

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"

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

18TH JUNE 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

Ex 19: 2 - 6

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99

Response: We are his people:
the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

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

Rom 5: 6 - 11

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son?

Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good News!
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew
Mt 9:36 - 10:8**

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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

The words of the Lord spoken to Moses preserved in the first reading for today describe events that transpired in the lives of those being addressed ('You have seen for yourselves'). Second, if this passage was part of Israel's covenant renewal ceremony, as many commentators believe it was, it is a liturgical remembering that makes present for a new generation the past events being remembered. Although God's goodness appears to be unconditional, covenant membership is not. 'If' God's voice is heeded, and 'if' the people comply with the covenant responsibilities, they will enjoy the privilege of covenant partnership. Although the covenant includes obligations, there is still a dimension of freedom present here. The people are free to choose partnership with God or not.

The few verses in the responsorial psalm come from a hymn of praise that calls Israel to worship its God. It calls the people to serve, to come before, and to know God. In the psalm God is characterised as creator and shepherd (v.3). The first image highlights the sovereignty of God; the second portrays the tender provident care of God. The response concludes with a description of God that consists of attributes associated with the covenant: goodness, lovingkindness, faithfulness. It is only right that we praise a God who is characterised as creator and shepherd and described as forever good, kind and faithful. Paul teaches that justification was won through the blood of Christ. Human beings can only be righteous if they are in right relationship with God and share in God's righteousness. The transformation that takes place in the human-divine relationship is called reconciliation. This reconciliation/transformation has been won for believers by the Lord Jesus Christ, and he won this when they were still sinners. His dying made them righteous, saved them from ultimate peril, reconciled them with God. Paul ends his teaching by claiming that if such wondrous things can be accomplished through Christ's death, how much more will believers be blessed through his resurrected life!

In the scene described in today's gospel reading, the sight of the crowds moves Jesus profoundly. He does not merely feel sorry for the crowds; his compassion springs from his profound love for them. Their great need and the urgency of the moment prompt his words and actions. Though there is no mention of judgment in this passage, reference to the harvest certainly suggests this theme. The apostles are sent out having been given authority to cast out demons or unclean spirits and the ability to heal diseases. The ancients believed that when the reign of God was established, the reign of evil would come to an end. Therefore, they viewed exorcisms and healings as evidence that God's reign was taking hold in the world. The apostles are told to proclaim the arrival of this reign and to demonstrate its presence through wondrous acts.

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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



Sacrament of First Holy Communion

- 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 21, St Aloysius Gonzaga
June 22, Sts John Fisher & Thomas More
June 24, THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

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, 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



'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



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)

24th/25th June ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock A. Bentley	A. Espiritu B. Hooker	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Henderson M. Wilkinson	B. Hooker S. Joseph	
Acolytes	Patrick Senjak	Ian Goldthorpe	Adrian Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1—Chinese Chaplaincy		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina/Trinette		
Morning Tea	Angela & Michael Falamich		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		



SOAP Reflection 18th June

Scripture- Matthew 9:36—10:8

Observation- The Gospel today may seem confusing at first. Jesus describes the crowds as being 'harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd'. Why are the people described as lost and without hope or help? It turns out Jesus is describing the people as being spiritually lost, as they are without the Good Shepherd who is Jesus Christ himself. Led by leaders who cared more about the outward appearance of devotion rather than actual faith and love, Jesus emphasises the desperate need of the people, telling his disciples that the 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few'. With the plentiful harvest being the abundance of those who are spiritually lost yet the lack of workers signified the absence of support and guidance that the people sorely needed. Not to be dismayed, Jesus tells his disciples to pray and gives them the authority to 'drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness'. Sending out his disciples to spread the Good News that the 'kingdom of heaven has come near', the sheep have been found with their eyes opening up to the truth of Jesus Christ.

Application- Whilst Jesus's disciples are no longer physically present with us today, as members of the Catholic Church, we are all God's children basking in the joy of knowing and loving Jesus Christ. As in Jesus's time, far too many people in life are yearning for meaning and hope, seeking out temporal pleasures to mask and suppress their inner emptiness. These lost sheep need our support and need to hear the Good News. We must carry out our lives with purpose and love, spreading the Gospel of love and truth to all who are with us. Do not be afraid to have difficult conversations with those you love most and most importantly pray. God speaks to us through scripture but it is through prayer that we speak to him.

Prayer- Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for rescuing the lost sheep. Thank you for sending your only son down on earth to atone for our sins and give us everlasting life. May we always have the courage to live according to your will and crave to always be with you. May we spread the Good News and be vessels for the truth and may we always love and glorify you. Amen.

- Gabriel

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 4th-7th July (Tuesday to Friday)! This year's theme will be Family Movie Night, with our topic focusing on families-forms were due on the 4th June, but if you are still interested please see one of the coordinators (Hazel or Cheryl). If you have any questions/concerns so far, feel free to 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**