

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"

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

27TH NOVEMBER 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 2 : 1 - 5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 121

Response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' (R.)
4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 13 : 11 - 14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

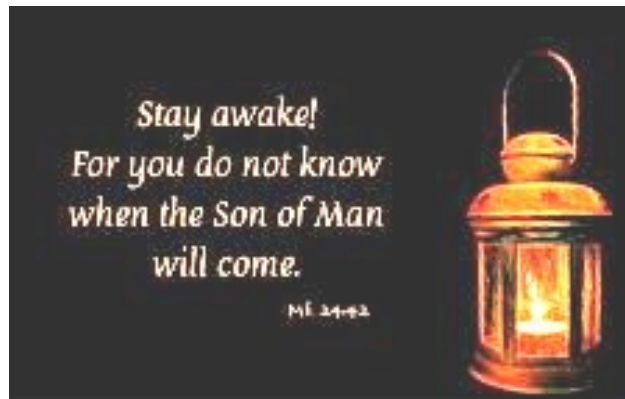
This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Mt 24 : 37 - 44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

Wake up to the Poetry

Our Lord loved to unfurl the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah in his local synagogue. The poetic image of swords being hammered into ploughshares reverberated into his renouncing violence against the Roman occupying army in his own time. When will this picture come true for all human beings for all time?

Only *God* knows! We don't know any more than we know when a burglar might target our home. But our ignorance of God's timetable is no excuse for being fatalistic and sleepy. We have our own span of life providing the timetable for our own contribution to the hammering of swords into ploughshares.

Recent Popes, especially St John Paul II, have taken up this theme for our times, teaching more restrictive criteria for using armed force, even dropping the term 'just war' to very small print in the Catechism.

We could pause for a moment to pray to be awake to our opportunities to shape society in the light of the vision of Isaiah and the practice of Jesus the Prince of Peace.

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A prayer of **Hope**
for the First week of
Advent

O' Lord, as we enter this season of Advent,
this time of waiting and anticipation,
fill me with the hope of Christ.

Help me to wait in great expectation for
your great light to shine in this world,
for all who are living in darkness
to see the dawning of your light.

This world can be so dark,
so troubling, so full of despair,
yet you are light and love.

May your light fill
all the darkest corners of this world,
and all the darkest corners of my heart.

May your love conquer
all despair and hate,
leading us all to a better life in you.

This is the hope of Christmas,
that the birth of a baby - Jesus Christ,
your Son - will change the world,
and will work a change in my own life.

Lord, I pray to be filled with this hope
that light will triumph over darkness,
love will conquer evil,
and Jesus will save us all.

I pray this through your Son Jesus Christ,
Amen.

Source: *Prayer + Possibilities with Kathryn Shirey*

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

November 30, ST ANDREW, APOSTLE
December 3, St Francis Xavier

**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

 **St Monica's Art Group**
Final workshop for 2022 is 3rd December.
Workshops resume on the 4th of February 2023.
Contact : Vera (WhatsApp 0402936947).

 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.

Write the WORD 2022-2024
To anticipate the celebration of the 130th 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

 **Bishop's Christmas Appeal** - will take place this weekend (26th/27th November). Please **scan the QR code on the posters** at the entrances to donate. You may also use the limited supply of envelopes available to donate via credit card. Alternately you can place cash directly in the special basket that is provided. Donations over \$2/- are tax deductible.

Church Closed on 1st & 2nd December 2022
Father Ephraim will be away on a retreat and St. Monica's Church will be closed on 1st & 2nd December (Thursday & Friday). All Masses and liturgies will be cancelled on these days. Church re-opens on 3rd December 2022 (Saturday)

 **Christmas Concert (with light dinner)**
Date : 10th December 2022 (Sat)
Venue : Hall
Dinner: 6:30pm. Light dinner will be served by our Youth Group.
Tickets \$15 (all gains will support them to go to WYD 2023). Concert: 7:30pm. Different singing groups (including Fr Ephraim) will perform various kinds of Christmas songs.
Dinner tickets are available at all Masses today and on 3rd, 4th December.
Enquiries: Rebecca Cheung 0449 055 395

03rd/04th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock G. Basha	A. Espiritu P. Fleming	V. Cruz M. Novak
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma A. Bentley	A. Falamich S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
Morning Tea	Angela & Michael Falamich		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

Going on holidays

As the holidays approach, one question sometimes raised is what does Christianity say about going on vacation and relaxing? Strictly speaking, it's difficult to find examples of believers going on "vacation" in the Bible. Paul took trips, but the missionary journeys were hardly relaxing. Jesus got away for prayer and spiritual refreshment, but those were more like spiritual retreats than modern vacations. And David once ignored his military duties in order to spend his afternoons relaxing (2 Samuel 11:2), but that led to his committing adultery and murder—hardly a positive biblical instance of vacation.

Still, Scripture provides a basis for times of rejuvenation. For one, God built cycles of rest into the order to the creation, marking one day each week to be spent away from work. Beyond that, annual festivals on the Jewish calendar provided for extended rest and recreation. The author of Ecclesiastes rightly called his readers to the pleasures of life: "Go, eat your bread in joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do" (Ecclesiastes 9:7). The Lord has sanctioned recreation; there is no need to feel guilty for times focused on enjoyment—this is part of God's plan.

When considering vacation plans though, one issue should rise to the top of a Christian's mind: am I going on vacation simply to avoid work or to rejuvenate for work? Only the latter is a godly motivation for time away. Scripture portrays work as dignified, a part of God's good creation before the fall, and no one should avoid it. God Himself is portrayed as a worker (Genesis 1), planning, deciding, ordering, doing, and evaluating repeatedly in creating the world. Indeed, He continues to work throughout history and is constantly working even today (John 5:17). In that vein, the Fourth Commandment prescribes six days of diligent work each week. Just as it is wrong for a Christian to hate God's other commands, it is a sin to seek a vacation out of disdain for work.

Rather than thinking of time away as vacation (a cognate of "vacant"), perhaps we should reclaim the term "holiday" (from "holy day"). The emphasis should fall on spiritual reorientation and refreshment in order to tackle our work "as unto the Lord" when we return.

Unfortunately, many have lost this sense of purpose in their rest. By their standard, the more rest the merrier—avoid as much work as possible with trips to the beach, the amusement park, and the resort. But for the God-called servant, there is a different path. We enjoy boats, golf, camping, and explorations of exotic destinations, just like our non-believing peers. Yet our rest has a purpose: it's rest in order to work.

-Adapted from Biblemesh

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 😊 Next month we will be starting a new topic- Social justice and relativism with Rebecca and Rachel!

Christmas Party

We will be having a Christmas Party on the 19th December (Monday) at 6:30PM in the hall to celebrate the end of another year 😊 All are welcome!