

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 EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - YEAR A

16TH APRIL 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.
This is the word of the Lord

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2: 42 - 47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117

Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

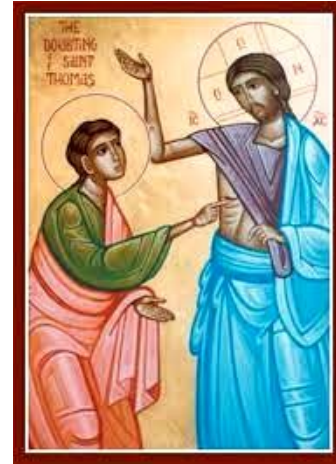
1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1 Pt 1 : 3 - 9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described,



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jn 20 : 19 - 31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

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

Undoubtable Wounds

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

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Divine Mercy Sunday

*My hopeful Lord,
You and You alone are
the answer to every
struggle in life.
You and You alone
can relieve me of my
burdens
and the poor choices I
make.*

*Help me to trust in You always
and in every circumstance in life.
I do entrust myself to You
and choose to make You
the single focus of my life.
Jesus, I do trust in You! Amen.*



Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the
Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father
reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat
strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet
lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst
see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose; I
saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting; shroud
with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes
before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the
dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

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.*

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 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 Saturday the 29th of April at 4pm.



Project Compassion 2023 - Please return your boxes/donations to the Parish Office or Parish Priest as soon as possible. Thank you.



Our Parish raised \$3557.80 in donations for the **Good Friday Holy Land Appeal**.



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).

22nd/23rd April ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha K. Hancock	J. Jacob C. Cheung	V. Cruz D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge A. Hernandez	S. De Araujo B. Hooker	
Acolytes	Peter Hancock	Ian Goldthorpe	John Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
Morning Tea	Julie Skulander/Maris Strong		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David/Tibu Corera		



SOAP Reflection 16th April

Scripture- John 20:19-31 "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Observation- When reading the passage the statement made by Thomas stood out to me, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

We can all relate to Thomas because at some stage in our spiritual journey we question and have doubts about our faith. While all the disciples were hiding in the locked room experiencing fear, pain, doubt and confusion, Jesus went to them bringing them peace. In doing so Jesus was able to show patience and forgiveness to all the disciples, especially Thomas who had his doubts. What this shows is that even in our most difficult moments where we isolate ourselves and question our beliefs, Jesus will come to bring us peace.

Application- The Gospel invites us to trust the Lord. It is an invitation for us not to be afraid or anxious because Jesus is with us. The Gospels were not only written for those who would come to believe in Christ, but also those who already believe and seek to grow in holiness and love for God. In the future when facing difficulties with our faith like doubt or questions I'll pray to God as I know Jesus will bring us peace and further strengthen my faith.

Prayer- Help me, Lord, to be before you and to hear your word in this time of prayer. You know the needs of my mind. You have heard my words. Now, let me listen to your voice and know your presence. I lay aside my demands to receive what it is you offer to me. Amen.

- Brian

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, led by Samuel and Charlotte.

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 Fast and Furious, 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!

Altar Serving Expressions of Interest

If anyone has received their first Holy Communion and is interested in becoming an altar server at the 9AM mass, please contact Gabby Fleming (gabbyfleming2007@gmail.com)