

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"

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

23RD JULY 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom
Wis 12:13.16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is
questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 85

Response: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. (R.)
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. (R.)
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when
we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit
himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into
words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows
perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints
expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

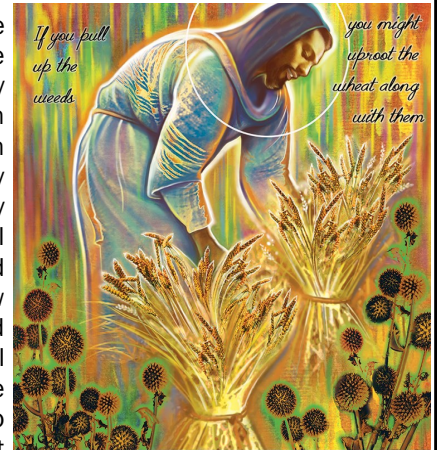
Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew
Mt 13:24-43

Jesus put a parable
before the crowds, 'The
kingdom of heaven may
be compared to a man
who sowed good seed in
his field. While everybody
was asleep his enemy
came, sowed darnel all
among the wheat, and
made off. When the new
wheat sprouted and
ripened, the darnel
appeared as well. The
owner's servants went to
him and said, "Sir, was it
not good seed that you
sowed in your field? If so,
where does the darnel come
from?" "Some enemy has
done this" he answered.
And the servants said,
"Do you want us to go and
weed it out?" But he said,
"No, because when you
weed out the darnel you
might pull up the wheat
with it. Let them both
grow till the harvest; and
at harvest time I shall
say to the reapers: First
collect the darnel and tie
it in bundles to be burnt,
then gather the wheat into
my barn."



He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of
heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in
his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has
grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that
the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is
like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures
of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed,
he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to
fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden
since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his
disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the
darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good
seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is
the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil
one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the
end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as
the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at
the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they
will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences
and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace,
where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the
virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.
Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

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/ EUCARIST 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
ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST	Fr Pio Jang	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

When words fail

One loves someone so much – a child, a parent, a spouse or partner – yet when one tries to pray for that person the words seem only a pale shadow of the intensity of feeling and total love one feels. Stop! Simply put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us.

One's heart is breaking with grief for someone close who is very ill or dying. Or one feels a terrible anxiety or anguish. Words don't come easily even though one wants to pray. Stop! Put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us.

Perhaps accentuated by the constant messaging of social media, when trying to pray we can get anxious when there is a lull in the noise and no words come.

We could pause for a moment to relax and to allow the Spirit to express our plea in a way which could never be put into words.

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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

Sacrament of First Holy Communion

- 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

July 25, St James Apostle
July 26, Sts Joachim & Anne, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary
July 29, Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus

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



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)



These Saturday & Sunday (22nd & 23rd 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!

29th/30th July ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock G. Basha	J. Pinto B. McGettigan	D. Cruz O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock M. Woolridge	J. Skulander B. Hooker	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (28th July)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria & Chidinma		
Morning Tea	Abbey Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth Corner

SOAP Reflection 23rd July

Scripture- Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Weeds) – Matthew 13:24-43

Observations - From these didactic parables, where metaphorical parallels of good and evil are displayed through wheat and weeds, my attention was drawn as the owner's servants asked whether they should go and pull the weeds out. The owner responds: "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest'". This verse metaphorically communicates that it is necessary for both wheat (representing people of the Kingdom of God) and weed (representing the evil doers) to grow together. This means, if god were to remove all bad people in this world, then some of the people that would have found his grace, would be lost as well.

Application - In our daily lives we tend to forget that in each and every person, the image of God is present and as Jesus directs us to "love your neighbour as yourself". Instead of looking down upon those that have chosen the path of evil or have lost their ways, pray or help them so they may find his mercy and his love. We should all share the same goal of spreading the word of God's grace so that we may fully embrace the kingdom of Heaven.

Prayer- Lord, you are so kind, you have always fully understood me and lead me into communities of love and care. Thank you for always displaying your love for us and the opportunities you have granted to understand our importance in this world. May you guide those that are lost in the faith and enslaved by evil, into your hands so may understand what it means to be in the kingdom of Heaven.

Amen

Adrian

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 for the rest of July, until we start a new topic on 'One true God and Catholicism' in August led by a few of our youth leaders ☺

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)