

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"

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

05TH MARCH 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 12: 1 - 4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32

Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the Second letter of St Paul to Timothy

2 Tm 1 : 8 - 10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew
Mt 17 : 1 - 9**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

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

Transfigured Bodysouls

We have to get rid of the idea that the soul is a dot of energy in some hidden core of our body. In fact, the body is in the soul. There is no part of my body which is not immersed in my soul. It is my whole person, bodysoul, which needs to be saved. As Thomas Aquinas says: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.'

Today's Gospel does not portray an out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Further, this transfiguration was not a solitary experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it precisely because it told them what our Heavenly Father desired as their destiny beyond martyrdom, if only they would listen to Jesus.

Heavenly salvation will involve my whole person, bodysoul, being transformed. But could a person, during their earthly existence, share in the transfiguration experience of Christ?

We could pause for a moment to 'Google' or otherwise get hold of my favourite story of a saint – St Seraphim of Sarov – and pray that we may share with his disciple the bodily experience of 'immeasurable wellbeing' – 'infinite joy in our hearts'.

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A PRAYER FOR 'THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS'

*At the Transfiguration, Father,
You showed Jesus in glory,
a glimpse of what His disciples
would see in His risen life.
Bless us in our humanity,
with an awareness of Your presence,
leading us to share in Your divine life
even in our daily struggle.
Help us to deepen
our knowledge of the Law
and the Prophets,
channels of Your grace
throughout history,
and signposts for our journey.
Amen.*

Source : Prayers4reparation's

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

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.

LENT 2023

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday from 24th February to 31st March
(Sacrament of Reconciliation Available)
English: 7pm
Chinese: 8pm

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.
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 Last 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 Resuming on the 4th 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 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



St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation

Compulsory Zoom Parent Session: Wednesday 8th March at 7pm.
First Lesson: Saturday, 11th March at 4pm at the Parish Centre. Children will proceed to 5pm Mass after each lesson.
Confirmation Mass: Friday, 26th May at 7pm.



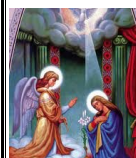
Project Compassion 2023 - Please collect your Project Compassion Boxes at the Entrance to the Church. Return to the Parish Office or Parish Priest by end of lent. Thank you.



St Patrick's Day Mass
17th March (Friday)
English : 9.15am



St Joseph's Day Mass
20th March (Monday)
English : 9.15am and 7.00pm
Chinese : 8.00pm



Annunciation of the Lord Mass

24th March (Friday) Vigil Mass
English: 7.00pm & Chinese: 8.00pm
(no stations of the Cross)
25th March (Saturday)
English : 9.15am

11th/12th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	C. Cheung J. Jacob	M. Ellis O. Holsiinger
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilson M. Woolridge	B. Hooker J. Cruz	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorpe	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		
Morning Tea	Abby Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Frazer /Bridgit McGettigan		



SOAP Reflection 5th March 2023

With a new month starting, the youth corner will be looking a bit different because we will be using Catholic Youth Parramatta's SOAP reflections as a way for both the author and reader to delve a little deeper into each Sunday's gospel; to understand what God might be teaching us before ending off with a small prayer you can do in your spare time. They will be written by the leaders from our youth group, so if you'd like to have a chat or even read more of God's word with them, feel free to reach out! ☺

SOAP reflections provide a simple framework for reading scripture, so you can use this for any passage you might be interested in! SOAP reflections stand for

1. **Scripture**- this Sunday's gospel
2. **Observations**- what are some things you notice with the readings? What might it mean to you?
3. **Application**- how can we apply this reading to our daily lives? What kind of practices can we adopt/ start to do which will bring us closer to Christ?
4. **Prayer**- a small prayer of thanks and petition to the Lord

Without further ado, here is this Sunday's SOAP

1. Scripture- Matthew 17:1-9, but in particular verse 2 and verse 5
2. Observation- from this famous passage where the transfiguration of Jesus takes place, I was particularly struck by the second verse where Matthew describes Jesus' face as shining "like the sun and his clothes [becoming] as white as the light." It's a reminder of the true divinity and power of God's glory, manifesting within the physical embodiment of Jesus Christ himself. God's simple declaration of his love for his Son in verse 5 "This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him," reveals the deeply intimate relationship Jesus had with his father, and how readily he was able to just dedicate time for prayer. It provides a very surreal image of what Peter, James, and John experienced, even though they were afraid.
3. Application- In our daily lives, it can be easy to forget just how powerful and creative our God is- after all, he made this whole world that we are living in today! As Fr Mike Schmitz mentioned in his podcast once, artworks are usually a reflection of the creator and the type of person they were, and look at the beauty around us- it mirrors the same grace and greatness that is embodied in Christ himself. Appreciating the vast landscapes to the tiny ants on the ground; realizing these were made in God's image and taking this into prayer is something I can ponder
4. Prayer- Dear Lord, you are all mighty and so powerful. You did not have to create this world- yet you did, out of the everlasting and never-ending love that you have for us. With that, I give you praise and thanks for everything you have created- from the large to the small- may I continue to grow closer to you in prayer and admiration and experience that same relationship you had with your son. I offer up this prayer to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

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 ☺ Nex month's topic will be Homosexuality, led by Rebecca and Brian!