

# 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"*

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A**

**14TH MAY 2023**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the earth:  
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
Acts 8: 5 - 8. 14 - 17**

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 65**

**Response:** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!  
Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the river dry-shod.  
Let our joy then be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.  
I will tell what he did for my soul:  
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter  
1 Pt 3 : 15 - 18**

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

*This is the word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John  
Jn 14 : 15 - 21**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever,  
that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.  
I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.  
In a short time the world will no longer see me;  
but you will see me, because I live and you will live.  
On that day you will understand that I am in my Father  
and you in me and I in you.  
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them  
will be one who loves me;  
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,  
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete,  
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

## Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm		
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am		
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Thursday 8pm—9pm Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,		
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request		
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior		
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>ANointing OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST</b>	Fr. Pio Jang	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151 Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>		
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

### Parallel Truths

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you *another Paraclete* to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a *Paraclete*, and he would send *another*.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-llel. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

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*Diocese of Parramatta Prayer for Synod.*  
*"Behold, I am doing a new thing"*  
*Isaiah 43: 19*

**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

**May 24, OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, PATRON OF AUSTRALIA**  
 May 26, St Philip Neri

**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.



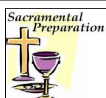
**Bible Brekkie** Every FIRST and LAST Sunday of the month, 10.15am - 11am, at the Blue Room. Fr. Ephraim will talk about interesting topics from the Bible. All are welcome.

## Write the WORD 2022-2024

To anticipate the celebration of the 130<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:write.the.word.2024@gmail.com)

## St. Monica's Sacraments

[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)



### Sacrament of Confirmation

Rehearsal & Reconciliation : 20th May at 2pm (Church)  
Confirmation Mass : 26th May at 7.00pm

### Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Registrations Saturday, 27th May, after 5pm Mass and Sunday, 28th May after 9am Mass.  
Parent meeting via zoom Wednesday, 7th June at 7pm  
First Lesson - Saturday, 10th June at 4pm Parish Hall



**"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](http://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](mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com) or call : 02 9630 1951 (Thurs & Fri 9am to 2pm)

## 20th/21st May ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	M. Whippy J. Whippy	M. Joseph P. Fleming	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma A. Hernandez	B. Hooker J. Payra	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock	Peter Mooney	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Julie Skilander & Maris Strong		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid Mc Gettigan		



## SOAP Reflection 14th May 2023

Scripture: - "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever– the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him or knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them"

Observation- In this week's gospel, Jesus promises us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through this promise, we are able to see Jesus' love and his providence for us. He assures us that he "will not leave you (us) as orphans" but that he will be with us in our souls and guiding us towards holiness. In a world full of materialism, self-gratification and twisted ideals, it is easy to see how true Jesus' words, "the world will not see me anymore" is. However, as Catholics, we are called to see Jesus- to listen to him and follow him. As such, we should learn to cut out notions that society often now deems "normal" or "acceptable" and to show our love to our heavenly father by keeping his commands.

Application: In the coming week, let us be reminded of the words from today's gospel– that God has left us with the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily lives. Even though we cannot see Jesus with our eyes and hear him with our ears, may we remember to take time out of our busy week to listen to him and feel him in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. May we actively seek to listen to the Holy Spirit when we live out our lives this week in order to keep God's commandments especially in times where our conscience may be challenged. Let us also remember that Jesus is in every one of us and let us see God's mercy and grace in the face of everyone we meet because it is through this that we are able to keep the greatest commandment – to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your gift of the Holy Spirit. May you continue to keep the Holy Spirit burning bright in our hearts. Please grant us the strength to overcome temptation so that we can live out a life of holiness according to your commandments. I pray that we will always seek to find your face in each other, to treat one another with the same mercy and grace that you provided us.

- Cheryl

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gabbyfleming2007@gmail.com))