

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 OF EASTER - YEAR A

07TH MAY 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 6: 1 - 7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

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. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For 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.)
3. 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.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1 Pt 2: 4 - 9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

This is the word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jn 14: 1 - 12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
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/ EUCARIST 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
ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST	Fr. Pio Jang	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.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

Mutual Indwelling

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers. How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to *share* in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to *share* in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!

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Diocese of Parramatta Synod.

"Behold, I am doing a new things"
Isaiah 43: 19

Prayer for Synod

O, God, who always walks with us
on the journey of life, we call upon you
to lead us forth united.

Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod.

Keep us anchored in your love.
Open our hearts as we listen and discern.
Reveal to us the way we are called
to go out into the deep.
Give us the courage to pursue
the mission with bold humility.

May we experience renewal in our local
Church today, and for generations to come.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, who in
the power of the Holy Spirit continues to guide
your Church, to the fullness of your kingdom
now, and forever.

Amen

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

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

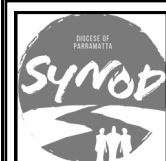
To anticipate the celebration of the 130th anniversary of this parish, everyone is invited to join in "Write the WORD" to increase our familiarity of the Holy Scripture. For details you can take a leaflet at the main entrances of the church, or call the Parish Office (9630 1951), or send an email to write.the.word.2024@gmail.com



St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation

Lesson 6 : 13th May at 4.00pm in the Parish Centre



"Behold I am doing a new thing" Isaiah 43: 15

For further information on the
Diocese of Parramatta Synod
please check out the website on
www.parracatholic.org/synod2023



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 printouts at the entrance to the Church.
If you are interested and need further details please email the Parish office : stmonicanp@bigpond.com or call : 02 9630 1951 (Thurs & Fri 9am to 2pm)

13th/14th May ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock A. Bentley	B. Hooker A. Espiritu	V. Cruz D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge A. Bentley	J. Cruz M. Joseph	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorpe	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera		
Morning Tea	De Araujo & Pinto Family		
Counting	Group 1 - Jacob Payra & Joel Pinto		



SOAP Reflection 7th May 2023

Scripture: "Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me...I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

Observation: In this week's gospel, Jesus assures the disciples that though he must return to the Father, he will come again. The disciples are deeply troubled by this idea that Jesus will no longer be present beside them and implore Jesus to tell them how to reach this destination. This is when Jesus says to them to continue to believe in him, for he is "the way, and the truth, and the life" and in believing in Jesus, they have come to know God, the Father. Like the disciples, I found myself lacking an understanding of Jesus' words and needed time to ponder on his words. When Jesus states "I am the way", he implies that through his sacrifice for us, he has paved the way (and the only way) to salvation and grace. He is also "the truth", illustrating that all things about him and taught by him are the source of truth. Finally, being "the life", Jesus reveals that he is the giver of life but also the way of life. In these words, Jesus declares that he is God, with the Father residing within him, but they are also an instruction to us to believe in him, despite the adversities and uncertainties we may encounter, as these will lead us to our ultimate destination, heaven with Christ.

Application: Like the disciples, I can often feel troubled by uncertainty and feel a loss of direction. In the coming week, let us draw upon the words of Jesus and listen to his calling: to live a life of Christ. Let us seek to quell our troubled hearts and minds with words of God and His unending grace and renew ourselves from sin. When we see others who are also struggling, let us fill them with comfort and reassure them that this is not the end. Finally, when we take communion, let us remember the sacrifice made for us so that we can enjoy the reward of heaven and by following the path of Christ, we are assured that we are following him to heaven.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for your guidance and strength though we are doubtful and hesitant at times. May we seek to live out the way you have called us to with a selfless and contrite heart and strive to bring others closer to you and your goodness. Pray that we may always seek to always be near you until our time with you in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

- Rebecca

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 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!

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)