

# 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR C

13TH NOVEMBER 2022

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Malachi

Mal 3 : 19 - 20

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97

**Response:** The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

1. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)
2. Let the sea and all within it, thunder; the world, and all its peoples.  
Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord. (R.)
3. For the Lord comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.  
He will rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the

Thessalonians 2 Thes 3 : 7 - 12

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see;  
your redemption is near at hand.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke

Lk 21 : 5 - 19

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness,  
to place my hope in God the Lord.

# 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

### The Sun of Righteousness

Our prayer can tell us a lot about the image of God we really have – holding a parking spot for us, or stopping rain on the second day of the Australian Open. But, if you were in Syria, your prayerful image of God would be as a Liberator from warfare, of a Saviour from Crimes against Humanity, of a Strengthener in time of torture and impending death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises his persecuted followers of every age, 'Your endurance will win your lives'. As Malachi prophesied: 'the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays'.

It is our faith that, out of the darkness of the tomb, the Son of righteousness did rise with healing in His rays, bathing the world with that light which makes the world habitable for human beings.

We could take a moment to pray for contemporary persecuted Christians that their faithful endurance will win their lives.

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### Prayer for Steadfast Faith

Lord God, heavenly Father,  
we are poor, miserable sinners.

We know your will,  
but we are too weak to fulfill it.  
Our flesh and blood hold us back,  
and our enemy the devil  
will not leave us in peace.

Pour your Holy Spirit in our hearts,  
that with steadfast faith  
we may cling to  
your Son Jesus Christ,  
find comfort in his passion and death,  
believe the forgiveness of sin  
through him and in willing  
obedience to your will  
lead holy lives on earth  
until by your grace  
we depart from this world of sorrow  
and obtain eternal life;  
through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one true God,  
now and forever.

Amen.

### FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

November 17, St Elizabeth of Hungary


**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

*Nan Ryan  
Margaret Knox*

# 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.

 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**  
Last session for this year will be on the 27th of  
November - 10.15am to 11am, at the Blue Room.  
Bible Brekkie will recommence for the new year  
in February 2023.

## 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)

## 19th/20th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	A. Hernandez K. Handcock	M. Joseph S. Younes	M. Novak D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	A. Hernandez L. Iemma	A. Falamich B. Hooker	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Patrick Senjak	Rashane Joseph	Adrian Cheung

**Cleaning** Group 2 - Vera

**Morning Tea** Abby Liu & Payra Family

**Counting** Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra

# Youth Corner

## What the Bible says about social media

The Bible is the true story behind what we believe, the primary way we learn about God's character, and a guide on how to live. Unfortunately, it doesn't talk directly about using social media, something many of us wish we had a guidebook for. It does, however, tell us how we should comport ourselves, how we should treat others, and how to reflect Christ into the world. While Instagram is never mentioned in the Bible, all of these things apply to how we create, consume, and interact on social media.

Christ tells us we're the salt and light here on earth (Matt. 5:13–16). But, as those verses also say, salt that has lost its taste is worthless, and a light is meant to be used, not hidden. Similarly, our social media profiles and interactions should shine Christ's light into the lives of others as well as increase its strength in our own lives and preserve our saltiness. One important way we can do this is by following Paul's command in Philippians 4:8 to think of things that are true, honourable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise. More importantly, we should learn to love others- and the Bible encourages us to do so throughout (Matt. 5:43–48; Rom. 13:8–10; John 13:34). In fact, Romans 13:8 says someone who has loved others has fulfilled the law. This command is the backbone of many of the points made in Philippians 4:8, which is why I think it's the first command we should consider in relation to social media.

If we truly love others, we'll want to be sure what we're sharing with them is true. We'll want to cheer on justice, and we'll want to encourage and bolster others when they've done something commendable.

Love will also help us have honourable interactions with those we disagree with. It won't stop us from disagreeing, but it'll help us do so in a loving manner because we know the person on the other side of the screen is more than just a username—she's a human being made in God's image.

The Bible calls us to be lovers of the truth (Eph. 6:14). Because of how the algorithm works, many people are trying to create content that followers will be quick to share. Truth isn't always what matters to them, it's about catching people's attention so they share the content. It's easy to fall into this trap of seeing and sharing without fact checking. But as Christians, we should use wisdom.

We need to think critically about the posts crossing our feeds. Before sharing a rant assuming something you disagree with is false, do your research. Before sharing something you like because it affirms your stance on something, make sure it's true. Spreading misinformation won't further your view—if anything, it will alienate people who disagree with you. Promoting truth also closely ties into the importance of promoting justice. We live in an upside-down world, where sin is championed and goodness offends. While we don't need to share our opinions on every issue, we shouldn't choose silence out of fear. We're instructed to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15); this includes standing for God's justice by calling out sin. It's more loving to condemn sin than to silently watch it consume the world because you're afraid of offending others. We shouldn't shy away from acknowledging darkness, but we should be cautious about how much we allow into our feeds. We all have different levels of darkness we can handle before we need to resurface for air, and we should be sensitive to others' limits (1 Cor. 8). Maybe you're passionate about raising awareness of hard topics like eating disorders, human trafficking, or suicide. Those topics, while important to discuss, are distressing to certain people, and we can respect that by offering warnings and posting thoughtfully. If an account is continually upsetting to someone, she should unfollow it, but we can take steps to protect those who come across our posts.

Finally, we should be a light on a personal level. This includes building others up when they've done something truly good. Is your friend taking a stand against evil, despite the negative feedback he'll receive? Stand by him. Is your friend sharing something difficult from her life to bring glory to God? Encourage her. Is your friend running an account dedicated to sharing his faith? Support him through likes, comments, and shares. If we want to see more good on social media, we need to encourage it.

*-adapted from an article by Rae Tosh,  
published on the Gospel Coalition website.*

## 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!