

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 EASTER - YEAR C

08TH MAY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 13: 14, 43 - 52.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.
This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 99

Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

Rev 7: 9, 14 - 17

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd,
says the Lord;
I know my sheep,
and mine know me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jn 10: 27 - 30

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life; they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than
anyone, and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, 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

Voice Followers

You and I are Gentiles – part of the non-Jewish world. We are the sort of Christians we are, because of St Paul. He became the strongest advocate of the grace that the early Christian community should be inclusive of all nations and tribes and ethnic groups on the face of the earth. We have not yet realised this potential.

What riches of intellectual traditions, cultural expressions, and organisational structure are we still to receive from the Chinese, the Korean, the Indonesians, the Africans, the Indian Catholics who are part of our 'Church without Borders'?

How do we maintain unity and identity amongst such diversity? By listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

But it takes a good teacher to help us to hear The Voice in the clamour of life.

Some of those teachers may be found amongst the Bishops who carry a shepherd's staff. But at least in my experience the best assistant-shepherds have been my parents, and some others. They have helped me hear The Voice assuring me that I will never perish, that I will receive eternal life.

That is a Voice worth following! We could pause for a moment to get on the same wavelength as the Good Shepherd so as to echo His Voice in our lives.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Mothers are a precious gift

A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers

Good and Gentle God,
we pray in gratitude
for our mothers
and for all the women
of theory who have
joined with you
in the wonder of bringing
forth new life.
You who became human
through a woman,
grant to all mothers
the courage they need to face
the uncertain future that life
with children always brings.
Give them the strength to live
and to be loved in return,
not perfectly, but humanly.
Give them the faithful support
of husband, family and friends
as they care for the
physical and spiritual growth
of their children.
Give them joy and delight
in their children to sustain them
through the trials of motherhood.
Most of all, give them the wisdom
to turn to you for help
when they need it most.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

May 14, ST MATTHIAS,
APOSTLE

**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 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.



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



St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation 2022

Lessons 5 : Saturday 14th May at 4pm

Sacrament of First Holy Communion 2022 Registration for those who wish to receive First Holy Communion will take place on the 14th/15th & 22nd May after Mass. Candidates must be baptized and have received First Reconciliation and in year 4 or above. A new lesson format is being introduced with Lessons being conducted by the Sacramental Coordinator. Lesson attendance and Mass after Lesson is compulsory to be eligible to receive the sacrament. Please email Shanika Joseph at the above email address for enquires/questions.

Please bring a Copy of child's baptism certificate and the registration fee of \$30/- is payable via tap and go.

Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is cancelled for the coming Thursday 12th May and Friday 13th May only.

Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful mothers and grandmothers.
We hope you have a lovely day!

14th/15th May ROSTERS

| | 5pm Vigil | 9am | 6pm |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Readers | K. Handcock C. Maxwell | J. Jacob A. Espiritu | M. Novak D. Cruz |
| Extraordinary Ministers | A. Hernandez K. Handcock | B. Hooker J. Skulander | |
| Acolytes | Peter Handcock | Ian Goldthorpe | Adrian Cheung |
| Cleaning | Group 2 - Vera | | |
| Morning Tea | Maris Strong & Julie Skulander | | |

Youth + Corner

Easter is the most important feast in the Catholic calendar and continues on for seven full weeks after Easter Sunday!

A reflection for the Easter Season

As Jesus' body was being taken down from the cross and being prepared for burial, what might Jesus say to us about his experience? I believe he might say the following: "I went through all of that because you are worth it. You are worth living for. You are worth dying for. In your darkest nights, in your deepest depression, remember that God thought you were worth his life. You are loved that much.

I did not die so that you could live in guilt and self-recrimination. I went through all of that pain and degradation to model to you how to handle the misfortunes and tragedies of life. There will be people who will hurt you in life. There will be people who will betray you as Judas betrayed me. There will be people in your life who will abandon you as Peter and the other apostles abandoned me.

Yet, while some people let me down, surprising people stepped forward. There will be angels on your path. There will be a Simon of Cyrene to help you carry your cross. There will be friends like the Beloved Disciple and the women who stayed with me all the way to the cross. Therefore, do not let the unfairness and injustices in your life turn you bitter or cynical.

If you feel that no one understands you, or cares about you, remember that my mother is now your mother. Her mothering spirit will be with you throughout your life, and, when you breathe your last breath, she will hold you in her arms, and lead you to my arms.

Endure your crosses bravely. If others nail you with false accusations, when people misjudge you, when your goodness is rewarded with meanness, do not focus on life's harshness, but focus on your God. You will not be abandoned. I will share my life with you forever. At Easter the power of the risen Lord is manifest! Just as angels heralded his birth in Bethlehem, so now angels herald his rebirth in Jerusalem. Happy Easter. Happy eternal life!

Adapted from The Catholic Review from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, dated 19 January 2012

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 Rachel and Hazel. 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 😊