

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"



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8TH JANUARY 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 60 : 1 - 6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71

Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Eph 3 : 2 -3, 5 - 6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Mt 2 : 1 - 12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the 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

Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

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Shine in Our Hearts

O Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the sun of the world,
evermore arising,
and never going down,
which by your most
welcome appearing and sight,
brings forth, preserves, nourishes,
and refreshes all things,
as well that are in heaven
as also that are on earth;
We beg you mercifully
and faithfully to shine in our hearts,
so that the night and darkness of sins,
and the mist of errors on every side
may be driven away;
with you brightly shining in our hearts
we may all our life go without
stumbling or offense,
and may decently and seemly walk
as in the day time,
being pure and clean
from the works of darkness,
and abounding in all good works
which God has prepared us to walk in;
you who with the Father
and with the Holy Ghost
live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

Source: Thomas Cranmer

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

January 9, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

**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 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 resumes on Wednesday, 1st February from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre. Enquiries: Lynn McBride : 0423 696 961



Christian Meditation resumes on Thursday, 2nd February 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 resumes on Monday, 27th February 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 resumes on the 4th of February. 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 - Resume on 26th February 2023. 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 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

Special Mass



Baptism of the Lord

9th January (Monday)

Mass in English at 9.15am

Youth Corner

2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year to all who are reading!

The number 2023 has been popping up now that the new year has arrived and it's intriguing how these numbers as a standalone don't mean much, but when put in this order, at this time, they become more than just a number. 2023 has come to represent a new year. Likewise, in our faith there are also many letters and images which on their own appear not to mean much until you know what they represent. Here are a few such Christian symbols:



INRI is the Latin abbreviation for "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum" (Jesus Christ, King of the Jews). The sign place above Jesus head on the cross (John 19:19)



IHS is the acronym for the Latin "Iesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus Men's Savior).



CHI-RHO is an early Christian monogram. A monogram is a motif made by overlapping two or more letters to form a symbol. Some call CHI-RHO a Christogram as a pun, as it superimposes the Greek letters "X" (known as 'Chi') and "P" (known as 'RHO') of the Greek word ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ which means Christ.



IXΘΥΣ (i-ch-th-u-s) is another early Grecian Christian symbol. The word itself is the Greek word for fish which has biblical significance (think Jonah, the fisher or men, feeding of the multitudes etc.). It is also an acrostic poem ie. "Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Saviour":

I – Iota is the first letter of *Iesus* (Jesus)

X – Chi is the first letter of *Christos* (Christ)

Θ – Theta is the first letter of *Theos* (God)

Υ – Upsilon is the first letter of *Yios* (Son)

Σ – Sigma is the first letter of *Soter* (Saviour)



Pelican - In medieval times it was believed that pelicans wounded their own breasts to feed their chicks when food was scarce. The symbol of the pelican therefore came to represent Christ sacrificing himself, his blood for our salvation. We now know that pelicans don't actually wound themselves - the mother pelican stores fish in her beak and presses her beak into her chest, making the fish bloody and giving the illusion of feeding her own blood. Nevertheless the vivid imagery remains of blood spilt to feed her young.

- Abby

14th/15th January ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	J. Whippy M. Whippy	P. Fleming God's Gift	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight L. Iemma	G. De Araujo J. Skulander	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorpe	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		
Morning Tea	No Morning Tea		
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney & Michael Falamich		

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 February we will be looking at abortion and euthanasia, led by Gordon and Ryan!

Happy New Year! Thank you to all the youth for your enthusiastic participation and willingness to learn more about their faith in 2022! We wish you a wonderful 2023 and God Bless 😊

Chinese New Year Dinner Banquet

Make sure you buy your tickets for this year's CNY dinner in Winston Hills. Youth Group will also be putting together some youth tables on the night!