

# 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"*



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

16TH JULY 2023

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 64

**Response:** The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
4. The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

## SECOND READING

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

Rom 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Mt 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young;  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

# 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## COMMENTARY

### Creation Set Free

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No.

Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind.

But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that:

*'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'*

We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction and every type of death.

We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass:

*'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'*

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### Diocese of Parramatta Prayer of 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

- 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

July 22, St Mary Magdalene


**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 ACTIVITES

 **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 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.


 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 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)

 Next Saturday & Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July), we shall be having our **Vinnies Winter Appeal** to support families who are struggling. Please use the **Vinnies Envelopes** which are placed in the pews for making your contributions by way of cash/cheque/credit card. Or use the **QR code** on the Vinnies Winter Appeal posters which are displayed at the church entrances. Thank you for your generosity!

## 22nd/23rd July ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	J. Whippy A. Bentley	J. Jacob S. Jacob	T. Jones D.Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Wilkinson J. Knight	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera (21st July)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Trinette & Sheryl		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Angela & Michael Falamich		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		

# Youth Corner

## SOAP Reflection 16th July

**Scripture-** "For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." - Matthew 13: 1-23

### Observations:

In this day and age, it can be difficult to remain faithful when our faith is constantly questioned in an increasingly secular world. Despite this, God continues to sow his seeds, the message of the kingdom, whether we are open to listen and see or not. As I'm reading this week's Gospel, I find myself questioning, what's the use of recklessly wasting seeds on soil that is bound to be infertile? Perhaps, it is because of his great love for us, that even in those who hear but choose not to believe, those who hear and are lukewarm and those who are too preoccupied to hear, one day the seed will sprout. Jesus' love for us is so great and never fails, even if we are thorny, rootless or parched. But if we choose to receive the messages with faith, the seeds will take root, growing the message of the kingdom and spreading love in the world.

### Application:


We often find ourselves seeking help from the Lord in times of desperation. But, how often have we neglected our relationship with God in times where we've felt invincible or too preoccupied with our daily stresses? In the coming week, and the many weeks ahead, may we be more aware and thankful for the reckless and never ending love God has for us despite our sins. May we remain steadfast in our faith so that we too, can understand the mysteries of the kingdom. Importantly, let us flourish through this love to live out God's Word and be healed by Him.

### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your constant love. Thank you for loving me despite my flaws and shortcomings. May I be open to the graces You have to offer by opening my eyes to see and ears to listen with faith. I pray for guidance to remain steadfast in my faith as I endeavour to deepen my understanding of Your Word. And finally, I pray for all those with calloused hearts who hear but choose not to believe, may they witness Your love and discover the joys of faith. Amen!

- Charlotte

## 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 this month of July! 😊

### World Youth Day

On behalf of the team going to World Youth Day, we would like to thank everyone for their support, prayers, and generous donations over the past year. We will definitely keep the community in our hearts and minds throughout the pilgrimage, and continue to pray for everyone here and any intentions they may have. We can't wait to share with you our experiences when we get back!

### 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))