

# 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"*

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

28TH AUGUST 2022

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.  
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of mercy to all who call to you.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Sir 3: 17 - 20, 28 - 29

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble. There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 67

**Response:** God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy.  
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;  
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. (R.)
2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,  
such is God in his holy place.  
God gives the lonely a home to live in;  
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. (R.)
3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain:  
when your people were starved you gave them new life.  
It was there that your people found a home,  
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Heb 12: 18 - 19, 22 - 24

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

*This is the word of the Lord*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you;  
learn from me, for I am  
gentle and lowly in heart.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 14: 1. 17 - 14

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,  
that you keep for those who fear you.

# 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

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## COMMENTARY

### Heaven Embossed Invitations

Hearing Our Lord's command: 'Invite the poor, the crippled, to the feast,' how do we respond as citizens of a nation which, in comparative global terms, is having a great feast? Jesus demands that we go well beyond an immigration policy which favours skilled and entrepreneurial people. They more than 'repay our courtesy' in terms of economic activity and social stability.

The majority of the poor and the crippled live in the subsistence villages, the refugee camps, and the squalor of the megacities of the Third World.

Heaven embossed invitations must be extended to such as those so that they may join in our national feast. Only then can we become the sort of people who, in the great Feast of Heaven, can join with those poor who are certain to be there.

We could pause for a moment to pray to put today's Gospel into effect so that we might hear Our Lord: 'Friend, join in the Feast. Be close to me.'

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### Holy Communion Prayer

We thank you, our Father, for that life which you have made known to us by Jesus your Son, by whom you made all things, and take care of the whole world.

You sent him to become man for our salvation.

You allowed him to suffer and to die.

You raised him up, glorified him, and have set him at your right hand, and in Him you have promised us the resurrection of the dead.

O Lord Almighty, eternal God, gather together your Church from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,

as grain was once scattered, and now has become one loaf.

Our Father, we also thank you for the precious blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed for us, and for his precious body, as Himself appointed us, "to proclaim his death."

For through him glory is to be given to you forever. Amen.

Source: *Apostolic Constitutions*

### FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

August 29, The Passion of John the Baptist  
September 3, St Gregory the Great

**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

Sabri Morgan

# 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.



## St. Monica's Sacraments

[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)

### Reconciliation Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Parent Meeting Via Zoom on Tuesday, 30th August at 7.00pm  
First Lesson Saturday, 3rd September at 4.00pm  
at the Parish Center.

For any question/queries please email me at the above email.  
*Shanika Joseph - Sacramental Coordinator*

### Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is cancelled on Thursday the 1st of September only.



Tap & Go is now available for donation for ongoing Church building maintenance fund. Machine is placed near the Statute of Saint Joseph. Envelopes are also available on the tables at the entrance to the Church if you wish to donate via cash/credit card.  
Your donation is greatly appreciated.



**Bishop's Father's Day Appeal for Retired and Sick Priests of our Diocese will be collected on the weekend of Saturday 3/Sunday 4 September.** Envelopes are available on the tables at the entrance to the Church from this weekend.

## 3rd/4th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	K. Handcock G. Basha	A. Espiritu B. McGettigan	V. Cruz M. Novak
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Samson M. Wilkinson	S. Joseph A. Hernandez	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock	Ian Goldthorpe	Adrian Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Julie Skulander/Marish Strong		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 5 - Peter & Kris Handcock		

# Youth Corner

## Relativism

This month in Youth Group, we kicked off our new cycle of sessions under the umbrella topic 'The Cafeteria is Closed.' Being the first month of this topic, we considered why exactly the cafeteria was closed, and what significance this had for us as Christians.

To begin with, the cafeteria in question isn't actually a real place. Rather, it refers to the idea that in a lot of cafeterias, you are free to pick and choose what foods you want to eat, and if you don't like something you can always just throw it away. However, when the cafeteria's closed, what you have is what you get – you are stuck with it and can't change. In a similar way, when you decide to become a Catholic, you don't get to pick and choose what you believe in. You either believe in all of it, or you believe in none of it. I know it seems like such a simple thing, but the 'cafeteria catholic' – someone who only believes in what is convenient to them – is a widespread phenomenon. With so much information available to us, courtesy of the internet, it can often be hard to know what's right and what's wrong. That, in turn, brings us to an important concept known as 'relativism.'

Relativism, simply put, is the idea that all truth, morality and knowledge is relative to cultural, historical and social context. Essentially – there is no objective source of morality, truth and knowledge, are defined relative to what society says. While at first, this may seem like a good thing, it is in direct opposition to our understanding of God – because God is absolute, and all morality, truth and knowledge are only revealed to us through him, and it was him who gave us the ability to perceive such things at the time of our creation.

When we base our morality on what society says, we are liable to be easily misled. One fairly recent example is the legalisation of abortion. Society says it is correct, however, we know that in condoning such procedures, you are accepting the accompanying loss of life. It is also important to note, however, that this doesn't mean all laws are so contradictory to our faith. As humans, we are given conscience and the ability to distinguish right from wrong, and even though we may sometimes fail to heed our conscience, the majority of our laws (such as those against stealing and murder) were made with the intent to do the morally right thing.

As humans, we aren't perfect and often we are led astray. The important thing is to know what you believe in, and to know where to get the relevant information from. Relativism may be a dangerous thing, but with surety in your faith, it shouldn't be much of an issue.

- Rashane

## 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!

### WYD Mid-Autumn Festival Mooncake Fundraiser

This year the WYD team will be making mooncakes to help raise funds for our trip to Lisbon next year! There will be two flavours available (sweet potato or red bean) sold in a box of 6 for \$20. Tickets will be on sale this Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> August) Thank you for all your support !