

# 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"*

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

26TH JUNE 2022

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands.  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

## FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of the Kings

1 Kgs 19: 16, 19 - 21

The Lord said to Elijah: 'Go, you are to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat, of Abel Meholah, as prophet to succeed you.' Leaving there, Elijah came on Elisha son of Shaphat as he was ploughing behind twelve yoke of oxen, he himself being with the twelfth. Elijah passed near to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you' he said. Elijah answered, 'Go, go back; for have I done anything to you?' Elisha turned away, took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the plough for cooking the oxen, then gave to his men, who ate. He then rose, and followed Elijah and became his servant.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 15

**Response:** You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.'  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize. (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

Gal 5: 13 - 18

When Christ freed us, he meant us to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

My brothers, you were called, as you know, to liberty; but be careful, or this liberty will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Serve one another, rather, in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, you had better watch or you will destroy the whole community.

Let me put it like this: if you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is

totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Speak, O Lord, your  
servant is listening;  
you have the words of  
everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 9: 51 - 62

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say good-bye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.

# 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>ANOIDING 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

### COMMENTARY

## The Rebuking of Murderous Apostles

Jews and Samaritans were of a different ethnic mix and were religious adversaries – a volatile mix. It was not surprising that Samaritans refused Jesus entry to their villages 'because he was making for Jerusalem', the Jewish centre of worship.

What is surprising is that after several years with Jesus, James and John had not absorbed his teaching and practice of non-violence in dealing with enemies. They wanted to annihilate those they considered to be heretics. We are told that Jesus immediately 'turned and rebuked them'.

How many times must the Risen Lord have 'turned and rebuked' Christians for their murderous dealing with religious adversaries over the centuries? How often, in our own time, is He rebuking those seeking to wipe out those of 'heretical' views, either outside or within their own religious tradition? How must He be weeping at the genocidal carnage being wreaked on his own disciples, and those of other faiths, in the religious terror of the Middle East?

We might pause for a moment to seek forgiveness for the times we have wished a personal or larger-scale enemy to be done away with – lest the rebuke of the Prince of Peace ring in our self-righteous ears.

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Prayer of praise and thanksgiving ..

Almighty God,  
You are author of life.  
We are in awe  
of your creation.  
The vast oceans  
reflect your majesty.  
The ever changing skies  
renew our lands.  
The deep valleys  
carry your peace and shelter.

You are saviour of the world.  
We are amazed at your grace.  
The nations find peace  
in your forgiveness.  
The sufferer hope  
in your healing hands.  
The burdened rest  
in your promise of heaven.

You are unconditional love.  
We are privileged  
to be filled by your presence.  
The youth are filled  
with your vision.  
The old are filled  
with your wisdom.  
The oppressed are unchained  
by your freedom.

Almighty God,  
Father, Son and Spirit  
We worship you!

Amen.

### FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

June 28 St Irenaeus  
June 29, STS PETER & PAUL,  
APOSTLES

**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.



**Peter's Pence** collection will be taken up this weekend. This collection helps provide the Holy Father with funds for emergency assistance to those in need. The proceeds enable Pope Francis to assist the most disadvantaged in emergency situations including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Thank you for your generosity. Please place your cash donations in the 3rd Collection Box. Your generous donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

# Youth + Corner

## Peer Pressure

Peer pressure, contrary to popular belief, is not something that just affects young children. In fact, it sticks around as we grow up, and even adults aren't immune to it. Whether it be from friends, social sentiment, or even something as seemingly harmless as pop culture, peer pressure is all around us, and is constantly influencing us in some way. Of course, sometimes peer pressure is a good thing – like the pressure to study hard because everyone else in your cohort is, or to go to Church because you were born into a Catholic family or community. In such cases, these influences often lead to the development of healthy habits that last even when this pressure is no longer present. Generally, however, peer pressure tends to be used to refer to the things that pull us away from what we logically and consciously know is correct.

It can be as something small as not saying grace when with non-Christian friends for fear of feeling out of place, or even something like taking part in a social movement despite knowing it goes against your faith and personal values. Regardless, peer pressure is driven by our need to fit in – as the name would imply. To really understand how to best resist peer pressure, it's important to know how the brain goes about rationalising such experiences. On a base level, people have two ways of thinking – logic and emotion. Most of the time, when presented with a situation, we take some time and consider what we can gain as well as any negatives, and then make a decision. However, we are emotional creatures, and our feelings will often have an impact on our final decision. Peer pressure arises when our emotions overpower our logic – when we fear being left out more than any compromise we have to make with our values. There's probably some evolutionary instinct linked into this, but I am no anthropologist, so I'd just be confusing myself and you if I tried to explain it in anymore detail.

So, peer pressure is emotion, and emotion is something all humans are born with. How do we resist peer pressure? There's no easy answer to that. However, like with our morals, the more we allow compromise, the easier it becomes. Take weekly Mass for example (something that many non-Christians don't understand the importance of) - allow yourself to skip Mass once because you had a busy night out, and you create a precedent; one which makes you think it's fine once in a while. But these things snowball and before you know it, Mass just because something you go to if you feel like it. To make it even worse, most of us have been subjected to peer pressure since a young age. The best solution really, is to just say "no." But when you've been going with the crowd for years, going out of your comfort zone isn't something so easy. So instead start with the small things. Say grace whenever you eat regardless of who you are with, set multiple alarms to make sure you wake up in time for Mass. Small things like this go a long way to showing yourself that being different doesn't necessarily mean being wrong. And eventually, you can work towards bigger things. Being a Catholic is about spreading God's message; it's about showing others the love that Jesus gave us. But when we hide ourselves for fear of being ostracised, we aren't working towards this purpose. Instead, we stray further away from it. While there is so much more to achieving this, being able to reveal ourselves and our beliefs is the first step, and therefore, saying no to the influences around us is quite important, for us and for our faith.

- Rashane

## 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 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 were due LAST SUNDAY, but if you are still interested in coming along, you are more than welcome to see Cheryl Wong (0481507169) or Rebecca Cheung (0449055395) for questions/forms/final payments. We hope you are as keen as the leaders are!!

### WYD Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who came to and supported our sausage sizzle fundraiser last week! We hope you had a good lunch 😊

## 02ND/03RD JULY ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Maxwell G. Basha	P. Fleming B. Hooker	V. Cruz M. Novak
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Wilkinson M. Samson	B. Hooker S. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Patrick Senjak	Rashane Joseph	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Abby Liu & Payra Family		