater awareness of God's mercy for us.

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 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!!

Altar Serving

If you/ your child have received their first Holy Communion and are interested in joining altar serving, please contact Rebecca Cheung (0449055395)! Training for new servers will begin around August. It is a wonderful way to take the next step in deepening your faith and commitment to the Church so it is definitely encouraged 😊