

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"

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR C

29TH MAY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 11: 1 - 11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46

Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R)
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 9: 24 - 28. 10: 19 - 23

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after

year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him. In other words, brothers, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which he has opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his body. And we have the supreme high priest over all the house of God. So as we go in, let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our minds sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people
my gospel.
I am with you always,
until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 24: 46 - 53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory

Our Risen Lord knew that we are naturally, collectively human-centric. He withdrew His risen mode of appearance (what we call 'the Ascension') to make it clear that the whole Universe, including planet Earth, is filled with the presence and power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

As St Paul wrote in the Epistle to the Romans: 'Creation still retains the hope of being freed from its slavery to decay, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.' How is the Risen Lord beginning to fulfil this hope?

At Mass, fractions of creation – the Bread and Wine consecrated for Holy Communion – are transformed into the Real Presence of the Risen Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer III begins with: 'You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise...' How can all creation give God praise? As the ancient church used to teach: Each of you is a microcosm of the macrocosm, called to be a priest for the Cosmos. Through your enlightened mind and inflamed heart, the Cosmos knows that it exists and that it is loved by its Creator. It is beginning to share the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We could pause for a moment, stop staring into Heaven, and ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit so as to be what St Paul calls 'the Church which is His Body in whom the *fullness* of creation dwells'.

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Peace Prayer inspired by St Francis of Assisi.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

May 31, THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

June 1, St Justin

June 3, St Charles Lwanga & Companions

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



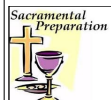
St Monica's Piety Stall (open alternate weeks)
Stall is open on Saturday 4.40 - 6.15pm
Sunday 8.40 - 10.15am



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

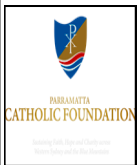
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation 2022

Please uphold the candidates of our Parish in prayer as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at a special Mass on the 3rd of June.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion 2022

Lessons commence this Saturday 28th, May at 4.00pm



Parramatta Catholic Foundation Appeal for our Seminarians

28th-29th May 2022

Donation envelopes can be found on the pews and church doors. Donations will be collected on 28th & 29th May. Please kindly support our seminarians.

4th/5th June ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock G. Basga	M. Joseph B. Hooker	V. Cruz M. Novak
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson M. Woolridge	A. Hernandez S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Rashane Joseph	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
Morning Tea	Pyra Family & Abby Liu		



May Youth Group Session- Sacraments

This month in youth group, we looked at another core foundation of our Catholic faith- the seven sacraments. Sacraments, in a nutshell, can be described as physical signs of God's invisible grace. They are ways in which we can build, strengthen, and deepen our relationship with Jesus across our whole lives, starting from birth (baptism) all the way through to adulthood (marriage or Holy Orders). Receiving each of the sacraments gives us sanctifying grace, something which we need constantly because we have original sin and are thus always susceptible to temptations and engaging in behaviours that deter us from God. Sacraments usually consist of two things- a form (the words being spoken during the practice) and the matter (the physical substance used). For something to be considered a sacrament, it must meet 3 essential criteria- it has to be some physical, tangible sign that you can see, it must also be instituted by Jesus Christ himself (and throughout the Bible we can see evidence that he instructs us to do perform these sacraments!) and not only are they representations of God's grace but also literally embody them. This is where we touched on the doctrine of the Paschal Mystery, which states that everything Jesus did in his earthly ministry (but specifically his passion, death, resurrection and ascension) was **salvific- leading to our salvation**. And we get to experience and participate in these key events with Christ through the gifts of the sacraments.

The seven sacraments are divided into three sections- the first being the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) as they welcome someone into the Church and marks the beginning of their relationship with God; the second category the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick) and finally the Sacraments of Commitment (Marriage and Holy Orders). Simply put, the Sacraments of Initiation lay the foundations for one's spiritual life - during baptism we are freed from all sins (yes, even our mortal ones!) and given a permanent mark stating that we are Catholics and a part of the church. We usually are guided into this by our parents, until we reach Confirmation and Eucharist, where we receive the Holy Spirit (and the body and blood of Jesus Christ) for strength to continue preaching the Gospel. And because Jesus is so loving and compassionate and cared for the weak and suffering deeply, we also have reconciliation/penance for when we want to repent for our sins (it must contain contrition, confession, absolution and penance/satisfaction), a process which restores the grace and love back into our lives. Sin stops us from obtaining eternal salvation and happiness with God, so reconciliation is always encouraged (but keep in mind it should always be sincere and genuine). Anointing of the sick is given to not just people who are about to pass away, but also those who are mentally unwell, of old age or suffering from chronic pain/disease. Sacraments are an important part of our faith, and thank you to all the youth who came along this month! We really appreciate you engaging with the content every week

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 June we are looking at Morality, led by Cheryl and Sam! 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 😊