

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"

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

17TH JULY 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 18: 1 - 10

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said, 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said, 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent,' he replied.

Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14

Response: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue. (R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Col 1: 24 - 28

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy are they who
have kept the word
with a generous heart
and yield a harvest
through perseverance.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 10: 38 - 42

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

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

A Cardinal Role for Women?

Jesus turned the customs and taboos of his society upside down. In this Gospel, against all the rules of segregation, Jesus is alone with women who are *not* his relatives, completely at ease with their hospitality. It is personal relationships, not gender determined relationships, which are important to him.

Further, here is Mary assuming the posture of a student at the feet of a Rabbi (teacher) listening to his teaching. We remember that Jesus had chosen his male disciples in order to teach *them*. Mary chooses *Him* to teach *her*! Maybe it was a counter-cultural step too far for Martha. Is that what she is really 'anxious and troubled' about?

Jesus was willing to upset the social conventions and religious taboos of his day in respect of women. What would be a good contemporary response of the Catholic Church?

The word 'cardinal' means hinge – 'hinge of the door' – an essential part of the structure of the Church which is our home, in which we listen to the words of Jesus Christ. Could the College of Cardinals be supplemented to include women alongside the ordained male prelates?

Outstanding women, religious or lay, could head some Vatican departments and take part in the election of the Pope.

That would be a strongly symbolic step with repercussions throughout the Church.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the Church to show a greater willingness to sit, like Mary, at the feet of Jesus so that we may hear his words: 'You have chosen the better portion.'

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Thanksgiving prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all your blessings and gifts to us.
We thank you for the precious gift of family and friends, for all those who are here with us today and those who are faraway.

Thank you for your abundance and grace.
For being with us every single day.

We thank you for showing us glimpses of heavenly beauty through the eyes of our loved ones, through nature, songs of praise and even the warm sunlight.

We are grateful for the roof over our heads and a warm place to sleep every night.
Thank You for blessing us with all the food on our table today.

We thank You for all those You have brought into our lives to lead us, to guide us, and protect us.

Thank you for our parents, grandparents, brothers & sisters, teachers, counselors and mentors.

Bless each of them in a special way today, Lord.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

July 22, St Mary Magdalene

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

Robert Rodrigues

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.

Youth Corner

Are singles less sanctified?

Sanctification is both the status that believers enjoy as being holy and also the process by which we grow in our holiness—it's both who we are and what we are becoming. In the latter sense, it describes our transformation into the image of Christ, the Holy One of God. Jesus is the model of our sanctification, and it is into his image that we are being renewed "with ever-increasing glory" (2 Cor 3:18; Col 3:10). Indeed, God predestined us for the very purpose of being "conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom 8:29). Our sanctification (and ultimately, our glorification) is really our "Christification"—our becoming more like Christ.

So is it the case that to be married is to be more like Christ, and to be single is to be a lesser image of the Son? We might think that Jesus being "the bridegroom" to his people esteems marriage as the more sanctified state, and yet in his earthly life, Jesus was quite clearly an unmarried man. In *7 Myths About Singleness*, Sam Allberry writes about Jesus' humanity: *He is the most complete and fully human person who ever lived. So his not being married is not incidental. It shows us that none of these things—marriage, romantic fulfilment, sexual experience—is intrinsic to being a full human being.* The very same can also be said of Jesus' holiness. As the holy Son of God who himself never married, he shows us that marriage is not intrinsic to being a sanctified child of God.

That's not to say, though, that there isn't any connection between marriage and sanctification. In *Ephesians 5:25-27*, Paul calls husbands: "love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her". Jesus' sanctifying love is the template for how husbands ought to love their wives. However, notice what Paul is not saying. He is not saying that husbands are the ones who sanctify their wives—that work belongs to Jesus. Husbands should imitate Christ, but they cannot replace him. They should love their wives with a commitment to their holiness, but only Jesus can make his church holy. Sanctification is a work accomplished by Christ in and for the church (5:32).

What matters then is not whether we belong to a marriage, for no spouse can make us holy. What matters is whether we belong to the church which is being sanctified by Christ. That's the primary community of our sanctification, whether we're married or single. After all, the commands in the New Testament to "forgive one another," "submit to one another," and "bear with one another" (Eph 4:32; 5:21; Col 3:13) are given not to a married couple but to the collective church. We should not, then, confine Christ's sanctifying love to marriage—it belongs to all of us. I've heard it said that the unique intimacy within marriage allows for a deeper sanctifying work. But we must not fall for the cultural narrative that real intimacy is necessarily romantic, sexual or marital. In fact, Paul describes the church as "the household of God" and in this family, we relate to one another as fathers, brothers, mothers and sisters (1 Tim 3:15-16; 5:1-2). The most profound intimacy we can enjoy is actually spiritual because it is by the Spirit that we are united with Christ and one another. We mustn't believe that married couples don't need the church or that their marriage is somehow sufficient for their growth in godliness. And we mustn't see the church as the second-best option for singles who can't experience intimacy or sanctification in a marriage. The church is the primary sanctifying community for all of us both single and married people alike.

-adapted from an article by Adam Ch'ng, published on the Gospel Coalition website

23rd/24th JULY ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C. Maxwell	J. Jacob A. Espiritu	V. Cruz D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson A. Hernandez	S. Joseph A. Falamich	
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
Morning Tea	Regina Astorga & Sanchia Pinto		

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Youth group continues for another month in the community room, starting at 10:30AM! Feel free to drop by for some games and friendly chats 😊

Youth Camp: Mission Impossible 2022

A big thank you to all the youth who came along to our camp and showed their enthusiasm this year 😊 The leaders hope you had just as much fun as they did, and that it was an inspiring, enjoyable and valuable experience!