

# 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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

11TH SEPTEMBER 2022

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,  
that your prophets be found true.  
Hear the prayers of your servant,  
and of your people Israel.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

Ex 32: 7 - 11. 13 - 14

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried, "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 50

**Response:** I will rise and go to my father.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit;  
a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

1 Tim 1: 12 - 17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to St Luke

Lk 15: 1 - 32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it?



And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance. 'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

He also said, 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.'

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant, "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

# 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: <a href="mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com">stmonicanp@bigpond.com</a>

## St. Monica's School

School Principal: Lisa Crampton

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: [stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## COMMENTARY

### Sinners and Archery

Rule-obsessed Pharisees complained that Jesus 'welcomes sinners and eats with them'. So, who are 'sinners'? The word commonly used in the Gospels for sin is 'hamartia' which refers to an arrow falling short of the target.

Our target is sharing in the life of God, but we often miss the mark, falling short through laziness and negligence, sometimes by deliberately shooting the arrow of our life in the wrong direction. We need the forgiveness of God, expressed in the hospitality of Jesus Christ, to encourage us to aim better.

At every Mass, we are invited to share in the re-enactment of Jesus' expert drawing of the bow, letting fly and perfectly hitting the mark in his life, death, resurrection and ascension to heavenly glory.

We could pause for a moment to pray that Jesus may encourage and empower us to be the archers we are meant to be.

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## Episcopal Prayer

*Blessed Jesus,  
in the comfort of your love,  
I lay before you  
the memories  
that haunt me,  
the anxieties that perplex me,  
the despair that frightens me,  
and my frustrations  
at my inability  
to think clearly.  
Help me to discover  
your forgiveness  
in my memories  
and know your peace  
in my distress.  
Touch me, O Lord,  
and fill me  
with your light and hope.  
Amen*

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

September 13, St John Chrysostom  
September 14, THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS  
September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows  
September 16, Sts Cornelius & Cyprian

## 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

Manuel Frugone  
Joe Moses  
Louie & Julie Moses

# 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)  
**Sacrament of First Reconciliation**  
Lesson3 - Saturday, 17th September at 4.00pm  
Lesson 4 - Saturday, 22nd October at 4.00pm (after School break)  
For any question/queries please email me at the above email.  
*Shanika Joseph - Sacramental Coordinator*

**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.

**Thank you.** Our Parish raised \$3671.55 for The Bishop's Father's Day Appeal.

**Home Rosary**  
You can invite our Parish Priest to your home and pray the Rosary with your family in the afternoons or nights of the weekday of October. You can call (or leave a voice message) at the Parish Office (02 9630 1951), or send an email to [mother.of.god.st.monica@gmail.com](mailto:mother.of.god.st.monica@gmail.com). Please leave your name, contact number, address and your preferred date.



**The Parable of the Prodigal Son**

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is probably a story told by Jesus that Catholics have heard many times. It's easy to like the story, because, in one sense, it is an uplifting story that shows how God is so willing and gracious enough to forgive sinners who have strayed from the path of holiness. When Jesus says in Luke 15:7 that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner that does repent over ninety-nine just souls, people may think that Jesus is encouraging sinners' repentance, because it is valued and prized by God. But the story of the Prodigal Son is not just about repentant sinners. It is also about people who believe in the idea that people should receive what they deserve and feel resentment when this idea is challenged when people are seemingly rewarded for their wrongdoing through forgiveness. In the parable, the elder son of the father exemplifies this resentment because he complains that he has served his father for many years yet he has never been rewarded for his service with a party, yet the profligate younger brother is rewarded with a feast. In a sense, the elder brother shows an attitude that reflects the attitudes of the pharisees and scribes, who are somewhat critical of Jesus being open to personal interactions with sinners and dining with sinners. The pharisees and scribes believe that sinners do not deserve the respectability of even being acknowledged or reached out to because of the type of people that they are.

So doesn't God care about giving justice? Yes, of course God does. Jesus is very clear that people will be judged by God on their actions. In Matthew 25:32-46, Jesus says he will separate the righteous people from the unrighteous. Some people will be judged to be worthy of entering God's kingdom because they showed compassion to people in their lives, while people who showed indifference to other people's hardships will be cast away. So the judgement of souls will come, but that is only one aspect of God's plan. God wants people to be ready to face His judgement. It is important for people who believe that everyone should get what they deserve to remember that everyone is a sinner. People may be sinners in different respects and in different magnitudes. And some people may also have virtues, such as righteousness and a sense of duty, but personal virtues do not, by themselves, blot out sin. The fact that all people are sinners means that everyone will need the mercy and grace of God, the mercy and grace that forgives remorseful people's wrongdoing and overlooks their mistakes. If God was merely just and not merciful, then no one would be deserving to enter God's kingdom because of their sins, and Jesus would not have been sent down to earth to atone for the sins of others. It is part of the human condition to stray from holiness and righteousness or be tempted to stray. It's easy to think that we would never be as reckless as the Prodigal Son, and perhaps that is true, but you don't need to be as reckless as the prodigal son to be prone to stray from God's standards, which demand moral perfection. God's mercy is important because it helps put people on the path to righteousness, helps people return to the right path and ultimately attain salvation, in the same way the father's forgiveness of the prodigal son helps the son return to the family.

- Rachel

## 17th/18th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	J. Whippy M. Whippy	B. Hooker M. Falamich	V. Cruz D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma M. Woolridge	J. Skulander S. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	Adrian Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Regina Astorga/Sanchia Pinto		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser/Brigid McGettigan		

## 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 😊 In September we will be looking at Saints, led by Charlotte and Brian! 😊

**WYD Mid-Autumn Festival Mooncake Fundraiser**  
Thank you to everyone who came to buy a box of mooncakes and supported us over the past 2 weeks! We hope you enjoyed them, and had a wonderful Mid-Autumn festival 😊 For those who are picking up today, we will be outside the church with your mooncakes .