

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"

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

23RD APRIL 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

FIRST READING

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Acts 2: 14, 22 - 33**

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.
So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy:
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

This is the word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 15

Response: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter
1 Pt 1: 17 - 21**

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the

end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.
This is the word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your
word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with
love when you speak.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Luke
Lk 24: 13 - 35**

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, 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

Companionable Breaking of Bread

This story is the story of each one of us at Mass. Each Mass is structured on the Road to Emmaus travelogue.

Two men set off on a journey of their own making. At the beginning of Mass we confess that we have gone off course.

The traveller helps the men on the road to Emmaus understand what had happened to Jesus of Nazareth by showing God's plan revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Scriptures expounded, revealing more fully the true identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Every so often you will experience the burning sensation in your heart as something that is said hits home.

The traveller takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them to eat. In that moment of bread-sharing, the two men recognised their travelling companion as the Risen Lord. Eat the bread consecrated at Mass, and we receive into our very being the Divine Companion for our journey through life.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the privilege at every Mass of having our eyes opened so that we recognise Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Alleluia!

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Prayer of Confession of Sin ...

Almighty God,
who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus Christ, we are unworthy
of Your pardoning grace.
For we have not believed Your promises,
nor trusted in You, our Living Lord.
Through worldliness of spirit,
we have not discerned
Your presence with us.
Through discouragements and
disappointments, our hearts have
not burned within us
as we have heard Your Word.
We have not trusted in Your power
and have been overcome by evil.
We have forgotten
the joy of Your victory over death,
and ignore the things
that belong to our peace.
So now in humility, we come to You,
asking forgiveness.
Mercifully grant us release
from all our sins and restore to us
the joy of Your salvation,
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our risen Lord.

Amen.

- Luke 24: 13 - 35

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

April 26, ST MARK, THE EVANGELIST
April 28, St Peter Chanel
April 29, St Catherine of Siena

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



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.



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



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).

30th/31st April ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	A. Bentley G. Basha	J. Pinto S. Jacob	V. Cruz D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma M. Wilkinson	S. Joseph J. Skulander	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Peter Mooney	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
Morning Tea	Angela & Michael Falamich		
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney/Michael Falamich		



SOAP Reflection 23rd April 2023

Scripture- "Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?""

Observation- On the first Sunday after Easter, we learn that two disciples, Cleopas and his friend, have embarked on a journey to Emmaus. During their journey, they discuss the news of Jesus' crucifixion, unknowing of the presence of Jesus himself who accompanied their journey disguised as a stranger. This conversation is one of hopelessness, as His followers were devastated that their greatest hopes of resurrection and redemption hadn't come true. The two disciples invite Jesus for a meal together, and only when Jesus blesses and shares the bread do they recognise him. They are given a glimpse of the Lord before he promptly vanishes. Cleopas and his companion are reminiscent of us, they know and care a lot and are saddened by their diminished hope. Importantly, they are clouded by assumed knowledge, eyes closed to the presence of Jesus until they are opened. This gospel gives me comfort in that Jesus is always with us and provides hope that in the breaking of the bread, we too can catch a glimpse of our Lord.

Application- In our daily lives, we can often feel as though we are alone as we fight the adversities we are faced with. In the coming days, allow me to truly appreciate the presence of the Lord and the guidance He provides me. As I navigate through the peaks and troughs of life, may I be always reminded that God is with me even when I cannot see, or choose not to see. Even when all is hopeless, may I be comforted by the fact that God will always appear when we need most. And the next time I receive communion, may I reflect on the opportunity and blessings it provides me, and to find solace and hope in the glimpse of Jesus we are gifted.

Prayer- Dear Lord, thank you for your constant reminders that You are with me, even when it feels like I am alone. Please guide me to open my heart and listen so that I too can truly see and feel Your presence in all places and in all people. Give me the courage to spread the gospel as I am tasked to and speak the quiet but loving words of communion through acts of kindness and mercy. Pray that through prayer and scripture, my heart may continue to burn with passion in my learning of Your teachings as I strive to become more like You. Amen!

- Charlotte

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 May we will be looking at the topic Spiritual but not religious, led by Gabriel and Hazel.

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)**