

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"

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

14TH AUGUST 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jer 38: 4 - 6. 8 - 10

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 39

Response: Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **(R.)**
2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**
3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**
4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 12: 1 - 4

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my
voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they
follow me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 12: 49 - 53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

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

I have come to bring fire

A fierce fire in a eucalyptus forest bursts open the seed pods, cleanses the soil of smothering undergrowth, and returns nutrients to the soil to germinate the seeds. It is that sort of fire which Jesus brings to the earth.

So, at Pentecost, He sent His Holy Spirit ' . . . like tongues of fire', bursting the early disciples out of the protective shell of the 'Upper Room', allowing them to be germinated as seeds of the early Church. It is the same in every generation which has to ask: What personal, family or social situations provide a hard casing which must be cracked open? What is the smothering undergrowth which prevents our germination as fearless disciples?

Jesus himself felt smothered by the small-minded people of Nazareth to which He never returned. He warns that families and good friends can try to smother the spark He wishes to ignite.

We might pause for a moment to pray that the fiery Holy Spirit might enable us to become a stand of tall trees reaching for the Risen Son in all His glory.

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Our Lady of the Assumption Prayer

Mary, Queen assumed into heaven,
I rejoice that after years of heroic martyrdom
on earth, you have at last been taken to the
throne prepared for you in heaven
by the Holy Trinity.

Lift my heart with you in the glory of your
Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin
and impurity. Teach me how small earth
becomes when viewed from heaven.
Make me realize that death is the triumphant
gate through which I shall pass to your Son,
and that someday my body shall rejoin my
soul in the unending bliss of heaven.

From this earth, over which I tread as a
pilgrim, I look to you for help.
I ask for this favor: (Mention your request).

When my hour of death has come,
lead me safely to the presence of Jesus to
enjoy the vision of my God for all eternity
together with you.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

August 15, THE ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
August 20, ST Bernard

**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
Esteria, 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

Richard & Murney
Jesus Viana
Sebastian Hall
Cerelita Viana

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 6.30pm to 7.30pm. 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
Contact : Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361

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

Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary (Day of Obligation)
14th August (Sunday) English Vigil Mass 6pm
15th August (Monday) English Mass 9.15am & 7pm
15th August (Monday) Chinese Mass 8pm

Feast of St Monica
27th August (Saturday) English Mass 9.15am

St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Registration for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation will take place this weekend of 13th & 14th August after Saturday 5pm Mass and Sunday 9am Mass. Children who are baptized and is in year 3 or above is eligible to receive this sacrament. If you wish to register your child please bring in a copy of his/her baptism certificate and complete a registration form. A donation of \$30/- is payable (in cash or Tap & Go) at the time of registration. For any question/queries please email me at the above email.

Shanika Joseph - Sacramental Coordinator

SVDP WINTER APPEAL

Jesus said "The Poor will always be with us", perhaps the Man from Galilee was issuing us a challenge, a challenge to look after the most vulnerable of our Community. With World Economies in free fall and together with our own National disasters of Fire, Drought and Floods the demand for the Charitable Dollar seems relentless.

The Communities of St Monica's willingly and continually meet this challenge as evidenced in your wonderful donations of \$3,015 to our Winter Appeal which will be utilised to meet the needs of our most vulnerable.

On Behalf of SVDP 'Thank you'

20th/21st August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	S. Jacob M. Joseph	M. Novak D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	L. lemma A. Hernandez	S. Joseph B. Hooker	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton

Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera
Morning Tea	Regina Astorga & Sanchia Pinto
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David/Tibu Corera

Isn't that just your interpretation?

One of the delights of the worldwide fellowship that the Lord Jesus has created by his death and resurrection is to read the Bible with sisters and brothers from different cultures. Here, there is no Gentile or Jew, slave or free, Aussie or African, bogan or cool, but Christ is all and is in all. We may dance differently; we may not understand each other's language; yet we can enjoy a palpable unity. But there is also something unnerving about cross-cultural fellowship. For as we read the Bible together, we find ourselves understanding it differently. We read the same words, the same story, the same text. But what we see and how we understand it, depends on the cultural lenses we use to see the world. This can be exhilarating as we 'see' that there is more to the story than we have seen before. But it can also be unsettling: it raises difficult questions; questions like:

- Have my cultural lenses blinkered me from seeing the truth God has revealed?
- Is what I see in the text merely a small, insignificant part of the truth?
- Have I completely failed to understand what the text is about?

Although it can be unsettling, I think there is a solution. And God has already provided it in the Old Testament. In God's dealings with the nation of Israel (and the people connected to it), God created a distinct culture. Over a period of 2000 years he set about establishing, building and renovating a relationship with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. If culture is the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society, then it is clear Israel developed its own distinct culture during the period of her history covered by the Old Testament. And this culture was primarily shaped by God himself.

He redeemed Israel from slavery in Egypt and brought her to himself. He gave laws that regulated daily life in many aspects, both religiously and socially. He gave his people a home to inhabit where they could enjoy his bountiful provision. He sent prophets to correct them when they sought to create a different culture from the one God prescribed. If this is the case, then it should be clear that the primary culture we need to be concerned with is not our culture or other cultures from around the world but the culture God set up—the culture that forms the context of the Bible and Jesus. An example may help to explain the point. I was struck recently how the original Passover in Egypt contains the idea of substitutionary sacrifice as atonement for human sin. From one perspective, the killing of the Passover lamb was unnecessary—God had already demonstrated he was entirely competent to distinguish Israelites from Egyptians. But God made a huge deal of the Passover lamb, with detailed instructions about what, when, how, and what to do with the blood. Those instructions make it clear that, without the death of the lamb, the firstborn of Israel would have died under God's judgement—just like the Egyptian firstborns.

So God was creating a cultural symbol—an annual memorial that would enculturate the concepts into Israel's life. He was laying another stone in the foundation—developing a theme, that had already begun with Abraham's offering of his beloved Isaac, and which would keep coming on through the Day of Atonement. When we get to Jesus, we can see his death through this cultural lens. We aren't left to simply compare different interpretations. Nor are we left imprisoned by our own culture. To be enculturated in God's Old Testament culture is not an easy, instantaneous task. It takes thoughtful, extensive, intensive reading and meditation. And it can help to have friends from various cultures journey with us in the task. But it is a task that those who teach God's Word must undertake. And as we make progress in the task, our understanding of the Bible, especially of Jesus, will be built up and enriched. We will grow in confidence that we are seeing what God means us to see. And so, we will speak with greater confidence

-adapted from an article written by Tim Thorburn and published on the Gospel Coalition website

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!