

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"

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

30TH OCTOBER 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis 11 : 22 -12 : 2

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground. Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it. And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you? You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life, you whose imperishable spirit is in all. Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.
This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144

Response: I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. (R.)
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 2 Thes 1 : 11 - 22

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord

Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 19 : 1 - 10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

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

Over the Top

Zacchaeus was an over-the-top character, not only figuratively but, in this incident, quite literally up in a sycamore tree. He thought he was keeping an eye out for Jesus, but Jesus was keeping an eye out for his sort of character!

'Zacchaeus' means 'clean'. But his fellow Jews regarded him as a filthy collaborator with the Romans. However, Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus in a double perspective, not only as he was but as he could become if only he responded to the grace on offer. He did, and the response was truly 'over the top'!

We come to Mass to catch a glimpse of Jesus in the scriptures and sacrament. But, we find that our Risen Lord is constantly gazing at us. He is the Divine Seer who sees us as we are, but also as we are capable of becoming.

We could pause for a moment to pray to become more conscious of the gaze of the Divine Seer. There could be 'over-the-top' consequences!

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Prayer for Grace

*All-Powerful Father,
I bow before You
because You are awesome
and worthy of all the praise.
Your word declares
that I can do all things
through You who strengthens me!
I put all my trust in You.
You alone are my God.
You alone are my joy.
You are my heart and my soul.
You are the grass under my feet
and the sky above.
You are seen and unseen,
Father. Keep me
at Your right hand forever,
fill me with Your grace,
and make me Yours
all the days of my life.*

Amen.

Source: Natalie Regoli

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS


November 1st, ALL SAINTS
November 2, THE COMMEMORATION
OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
November 4, St Charles Borromeo

**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
Ester, 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 ACTIVITIES


 **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

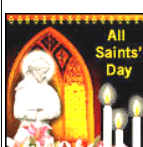
 **Sacrament of First Reconciliation**
Lesson 6 - Saturday, 5th November at 4.00pm
For any question/queries please email me at the above email.
Shanika Joseph - Sacramental Coordinator


 Tap & Go is now available for donation for ongoing Church
building maintenance fund. Machine is placed near the
Statue 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.

 **'Thank you'** Last weekend our parish raised
\$ 1572.55 from cash donations and envelopes for
the **Catholic Mission**. Your generous support is
greatly appreciated.

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

5th/6th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	M. Whippy J. Whippy	S. Jacob S. Joseph	W. Sassine M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley K. Handcock	S. Joseph B. Hooker	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorpe	John Hilton

Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy
Morning Tea	Angela & Michael Falamich
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney

Youth Corner

How do we know that Jesus' return will change us if we don't know when it will be?

The return of Jesus is the blessed hope that trains us to renounce ungodliness (Titus 2:11–14) and motivates us to purify our hearts (1 John 3:2–3). It strengthens us to cry out against injustice (James 5:1–8) and assures us God is faithful even when the people we minister to are not (1 Cor. 1:4–9). The references to Jesus's appearing that saturate the New Testament letters make it clear that hope is fuel, and our longing to see Jesus face-to-face can empower endurance through the fiercest challenges.

This raises the question: How do we hope fully in Jesus's appearing (1 Pet. 1:13) when we don't know when it'll happen? It's one thing to have a date set so the timer is ticking and we can pace our excitement like kids counting down to Christmas Day. But how do we obey Jesus's command to "Be alert!" when he also tells us that "concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only" (Matt. 24:36)? How do we nurture anticipation of that Day without any certainty it'll come in our lifetime?

Our longing to see Jesus face-to-face can empower endurance through the fiercest challenges. This can be seen in the life of the apostle Paul. In the 10 years between writing 1 Thessalonians and Philippians, Paul experienced many of the persecutions and near-death experiences recorded in the later chapters of Acts: beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, imprisonments, and the incitement of more than one riot. All the while, Jesus is still in heaven and Paul is still on earth, suffering for his sake. However, in Philippians 1, Paul grapples with the fact that he may be executed and, consequently, see Jesus in heaven before his coming. Yet that doesn't stop Paul from writing, in Philippians 3, that "our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself" (Phil. 3:20–21). He awaited the Savior's return regardless of his situation. Indeed, by the time Paul wrote his final letter, death was no longer just a possibility but an imminent inevitability. In 2 Timothy 4:6–7 he declared his famous valedictory, "The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

In this final season of life, his sights remained set on the coming of his Savior as he anticipated receiving the crown of righteousness. To the death, Paul loved Jesus's appearing. He could approach his death with such confidence because this hope had propelled Paul to a faithful life with and for Jesus. In 1 Thessalonians, Paul imagines presenting these new believers as his "crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming" (1 Thess. 2:19). All the long hours of teaching, modeling, correcting, and encouraging would be worth it when he says, "Here they are, Jesus! I did what you told me to do!" Indeed, even when Paul knew his death would predate Jesus's return, his yearning to be with Christ drove his ministry to those believers.

This kind of hope can fuel your life and ministry as well. If you get impatient with immature believers, if you feel the brokenness of this world in your own body, if you face afflictions because of your stand for Christ, Paul serves as a model for how a full hope in Jesus can fuel your perseverance through those difficulties. Even if Jesus comes back the day after you die, your yearning to see him face-to-face right now can give you the long strides needed for faithfulness to the end.

Adapted from Gospel Coalition

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 will be looking at Vocation, led by Cheryl and Gabriel!

WYD Bake Sale Fundraiser - Today 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 😊