

# 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"*

**PENTECOST SUNDAY - YEAR A**

**28TH MAY 2023**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world  
and that which contains all things  
understands what is said, alleluia.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts 2: 1 - 11**

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

*This is the word of the Lord*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 103**

**Response:** Lord, send out your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**  
**1 Cor 12: 3 - 7, 12 - 13**

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit

we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.  
*This is the word of the Lord*

## SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, from the clear celestial height  
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor, come with treasures  
which endure; come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best, Thou, the soul's delightful  
guest, dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet; Pleasant coolness in the  
heat; solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine, visit thou these hearts of  
thine, and our inmost being fill.

If thou take thy grace away, nothing pure in man will  
stay; all his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness  
pour thy dew; wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm  
the chill; guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore thee confess and thee adore,  
with thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die; give us life with thee on  
high; give us joys that never end.



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill  
the hearts of your  
faithful  
and kindle in them the  
fire of your love.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John**  
**Jn 20: 19 - 23**

In the evening of 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.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit  
and spoke of the marvels of God, 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](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## COMMENTARY

### The Bush Fire of Pentecost

As summer progresses in Australia, invariably great bushfires break out. Those who report the infernos speak not only of the flames, but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm heralding the approaching fire.

The earth had quaked at the death of Jesus, but death had been conquered and the earth was supercharged with divine energy and vitality. Into all this the Risen Lord sent his Holy Spirit like a lightning strike. Divine energy was unleashed and St Luke portrays this particular event in our bushfire terms. The Holy Spirit, he says, was 'like tongues of fire' and 'like the sound of a mighty wind' accompanying the descent of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of a fearful group of followers of Our Lord.

The tangled undergrowth of fear, anxiety and timidity was cleared away. The new life of the church was germinated, took root and has been growing ever since, listening to the core message preached by St Peter: Jesus of Nazareth had conquered death and Peter and others were witnesses to the Risen Lord.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the successor of St Peter that he may preach the resurrection in a way which is understandable by people of every culture, every ethnicity, every language group around the world.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

*Diocese of Parramatta Prayer Synod.  
"Behold, I am doing a new things"  
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.**

**St. Monica's Sacraments**  
[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)



#### Sacrament of First Holy Communion Registrations:

- Saturday, 27th May, after 5pm Mass
- Sunday, 28th May after 9am Mass.
- Parent meeting via zoom: Wednesday, 7th June at 7pm
- 1st Lesson - Saturday, 17th June at 4pm
- 2nd Lesson - Saturday, 24th June at 4pm
- School Holiday Break 3rd July to 14th July*
- 3rd Lesson - Saturday, 29th July at 4pm
- 4th Lesson - Saturday, 5th August at 4pm
- Reconciliation & Rehearsal Saturday 12th August at 2pm
- **First Holy Communion Mass, SUNDAY 20th August 3pm**

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

May 29, Mary, Mother of the Church  
May 31, THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**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



**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.



**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)



On the **3rd June 2023 (sat)** there will be an **Eastern Deanery Consultation Meeting, 6.30-9.30pm**, at St. Patrick's Cathedral. All are welcome to join. For details 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)



**Vinnies News.** I am pleased to announce the new/existing SVPD Executive: President: Jacob Payra, Secretary: Peter Mooney - ongoing, Treasurer: Patricia Heresi. Please join with me in congratulating them on their new appointments and we ask you all for your continued support as they and our other new members: William Cannon, Felix Chiu, Wal Placek. Continue to do the good work supporting the needy of our Community.

**Peter Handcock**

Please refer to the Vinnie News and General Report up on the Bulletins near the entrances to the Church.

**Mother's Day Raffle:** Thank you to everyone who supported the Mother's Day Stall and the Catholic Women's League

Winner:  
1st Prize: Vincent  
2nd Prize: Dorothy  
3rd Prize: Josephine Li

**Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal:** 'Thank You' for your generous donations, our Parish collected a total of \$2174.05

### 3rd/4th June ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	S. Meleca C. Meleca	C. Cheung J. Jacob	V. Cruz M. Novak
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	K. Handcock M. Samson	J. Payra M. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	Adrian Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Chidinma/Tresa		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Abby Lui & Payra Family		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 4 - Peter Mooney & Michael Falamich		



## SOAP Reflection 28<sup>th</sup> May

**Scripture-** In today's Pentecost Sunday gospel, Jesus' statement "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you," stood out to me the most as he gives his disciples the power of the Holy Spirit to go out and continue His mission

**Observation-** Although a short passage, it clearly demonstrates that Jesus has resurrected. Because He is no longer physically able to spread the word of God, He grants the Twelve the ability to do so. Through his divine nature he 'breathes' the Holy Spirit upon them so that they can carry out His work, glorify the Father; teach others what Jesus had preached to them and to bear witnesses to the Kingdom of God. Jesus gives them a greater power, one with a deeper meaning, rather than just authority over others and greed for material, earthly desires which previously dominated the many Kings before. Similarly, we have been granted the gift of the Holy Spirit through our sacraments such as baptism and confirmation. Through baptism, we are washed away of our original sin and in confirmation we make a public declaration of our faith and trust in the Lord. Despite reaching these milestones, we are still susceptible to sin and temptation, which is why we invoke the Holy Spirit to intercede for us and give us the strength to live more holy, Christ-like lives.

**Application-** In this coming week, may I be more aware and present of the movements of my heart, and the interactions I have with others. When am I experiencing anger, frustration, sadness, resentment or any type of emotion which pulls me away from God? Take a moment to recognize these feelings, and welcome the Holy Spirit into your heart. Say a small prayer; give thanks to the Lord for the gift that he so freely gave to us which has given us the chance to be able to love Him, and others too. In our conversations with people, especially non-believers, consider whether God may be presenting this opportunity for you to let them know of His presence and extend an invitation to church, scripture reading or prayer together.

**Prayer-** Dear Lord, we commemorate this day as Pentecost, where we celebrate the birth of your church and the continuation of your mission. May we be reminded of our role as a disciple in spreading your word to others, as well as being an active member of our church community so that we may build and strengthen the faith of those who are spiritually weak and distant. Pray that the Holy Spirit may come upon my loved ones, the sick and suffering, all Catholics and non-believers- that they may all experience the power and love of Christ in their lives and continually seek ways to live faithful, Holy lives. 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 😊 In June we will be doing a recap of the past topics, led by Ryan and Cheryl!

### 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))