

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"

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - MISSION SUNDAY - YEAR C 23RD OCTOBER 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Sir 35: 12 -14, 16 -18

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds.

The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.

And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress. (R.)
3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

2 Tim 4 : 6 - 8, 16 - 18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defense, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that

through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

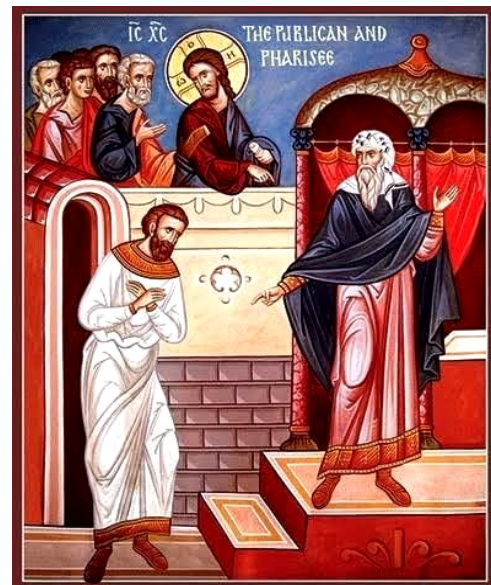
This is the word of the Lord

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 18 : 9 - 14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

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

Standing in the Humus of Life

This parable begins 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray'. But only one of them actually prayed: 'God be merciful to me, a sinner'. The other informs God how well he is doing in the piety stakes. Notice that he strings together a whole lot of verbs, all in the first person singular! This means he is in mortal danger of staying in the first person singular after death, which is Hellish.

The other is said to be 'humble'. I like the English companion word: 'humus'. He is well-grounded, knows where he is standing, sometimes in the manure of life.

It takes courage and humility to admit to God exactly where we stand. We can do so in Confession, or less formally simply praying: 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'.

We could pause for a moment to humbly pray so that we may hope to hear Our Lord say: 'This woman, this man, this boy, this girl, went home at rights with God.'

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Prayer of Gratitude

*Precious Jesus,
in You and through faith in You,
I may approach You
with freedom and confidence!
Jesus, I thank You
for allowing me to do so,
even though I am unworthy
and undeserving of Your presence.
Thank You for allowing me
to come to God.
Thank You for always
hearing the cries of my heart.
Show me how to be as faithful
to You as You have been to me.
I trust You with all my heart,
soul and mind.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Source: Natalie Regoli

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

October 28, STS SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES

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

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
Lesson 5 - Saturday, 29th October at 4.00pm
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.

Bible Brekkie Every FIRST and LAST Sunday of the month, 10.15am - 11am, at the Blue Room. Fr. Ephraim will talk about interesting topics from the Bible. All are welcome.

Catholic Mission Collection will be taken this weekend (22nd/23rd of October) to help with their ongoing support toward the most in need. Envelopes for credit card donations are on the pews. Please place cash donations directly in the special basket provided.
All donations above \$2/- is tax-deductible.

Special Masses:

ALL Saints Day
1st November
English Mass 9:15am, 7pm
Chinese Mass: 8pm

ALL Souls Day
2nd November
English Mass 9:15am, 7pm
Chinese Mass: 8pm

29th/30th October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha A. Hernandez	M. Falamich C. Cheung	V. Cruz D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson M. Wilkinson	B. Hooker A. Hernandez	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Nishan Joseph	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
Morning Tea	Julie Skulander/Maris Strong		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

Gospel Reflection for 23rd October- 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The opening line of the first reading this Sunday sets the tone and theme for the Gospel that follows. We are told that the Lord is no respecter of personages. He shows no (more) respect of personages to the detriment of the poor. A personage is a dignitary, a VIP, or as we might say today a celebrity. All are equal in the eyes and heart of God. However, there are times in our lives that we think of ourselves as being better than we actually are. Or more to the point, we look down on others and tell ourselves we are better than they are. This is the context of our gospel this Sunday.

Two men go to the Temple to pray. One is a Pharisee the other is a tax collector. The Pharisees were the keepers of the Jewish Law and generally thought of themselves as being superior to everyone else. Tax collectors were Jews who collected money for the Romans from other Jews. There were hated and despised, especially by their own people. There were seen as sinners and outcasts. Yet both of these men from very different backgrounds come to the temple to pray. The Pharisee walks to the front and proudly presents himself in prayer. Or so he thinks. We read that he stood there and said this prayer to himself. This is his first mistake. He is not praying to God he is talking to himself! He is telling himself how great and wonderful he is, while casting an eye towards the tax collector, whom he criticises and condemns. The tax collector on the other hand stood some distance away, not even daring to raise his eyes to heaven. He prayer is honest, humble and heartfelt; 'God, have mercy on me a sinner'. Using today's language, he might have said, Lord, it's me and I am sorry. He knows he is a sinner, yet he also knows that God is God of mercy. He knows deeply in his heart that he is a loved sinner.

As we continue our journey through this Year Mercy, we can draw great strength from this humble and honest tax collector. His recognition that he is a sinner is not a sign of weakness but a sign of faith and confidence in God who loves and forgives him. There is no fear or guilt in him. He comes before God freely in confidence as he presents himself to God in humility. He knows in faith that he will be received warmly and forgiven. Today we are asked to come before God with this attitude. We are asked to come to God in prayer in humility. We are invited to come before God without fear while being honest with ourselves and being honest with God. As Thomas Merton reminds us, 'pride makes us artificial, humility makes us real.'

- Michael Moore from The Oblates

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 😊 This month we are still looking at Vocation, led by Cheryl and Gabriel, and in November we will be starting a new topic- Eternal life (life after death) with Rashane and Adrian

WYD Bake Sale Fundraiser

Next Sunday (30th October) the WYD team will be holding a bake sale to continue to raise funds for our pilgrimage in 2023! We will be outside the church with our baked goods so feel free to drop by- thanks in advance for all your support 😊