

# 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"*

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST - YEAR A

11TH JUNE 2023

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

He fed them with the finest wheat  
and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Dt: 8: 2 - 3. 14 - 16

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 147

**Response:** Praise the Lord, Jerusalem

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!  
Zion, praise your God!  
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,  
he has blessed the children within you. (R.)
2. He has established peace on your borders,  
he feeds you with finest wheat.  
He sends out his word to the earth  
and swiftly runs his command. (R.)
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,  
to Israel his laws and decrees.  
He has not dealt thus with other nations;  
he has not taught them his decrees. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 10: 16 - 17

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

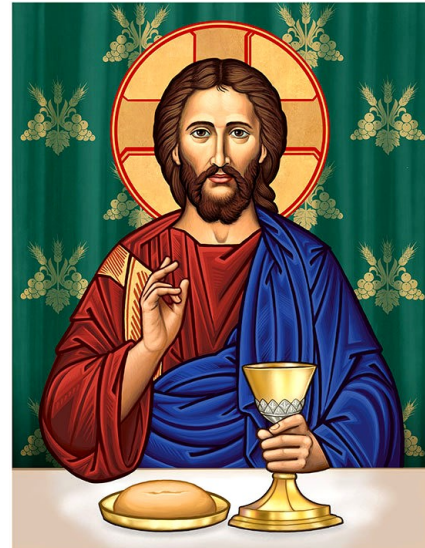
*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;  
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jn 6: 51 - 58

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

# 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/ EUCARIST 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

### The Maternal Jesus

I once saw a young mother discreetly breastfeeding her baby during Mass, and thought ... 'What a wonderful thing!' There could not be a better illustration, a better acting out of what Jesus says in today's Gospel: 'The one who eats me will live.'

Of course, even mothers who find they cannot breastfeed offer the same gift for nine months as the baby draws its life from the mother's body in the womb.

This is a good analogy for what Our Lord was teaching in today's Gospel.

'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them.' Notice the very maternal language. The risen Lord truly abides in us, we truly abide in the risen Lord. This is as intimate as the baby dwelling in the womb of its mother.

Moreover, it is a Holy communion which is both a present reality and a foretaste and promise about our place in God's future: 'The one who eats this bread will live forever.'

We could pause for a moment to pray with St Thomas Aquinas: 'Oh Sacred Banquet in which Christ is received *and* a pledge of future glory is given to us.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

*Diocese of Parramatta Synod Prayer.*

**"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**



- 1st Lesson - Saturday, 17th June at 4pm
- 2nd Lesson - Saturday, 24th June at 4pm  
*School Holiday Break 3rd July to 14th July*
- 4th Lesson - Saturday, 29th July at 4pm
- 5th Lesson - Saturday, 5th August at 4pm
- Reconciliation & Rehearsal  
Saturday 12th August at 2pm
- First Holy Communion Mass,  
Sunday 20th August 3pm

### FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

June 13, St Anthony of Padua  
June 16, **THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**  
June 17, **THE IMMACULATE HEART 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



**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)



**"Behold I am doing a new thing" Isaiah 43: 19**  
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)

## 17th/18th June ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	A. Bentley C. Basha	B. McGettigan S. Younes	V. Cruz D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	A. Bentley J. Knight	S. De Aruajo J. De Aruajo	
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter Handcock	Nishan Joseph	John Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Sheryl/Maria		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Juli Skulander & Maris Strong		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		



## SOAP reflection 11<sup>th</sup> June

**Scripture:** Jesus said to them (the Jewish crowd), '...I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.'

**Observation:** In today's gospel, it is evident that Jesus caused controversy with His teachings, particularly since many Jewish people consider His teachings to be unorthodox. Jesus makes a bold claim that anyone who drinks His blood and eats His flesh will have the promise of eternal life, and that people who consume His body and eats His flesh 'consume' His spirit and invite the spirit of God to abide within them. Despite the scepticism that the Jewish audience shows, Jesus appears to be unfazed and reiterates the promise of eternal life for those who consume His body and blood. It is through vignettes like these that Jesus reveals His mission and purpose. This story shows that one of Jesus' missions is to establish the sacrament of communion, which is fulfilled through the Last Supper.

**Application:** Because Jesus fulfilled His mission to atone for our sins and give us a path to salvation, we as Catholics respond to that mission. Jesus invites us to participate in the Eucharist through the consumption of his body and blood. Why is the Eucharist important to Catholics? As Catholics, we believe that the Eucharist is a sacrament, an outward expression of an inward reception of grace. When we consume the Eucharist, we are receiving sanctifying grace. Receiving sanctifying grace makes us deserving of salvation and brings us to a state of holiness. Without it, our state of original sin and our tendency to sin would prevent us from being deserving of eternal life. Although it can be easy to simply go through the motions during mass and participate in the Eucharist while thinking about something else, this wouldn't be giving the Eucharist the attention and respect that it deserves. We aren't actively responding to Jesus' invitation to accept the graces that He offers if we are distracted or lukewarm in the way we participate in the Eucharist. To become more actively responsive, let us not only welcome Jesus into our hearts when we receive the Eucharist, but also reflect on whether we are truly changed, better humans who have manifested Jesus' grace and power in our dispositions, habits, thoughts, behaviour and interactions with other people.

**Prayer:** Lord, Father all-powerful, and ever-living God, I thank you, for even though I am a sinner, your unprofitable servant, not because of my worth, but in the kindness of your mercy, you have fed me with the precious Body and Blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this holy communion may not bring me condemnation and punishment but forgiveness and salvation. May it be a helmet of faith and a shield of good will. May it purify me from evil ways and put an end to my evil passions. May it bring me charity and patience, humility and obedience, and growth in power to do good.

- Rachel

## 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))