

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"



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

18TH DECEMBER 2022

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 7 : 10 - 14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23

Response: Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 1 : 1 - 7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these

nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Mt 1 : 18 - 24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

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|--|---|--|
| 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 | |
| ANOIDING 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Just Man Dreaming

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him.

If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened.

You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message.

We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

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A prayer of **Love**
for the Fourth week of
Advent

Holy Father, thank you
for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ,
your greatest gift of love to your people.
Fill my heart with such love,
opening my heart to accept
your great love for me.
Overflow my heart with your love,
so I may pour it out into the world.
Help me to love others as you've love me.
Lord, thank you
for your great gift of Jesus
as we celebrate Christmas.
May I ever walk in your love
and show the world I am your disciple
by the love I show to others,
keeping Jesus, your Son, close in my heart.

Amen.

Source: Prayer + Possibilities with Kathryn Shirey

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

December 26, **ST STEPHEN**
December 27, **ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**
December 28, **THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS**
December 30, **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**
January 1, **MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

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 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



Social Media and Cultivating Gratitude

Social media is a big part of most people's lives, especially for youths. In fact, 86% of people aged between 18-29 use Facebook, while 67% of people from the same age group use Instagram. While this is a huge amount on its own, these statistics don't account for how much time each person spends (though a quick google search will yield those results, if you are interested), or the types of people and pages the youth in this demographic follow or interact with.

Social media is great because it lets you stay connected with people on the other side of the world – friends who might have grown apart get the chance to maintain that friendship. It also lets you see through the eyes of others who live completely different lives to you – whether they be celebrities, sportsmen, artists or so on, there really is no limit. And while this is amazing, it also means that these people are constantly influencing you. This isn't always a bad thing, but often times many of us subconsciously compare our lives to the images and events of others that we see posted online. And the thing is, when you do this, you compare your everyday life to someone else's highlight reel. Of course, the days where you study, go to work and so on are not going to seem as exciting as the pictures of that one person who went skydiving. The important thing is to know that what we see online isn't the whole story; these people also have days that aren't Instagram worthy, and conversely, we also do things go places in our lives that would make others envious. It's just that these exciting events do not happen every day. There's a balance to it.

While it is important to be grateful for experiences that take us out of the norm, it's also important to be grateful for what we have. Whenever you feel down, thinking that someone else is living the life you want, remember that everything you have is a gift from God. This is a process known as cultivating gratitude, and while there are many ways to do it (once again google can help you with that), the end result is the same; it helps you to see everything you have, and to realise that even the ordinary days are a gift. Everyone's life is different, and everyone's life is Instagram worthy in a different way, it is just up to you to realise that.

- Rashane

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 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!

Christmas & New Year Mass Time Table (2022 - 2023)

| Christmas Eve | 24th Dec 2022 (Saturday) | 6pm 9pm | English Cantonese |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Christmas Day | 25th Dec 2022 (Sunday) | 12am (Midnight Mass) 9am 6pm | English |
| | | 11.30am | Cantonese |
| Feast of the Holy Family | 29th Dec 2022 (Thursday) | 7pm (Vigil) | Cantonese <i>Silent Adoration to 9pm</i> |
| | 30th Dec 2022 (Friday) | 9.15am | English <i>Silent Adoration to 10.45am</i> |
| Solemnity of the Mother of God | 31st Dec 2022 (Saturday) | 5pm (Vigil) | English |
| | 1st Jan 2023 | 9am 6pm | English |
| | | 11.30am | Cantonese |
| Epiphany of the Lord | 7th Jan 2023 (Saturday) | 5pm (Vigil) | English |
| | 8th Jan 2023 (Sunday) | 9am 6pm | English |
| | | 11.30am | Cantonese |
| Baptism of the Lord | 9th Jan 2023 (Monday) | 9.15am | English |

ROSTERS : for Acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers & Readers from January to March 2023 are available at the entrance to the Church. Please collect your copy.

24th/25th December ROSTERS

| | 6pm | Midnight | 9am | 6pm |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|
| Readers | C. Meleca S. Meleca | K. Handcock TBA | J. Pinto TBA | TBA TBA |
| Extraordinary Ministers | J. Skulander L.lemma | TBA TBA | S. Joseph TBA | |
| Acolytes | John Hilton | Peter Handcock | P. Mooney | TBA |

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|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cleaning | Group 2 - Vera |
| Morning Tea | No Morning Tea |
| Counting | Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra |

31st December/1st January ROSTERS

| | 5pm Vigil | 9am | 6pm |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Readers | C. Maxwell K. Handcock | B. McGettigan A. Espiritu | V. Cruz D. Cruz |
| Extraordinary Ministers | M. Woolridge K. Handcock | S. Joseph J. Skulander | |
| Acolytes | Peter Handcock | Ian Goldthrope | John Hilton |

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|--------------------|---|
| Cleaning | Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy |
| Morning Tea | No Morning Tea |
| Counting | Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan |