

# 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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

06TH NOVEMBER 2022

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

2 Mc 7 : 1-2, 9- 4

There were seven brothers who were arrested with their mother. The king tried to force them to taste pig's flesh, which the Law forbids, by torturing them with whips and scourges. One of them, acting as spokesman for the others, said, 'What are you trying to find out from us? We are prepared to die rather than break the Law of our ancestors.' With his last breath the second brother exclaimed, 'Inhuman fiend, you may discharge us from this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up, since it is for his laws that we die, to live again for ever.'

After him, they amused themselves with the third, who on being asked for his tongue promptly thrust it out and held out his hands, with these honourable words, 'It was heaven that gave me these limbs; for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him I hope to receive them again.' The king and his attendants were astounded at the young man's courage and his utter indifference to suffering.

When this one was dead they subjected the fourth to the same savage torture. When he neared his end he cried, 'Ours is the better choice, to meet death at men's hands, yet relying on God's promise that we shall be raised up by him; whereas for you there can be no resurrection, no new life.'

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 16

**Response:** Lord, when your glory appears,  
my joy will be full.

1. Lord, hear a cause that is just,  
pay heed to my cry.  
Turn your ear to my prayer:  
no deceit is on my lips. (R.)
2. I keep my feet firmly in your paths;  
there was no faltering in my steps.  
I am here and I call, you will hear me, O God.  
Turn your ear to me; hear my words. (R.)
3. Guard me as the apple of your eye.  
Hide me in the shadow of your wings.  
As for me, in my justice I shall see your face  
and be filled, when I awake,  
with the sight of your glory. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the  
Thessalonians 2 Thes 2 : 16 - 3:5

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who has given us his love and, through his grace, such inexhaustible comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.

Finally, brothers, pray for us; pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly, and be received with honour as it was among you; and pray that we may be preserved from the interference of bigoted and evil people, for faith is not

given to everyone. But the Lord is faithful, and he will give you strength and guard you from the evil one, and we, in the Lord, have every confidence that you are doing and will go on doing all that we tell you. May the Lord turn your hearts towards the love of God and the fortitude of Christ.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL

### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;  
glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 20 : 27 - 38

Some Sadducees - those who say that there is no resurrection - approached Jesus and they put this question to him, 'Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?'

Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,  
near restful waters he leads me.

# 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

Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## COMMENTARY

### Billy Elliott and the Resurrection

Billy Elliott was a boy brought up in a strife-torn mining town in the north of England. He discovered a passion for dancing. At an interview at the Royal Ballet School which was going badly, he was asked: 'What do you feel when you're dancing?'

'I've got fire in my body.' And he got the scholarship because the panel realised that when Billy danced, he became 'fully alive': bodymindspirit fully integrated. When Billy danced, everything that Billy was, was dancing.

That is what our Resurrection is all about. Our whole personality will be dancing with the radiance of Divine Fire coursing through our bodymindspirit. The Sadducees' small-minded sarcasm could not grasp that we will be bodies transfigured, translucent to divine light and energy.

We could take a moment to pray that, by the grace of God, our bodies will dance, enflamed by Divine Love.

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### Prayer for Strength

*O Lord, Mighty in Power,  
You say that I should have faith in You  
so that I will be upheld.*

*I do, Mighty Lord.*

*I place all my faith in You.*

*You strengthen me.*

*Your holy force keeps my spirit alive  
and burning fiercely for You.*

*I know that with You*

*I can overcome anything.*

*Thank You for remaining faithful  
to Your chosen people.*

*Thank You for guiding me in my life  
and helping me to become  
a vessel for Your will.*

*I pray that I continue  
to put my faith and trust in You  
because You know all things.*

*You know what the hearts  
of Your people need,  
and I know You will help me through  
whatever this life brings.*

*Amen.*

Source: Natalie Regoli

### FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

November 6, THE DEDICATION OF THE  
LATERAN BASILICA  
November 10, ST Leo the Great  
November 11, St Martin of Tours  
November 12, St Josaphat

**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

Please refer to the notice  
board at the entrance..

# 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**  
29 Candidates from our Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation during this coming week. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

**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.

**Write the WORD 2022-2024**  
To anticipate the celebration of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this parish, everyone is invited to join in "Write the WORD" to increase our familiarity of the Holy Scripture. For details you can take a leaflet at the main entrances of the church, or call the Parish Office (9630 1951), or send an email to [write.the.word.2024@gmail.com](mailto:write.the.word.2024@gmail.com)

## 12th/13th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Maxwell A. Hernandez	J. Jacob J. Pinto	V. Cruz D. Llevado
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Wilkinson J. Knight	J. Skulander J. Cruz	
<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 5 - Peter & Kris Handcock		

## Visions of Heaven

In this week's Gospel we are told a little of what Heaven is like, specifically that ***in Heaven those there neither marry nor are given in marriage; they cannot die and they are like angels.*** To put this into context, we must remember that Jesus is commenting in response to the Sadducees' question on what happens to a woman who was married to seven brothers. Their intention isn't so much to know the real answer but rather to challenge Jesus' teaching on the resurrection. When Jesus speaks of there being no new marriages in Heaven, we should not conclude therefore that it also means that marriages on earth will have no meaning in Heaven; rather, we know that in Heaven we will enjoy perfected union with God and with each other, and surely the married will enjoy this perfection even far greater than what was experienced on earth.

So what else is there that we know from Heaven? Many saints in history had visions of Heaven, and have told us some things: **The Beatific Vision** –Heaven bathed in indescribable light. A Carmelite mystic named St Mary of Jesus Crucified experienced a vision of Heaven after she suffered a vicious cut to her throat. An apparition of the Virgin Mary treated her wound, and she found herself in Heaven with the Blessed Virgin, the angels and saints her parents and the Most Holy Trinity sitting upon the throne. She said "There was no sun, no lamp, but everything was bright with indescribable light." In this place, we are able to behold God himself, who shines with light which we cannot endure currently in our human bodies.

**The Glorified Body** – "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Mt 13:43). The Bible mentions the heavenly body we will receive in many places. St Thomas Aquinas describes characteristics of the glorified body in Heaven which theologians have narrowed to 4 main characteristics, namely 1) Impassibility - incapable of physical pain, corruption or death, and no need for physical food 2) Subtlety - the laws of material nature will not apply – we will be able to pass through other bodies, walk through walls etc 3) Agility – your body is obedient to your soul and will have the ability to go wherever we desire 4) Clarity – the glorified body is restored from your earthly body and is filled with the light of Jesus as glimpsed at the transfiguration. In this state we will be able to see God when He would otherwise be unapproachable.

**Flowers, Meadows, Rivers.** – "Today you will be with me in Paradise" (Lk 23:43). Paradise derives from the Persian word meaning 'enclosed park'. St. Anna Schaffer, who many mystical experiences to do with paradise, once saw a marvelous garden full of flowers. She said "Yes, there are also meadows and forests, rivers and mountains, homes and buildings, but everything is transparent and spiritualized, while here on earth everything is tainted."

These are just glimpses of Heaven. At the end of the day, "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, what things God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Cor. 2:9). But we can be sure that Heaven is a place of beauty where we can be closest to He who loves us dearly.

- Abby

## 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 November we will be starting a new topic- Eternal life (life after death) with Rashane and Adrian!