

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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

18TH SEPTEMBER 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Amos

Am 8: 4 - 7

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?

Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'

The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 112

Response: Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore! (R.)
2. High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth? (R.)
3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people. (R.)

SECOND READING

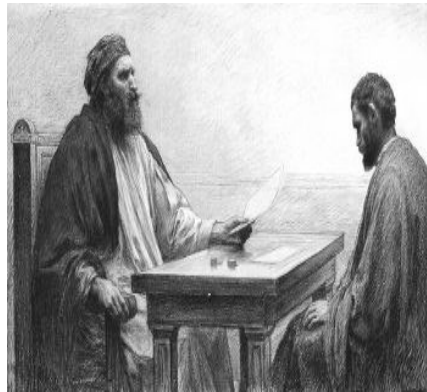
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

1 Tim 2: 1 - 8

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone - petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving - and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and - I am telling the truth and no lie - a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich
but he became poor,
to make you rich out of
his poverty.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 16: 1 - 13

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

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

Reversal of Fortunes

Jesus, surprisingly, found something appealing about this steward who was in the rapacious lending business. What was it? Faced with the news that he was about to lose his position, his catastrophic reversal of fortune, he cut a deal with his debtors to help secure his future. Jesus gave him full marks for being astute and shrewd.

Jesus laments the fact that many of his followers, 'children of the light,' are not as smart in the face of the Great Reversal – which He is inaugurating in which 'the hungry will be filled with good things and the rich sent empty away' (Mary's *Magnificat*).

We should be using our money ('mammon') to alleviate the myriad hungers of the world, not to buy our way into Heaven, but so that we become the sort of person who will be able to enjoy the heavenly companionship of those who hungered.

We could take a moment to pause and take stock of the use of our resources which are *passing*, so that we may be received into the *eternal* habitation.

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A special Mass will be said on
22nd September 2022,
Thursday, at 9:15am,
for the eternal rest of
the late Queen.

Prayers for the repose of the soul of Queen Elizabeth II

*Almighty God,
You are the author and sustainer
of all human life;
grant that your servant,
Elizabeth our Queen,
whom you granted a long and happy
reign as Monarch of these lands
may be forgiven her sins and
rewarded with that eternal life
promised to all those born again
in the water of baptism and
power of your Spirit.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, Who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
God, forever and ever,
Amen.*

*Eternal rest, grant to her O Lord,
And let Perpetual light shine upon
her. May she rest in peace.
Amen.*

*May her soul, and the souls of
all the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen*

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

September 20, Sts Andrew Kim
Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang &
Companions

September 21, ST MATTHEW,
APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

September 23, St Pius of Pietreicima
(Padre Pio)

**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

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

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Reconciliation

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.

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. Please leave your name, contact number, address and your preferred date.



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Catholic Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of September 8, nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne. The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church.

These accounts, although not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about the birth of Mary. The "Protoevangelium of James," which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Mary's father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac."

Joachim and Anne began to devote themselves extensively and rigorously to prayer and fasting, initially wondering whether their inability to conceive a child might signify God's displeasure with them. As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah, as an angel revealed to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth, and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world." After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium of James, Anne "made a sanctuary" in the infant girl's room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean" on account of the special holiness of the child. The same writing records that when she was one year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel." "And Joachim brought the child to the priests," the account continues, "and they blessed her, saying: 'O God of our fathers, bless this child, and give her an everlasting name to be named in all generations' . . . And he brought her to the chief priests, and they blessed her, saying: 'O God most high, look upon this child, and bless her with the utmost blessing, which shall be for ever.'"

The protoevangelium goes on to describe how Mary's parents, along with the temple priests, subsequently decided that she would be offered to God as a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life, and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph. Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said. The fourth-century bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church's understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed.

Catholic News Agency

24th/25th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell K. Handcock	S. Joseph S. Jacob	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight K. Handcock	A. Falamich B. Hooker	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Rashane Joseph	John Hilton

Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera
Morning Tea	Abby Liu & Pyra Family
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David/Tibu Corera

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 Vocation, led by Cheryl and Gabriel! 😊