

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"

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A

2ND APRIL 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:

* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!
O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!
Who is this king of glory?

He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

IS 50: 4 - 7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.
This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21

Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Phil 2 : 6 - 11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

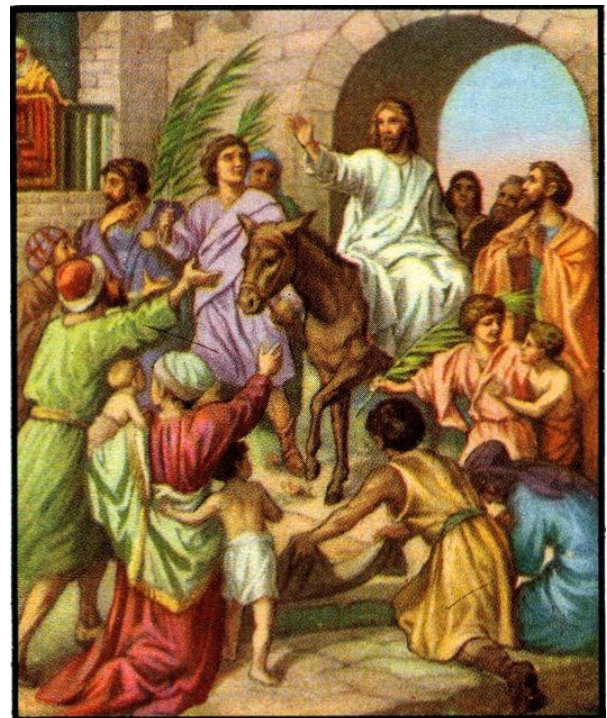
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death
dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high

and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Mt 26 : 14 – 66

Please refer to the Power Point on the screen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.

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

Lowly Prince of Peace

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to non-violent revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.

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Prayer for Palm Sunday

Merciful God,
as we enter Holy week,
turn our hearts again to Jerusalem,
and to the life, death,
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Stir up within us the gift of faith
that we may not only
praise him with our lips,
but may follow him in the way of the cross.

Increase the faith of those
who place their hope in you,
and graciously hear the prayers of those
who call on you, O God,
that we, who today hold high
these branches in our minds and hearts
to hail Christ in his triumph,
may bear fruit for you
by good works accomplished in him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Week Liturgies

- Holy Thursday (6th April)
Mass 7:30am
- Good Friday (7th April)
10am Stations of the Cross
3pm Passion of the Lord
- Easter Vigil (8th April, Sat)
Mass 6pm
- Easter Sunday (9th April)
Masses 9am, 6pm

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

April 6, HOLY THURSDAY
April 7th, FRIDAY, OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD
April 8, HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER VIGIL
April 9, EASTER SUNDAY

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



SOAP Reflection 2nd April 2023

Scripture- Today we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, where we once again encounter a series of events- the betrayal of Judas; the Last Supper; Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane; Peter's denial of Jesus and the accusation and sentence of Jesus which would lead to his ultimate death. It is the start of Holy Week, and the chance for us to reflect on the mystery of God's love for mankind, embodied in one man's sacrifice.

Observation- Upon reading this lengthy passage, there is much to be noted. Overall, I think the Lord's Passion is a time of reflection and meditation on how strong our faith is, and what our relationship is like with Jesus. Are we like the apostles sometimes, where we feel certain that we will not shy away from God, yet when faced with uncertain situations where our faith is challenged, we deny Jesus the same way Peter did? Are we steadfast in our prayer, even in moments where we feel distant from God? I can almost imagine the distress and realization Jesus experienced when he was praying to his Father- He knew he was yet to experience the worst suffering known to man but he sought comfort and reassurance in prayer (39: "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.") How readily is Jesus able to lay his life down for us, yet the disciples failed to recognize that the time was now.

Application- As we approach Holy Week, take some time during your day to simply be present with God- give him your time. Reflect on the past 40 days- what did you give up? Why? In moments where you felt tempted to do something, did you act on it? Were you sensitive to the movements of your heart? Are we strong in our faith, and appreciative of the greatest sacrifice Jesus has done for us? How can we strengthen or rebuild our relationship with Christ? Contemplate on the events leading up to Jesus' death on the cross, and pray for wisdom to better understand them.

Prayer- Dear Lord, we thank you for showing us your unconditional love and mercy. Please open my heart to you, that I will welcome you into all areas of my life. Give me the strength to stand up for you and my faith when times where I experience opposition, but also in moments where I experience great uncertainty for the future. Help me to trust in your plan, and to approach each new day as an opportunity to serve you. 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 😊 This month's topic will be on Euthanasia, led by Ryan and Gordon.

Youth Camp 2023


Youth camp is back on again in the Term 2 holidays, from the 4th-7th July (Tuesday to Friday)! This year's theme will be Family Movie Night, with our topic focusing on families- permission forms will be handed out soon. If you have any questions/concerns so far, please let Hazel (0478209349) or Cheryl (0481507169) know 😊 Get excited!


 **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


 **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** 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 - No Lessons during the school holiday break. Lessons resume on the 29th of April at 4pm.

 **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2024**
Father Lam is organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from the 8th of January to the 18th of January 2024.
Further details are available on green printouts at the entrance to the Church. If you would like to join, there is an introductory meeting on Sunday the 23rd of April at 10am in the Parish Hall and a Zoom meeting on Monday the 24th of April at 8pm. (Please email or call the Parish office for the Zoom link to be emailed).

 Our Parish raised \$3346.05 in donations for the **Bishop's Appeal** held last weekend.

 **Project Compassion 2023** - Please return your Project Compassion Boxes to the Parish Office or to the Parish Priest by end of lent. Thank you.

08th/09th April ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C.Meleca K. Handcock	P. Fleming M. Joseph	T. Jones O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight L. Iemma	J. Skulander S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Peter Handcock	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		
Morning Tea	Abby Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 1 - Jacob Payra/Joel Pinto		