

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"

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

30TH JULY 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of the Kings

1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 118

Response: Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold . (R.)
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight . (R.)
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways . (R.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They

are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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
Matthew
Mt 13:44-52

Jesus said
to the crowds,
'The kingdom of
heaven is like
treasure hidden
in a field which
someone has
found; he hides
it again, goes
off happy, sells
everything he
owns and buys

the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

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
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

The Language of Heaven

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is John Henry Newman's image.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There is lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

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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

- 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 31, St Ignatius of Loyola, priest
Aug 1, St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop
Aug 3, St Dominic, priest
Aug 4, St John Vianney, priest

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 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

Special Masses in August 2023

St Mary MacKillop 8th August (Tue)
9:15am (English)

Assumption of Mary

14th August (Mon) 7pm (Chinese)
15th August (Tue) 9:15am (English)
7pm (English)



St. Monica's Feast Day Party

A night of Dinner, Games Raffle, Music Performances

Date: **26th August 2023 (Sat)** / Time: **6:30pm** / Place: **Hall**
Dinner ticket: \$15 (adult),

\$12 (children 12 years or under),
free(children 6 years or under)

Tickets are sold from 5th August—20th August

ALL ARE WELCOME!

05th/06th August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	S. Younes B. Hooker	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Hernandez L. Lemma	M. Joseph S. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (4th Aug)		
Children's Liturgy	Tresa & Jesuina		
Morning Tea	De Araujo & Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		



SOAP Reflection 30th July

Scripture- Matthew 13:44-52

Observation - In this week's Gospel, there are three parables to reflect on. The first two parables: the parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl, urges us to consider the Kingdom of God as a fine treasure in which one must constantly seek to find and must commit all their possessions in order to obtain this treasure. These parables illustrate that while there is struggle and difficulty in seeking out and following the path towards Heaven, the reward we receive greatly surpasses the obstacles we may face and any earthly desires we may hold. The third parable provides a further explanation to the image of Heaven. The time will come where at the end of the age before the second coming of Christ, judgement will befall on all and those who have rejected God will be separated from those who have placed their faith in Him. This becomes a message to us to remain faithful to Him and also encourages us to bring more closer to realising His love for us. Within this parable, God's perspective is also revealed to us, and therefore when we consider the first two stories from His perspective, we are made known to a deeper meaning of hope and unending love and compassion. God is also working in a field and will sell everything to get that treasure. God looks for valuable pearls, and He sells everything to get that pearl. In the same way, God has given us all an opportunity to meet Him in heaven by sacrificing His Son.

Application - As I reflected on this week's Gospel reading, I am particularly drawn to two messages. The first being that our relationship with God should be viewed alike to how men sought to find treasure in a field or merchant finding a fine pearl; it should be seen as precious and of the highest priority. There is a collective struggle for all believers to follow Christ as we live in a world that urges us towards individualism and self-centred wishes. Thus, we must be active in our faith and make sustained efforts to nurture our relationship with God. This can be in the form of prayer (which come in various forms!), bible study or individual reading. Anything that connects us and enables us to learn more about the Lord can help protect our relationship with Him. Secondly, while there is conflict to conform with societal norms and its materialistic rewards, I have found comfort in the second message of hope. God will sacrifice everything to meet us in His Kingdom so we should have hope! While we are in this battle against sin on Earth, we are reassured that as we continue to set God as our guide, the treasure we seek out, our reward will be great in heaven. And until that day comes, may we all hold a hopeful heart, repent and turn to God for grace and guidance.

Prayer - Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for the guidance and hope you have given us today. Let us be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to put aside our materialistic temptations and desires, and be renewed in faith to seek You fully. May we be compelled to also seek to bring more closer towards You in every person that we meet through our actions and words. May we reflect the kindness and compassion You have shown to us in every encounter so that many more can obtain the precious reward of heaven. Amen.
- Rebecca

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, as well as our 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)

