

# 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"*

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

24TH JULY 2022

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 18: 20 - 32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 137

**Response:** Lord, on the day I called for help,  
you answered me.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Though I walk in the midst of affliction  
you give me life and frustrate my foes. (R.)
4. You stretch out your hand and save me,  
your hand will do all things for me.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Col 2: 12 - 14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You have received  
the Spirit which makes us  
God's children,  
and in that Spirit  
we call God our Father.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 11: 1 - 13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come;  
give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.  
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants. 'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

# 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>ANOINTING 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

### Heaven and Earth can coincide

People often imagine huge distance between Earth and a Heaven beyond the horizon of the universe. But Jesus Christ taught us to pray 'Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.'

How can this come about? Jesus identified two areas on which we need to focus to help make Heaven and Earth share the same space.

'Give us this day our daily bread.' This petition is very real for most inhabitants of the world – a plea for the necessities of life to stave off real hunger. If we respond to this plea, we can change a Hellish situation to a place where Heaven and Earth coincide.

'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' But, first to Shakespeare: 'The quality of Mercy is not strained. It falleth as the gentle rain of Heaven on to the place beneath.'

If we develop a hardness of heart which refuses to show forgiveness, then we are like earth concreted over and are unable to absorb God's forgiveness into our own lives. When we forgive someone, we become more able to absorb the gentle rain of heavenly mercy and forgiveness.

So, Heaven and Earth need not be as distant as supposed. Our Lord has shown us how we can help make these dimensions of existence coincide.

We could take a moment to resolve to pray the 'Our Father' by our lives, helping to provide evidence for our acclamation:

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*Thanks Giving Prayer.*

*"Thank you for your amazing power*

*and work in our lives,*

*thank you for your goodness*

*and for your blessings over us.*

*Thank you that you are able to bring hope*

*through even the toughest of times,*

*strengthening us for your purposes.*

*Thank you for your great love and care.*

*Thank you for your mercy and grace.*

*Thank you that you are always with us and*  
*will never leave us.*

*Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so*

*that we might have freedom and life.*

*Forgive us for when we don't thank you*  
*enough, for who you are, for all that you do,*  
*for all that you've given.*

*Help us to set our eyes and*

*our hearts on you afresh.*

*Renew our spirits,*

*fill us with your peace and joy.*

*We love you and we need you,*

*this day and every day.*

*We give you praise and thanks,*

*for You alone are worthy!*

*In Jesus' Name, Amen."*

DEBBIE MCDANIEL

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

July 25, St James, Apostle  
July 26, Sts Joachim & Anne  
July 29, St Martha, Mary & Lazarus

**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  
Ester, 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.  
All are welcome.



**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

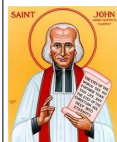


**Remember the Deceased** There is an open diary and pens next to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue and you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased loved ones or family members on the day of their anniversaries and we will pray for them.



**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.

## Special Mass in August 2022



4th August (Thursday)  
**Feast of St John Vianney (Patron Saint for all Priest , Masses for Vocation)**  
English Mass 9.15am  
English & Chinese Mass 7.30pm  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament to 9pm



6th August (Saturday)  
**Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord**  
English Mass 9:15am



**SVDP WINTER APPEAL** An Annual Winter Appeal has formally returned after the Pandemic and once again we seek your generosity in assisting those in need. Envelopes are on the pews and can be placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection boxes. Thank you for your assistance.

**VOLUNTEER WEEK RECRUITMENT DRIVE** As a result of the Recruitment Drive, we have up to 4 new members completing their obligatory checks. The Drive was a success and many showed interest and the invitation is still open to those who would like more information re joining.

**MEETING** The SVDP Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in the Parish Community Room. Those showing interest are welcome to attend.

**THANK YOU** We also take this opportunity to thank the School Community for their contribution in a blanket/clothing drive they initiated for the Homeless/Needy of the Community. Their collection of 50+ parcels included blankets, beanies, socks, gloves, scarves (mostly all new) as well as clothing. Their donations were allocated to various outlets, all of whom expressed much gratitude in knowing that such donations would be of great comfort to the increasing number of homeless/needy. Especially in such a wet and cold Winter which we are experiencing. Well done to the Executive and School Community.  
*Thanks Peter*

## 30th/31st JULY ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	K. Handcock A. Bentley	B. McGettigan C. Cheung	V. Cruz D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	A. Bentley M. Wilkinson	B. Hooker A. Falamich	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Patrick Senjak	Rashane Joseph	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Abby Liu & Pyra Family		



## Youth Camp 2022- Mission Impossible

Earlier this month, the youth at St Monica's attended the long-awaited camp which had been in the making for 2 years! The theme was Mission Impossible, with reference to some of the challenging or difficult situations we as Catholics may encounter in today's secular world which might be considered 'impossible' to overcome. Specifically, across the four days we touched on the problems with materialism and social media such as creating a false perception of what 'success' means. Our modern society champions capitalism, the need to earn more money, accumulate more items or hopping onto the latest trend- all of which push us away from God and can even lead to sinful thoughts or emotions including jealousy or desire for another's possessions or lifestyle. Achieving monetary success should not be your primary purpose in life (after all, we cannot take this with us when we pass)- rather, striving for spiritual fulfilment and a healthy relationship with God by choosing to live humbly just like Jesus did is something which is eternal and everlasting, so why not invest in this instead?

We also discussed the importance of friendships, and ways in which we can handle discussing controversial topics with non-Catholic or atheist peers- here, the youth considered what are some of the core values/ideals that are central to their own friendships, and how do they tend to resolve conflict. Delving deeper into the theological side of our faith, the concept of the human body as being a divine and spiritual part of God's creation was an interesting way of thinking about our physical selves. Because we are tainted with original sin, we are thus always susceptible to temptation and the possibility that we will sin again- and our bodies are a tangible, physical reflection of our internal soul and the grace God gives us. Pope John Paul II gave a series of 129 lectures, compiled together to create the Theology of the Body, in a way which helps us to better understand the mystery, dignity and beauty of our body and how we should treat it. Lastly, we rounded off camp with a session on how we can deal with stress and anxiety in our daily lives, considering its universality. Using examples across both the Old and New Testament whereby individuals such as Elijah, Moses and even Jesus himself experienced these emotions, we come to understand that God is the one constant throughout each of these distressing situations. Relieving stress through prayer and meditation and trusting in God's plan for you despite how challenging the obstacle may be were some of the key themes central to this session.

This provides just a brief summary into the topics we covered in this year's youth camp. Throughout the four days we were also given many opportunities to praise and worship the Lord, put on our thinking caps for trivia, as well as have a bit of a laugh during games night and amazing race. All of this would not have been possible without any of the youth who chose to come to the camp (so thank you! 😊) as well as all the leaders who have worked tirelessly to put everything together. We hope to see you again next year!

## 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 😊 Next month in August, we will be looking at Relativism, with a focus on our mother Mary, led by Rashane and Ginny!