

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"

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

05TH FEBRUARY 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 58: 7 - 10

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 111

Response: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)
2. The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 2: 1 - 5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as

the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Mt 5 : 13 - 16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

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

Salty and Radiant

You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the cosmos. 'You' is in the plural. So these descriptions are meant to apply to us as a Christian community.

Salt in the ancient world was a preservative for food. So, we are the ones who are to preserve the earth, to prevent its deterioration, to keep it life-giving.

Salt has to penetrate food to have an effect. We have to penetrate the world with our Sermon on the Mount values. Staying self-contained as a perfect little band of Christians is about as useful as salt remaining in the saltshaker. In Our Lord's scary opinion we would quite rightly be trampled underfoot.

How are we light for the cosmos? By 'good works'? No, a truer translation is by 'beautiful works'. These are those things we do which have grace, elegance and proportion and are therefore pleasing to observe: beautifully-good-works.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we remain salty and tangy, doing good beautifully and elegantly.

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Prayer for blessings...

God of Blessings,
I know that if I give it will be given to me,
so I pray that I give to those freely.
I thank You because I know
that a good measure, pressure down,
shaken together and running over,
will be poured into my lap.
I don't have to chase Your blessings,
for You give to Your people
liberally without reproach.
I pray that I show this same regard
when I do good to others,
because the same standard
that I use will be measured
to me in return,
Amen.

Luke 6:38

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

February 6, St Paul Miki & Companions
February 10, St Scholastica

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



Work as Love

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.
Enquiries : Lynn McBride : 0423 696 961

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 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 - Resuming on the 26th February. 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

Please kindly return your old palms by 19th February 2023 in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Please place them in the box provided at the entrance to the Church.

No weekday Masses From 23rd Jan to 10th Feb 2023

As Father Ephraim is out of the parish, the weekday's Massed (Monday to Friday) from 23rd Jan to 10th Feb will be cancelled.

The Masses on Saturdays and Sundays will remain as normal and be said by guest priests.

11th/12th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell A. Bentley	S. Younes B. McGettigan	V. Cruz D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley K. Hancock	J. De Araujo S. De Araujo	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorpe	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
Morning Tea	Abby Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

Good work is an act of love. It is a gift from God to us which in turn becomes an act of service *from* us. It is not the only way of loving, but it is a substantial way of doing so. And yet we typically don't start by asking if our work is love but if we love our work. We ask if our work is good for us, not if it is good for others. We ask what it pays, what status it brings, how satisfying we'll find it, what skills it develops, and perhaps, what opportunities for mission it brings. These may be important questions, and may determine whether a particular role is appropriate, but none of them answers whether the work itself is good or whether it is good for others.

This distinction opens the possibility of work that is good for us but not for others, and of work which is good for others but not for us. A not-for-profit organisation may take advantage of its staff because its cause is noble, and a cigarette company may treat staff well though its cause is not.

Work has an immediate relationship to creation; it brings order to the world, taking up the raw materials that God has abundantly provided and shaping them to new, imaginative, and useful ends—turning trees into houses, wild plants into tended crops, iron ore and carbon into electricity pylons, raw data into intelligible charts, dirty clothes piles into clean laundry, and so on.

But secondly, work is also good because it has a purpose; namely, it is for others. Other people will use those crops, pylons, charts, and clean clothes. That means, not all activities which make use of creation are work. We could pick a flower, plant a tree, compose a tune, or write a poem—these activities are good—but if they are not for others, they are not work. Our work is seldom ours alone. That is, my good work is often done with others and almost always relies on the good work of others. And in turn, my work also enables others to do good. This is part of how God has made humanity: we depend on one another, and our work is one of the primary ways we get to share God's good gifts and promote communities where people care for each other.

Work fails when it doesn't do good for others. Specifically, work fails when it is designed to be relied upon, and it is not reliable. This does not render entrepreneurial work invalid. The entrepreneur offers a new work to the world. In fact, almost all work will find it has depended in some way on an initial entrepreneurial act. Work also fails when it does no good to the worker. Yes, every work involves its tiresome elements, but if work is only drudgery, then it fails to be good work. Moving a pile of bricks from one place to another only to move them back again is not work; it is pointless exertion.

However, while work often fails, and we fail at work; it doesn't always and neither do we. Roads get built, sermons are preached, criminals are caught, sick people are healed, and the young are cared for and raised. And some people enjoy most of their work, skills get used, workers get paid, and other responsibilities are attended to, and there is rest. In other words, work remains a good gift, a gift for us to steward creation, a gift where we can enjoy the fruit of our work, and others' work—a gift for our good, but at its heart a gift to and for others, if you like, an act of love.

- Adapted from an article published on the Gospel Coalition website, written by Tim Adeney

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 Gender Fluidity with Samuel and Charlotte