

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 TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

06TH AUGUST 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared.
The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.

a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn
comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The word of the Lord

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Daniel
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place and one of great age took his seat. His robe was white as snow, the hair of his head as pure as wool. His throne was a blaze of flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A stream of fire poured out, issuing from his presence. A thousand thousand waited on him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. A court was held and the books were opened. I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 96

Response: The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth .

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right. (R.)
2. The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. (R.)
3. For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits. (R.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight:
listen to him.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Peter
2 Peter 1:16-19

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

When Christ appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

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

Transfigured Bodysouls

We have to get rid of the idea that the soul is a dot of energy in some hidden core of our body. In fact, the body is in the soul. There is no part of my body which is not immersed in my soul. It is my whole person, bodysoul, which needs to be saved. As Thomas Aquinas says: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.'

Today's Gospel does not portray an out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Further, this transfiguration was not a solitary experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it precisely because it told them what our Heavenly Father desired as their destiny beyond martyrdom, if only they would listen to Jesus.

Heavenly salvation will involve my whole person, bodysoul, being transformed. But could a person, during their earthly existence, share in the transfiguration experience of Christ?

We could pause for a moment to 'Google' or otherwise get hold of my favourite story of a saint – St Seraphim of Sarov – and pray that we may share with his disciple the bodily experience of 'immeasurable wellbeing' – 'infinite joy in our hearts'.

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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

- Reconciliation & Rehearsal Saturday 12th August at 2pm
- First Holy Communion Mass, Sunday 20th August 3pm

Registration for First Reconciliation

- Saturday 12th August after 5 pm Mass
- Sunday 13th August after 9 am Mass

Children who have been baptised and are in year 3 or above can register.

A copy of the baptism certificate and a donation of \$30 is payable at the time of registration.

Program Details will be given out at the time of registration.

If you have questions please email to the above email address

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Aug 8, St Mary Of The Cross, virgin
Aug 10, St Lawrence, deacon
Aug 11, St Clare, virgin

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.



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

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

Special Masses in August 2023

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

Assumption of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

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),
\$10 (children 12 years or under),
Free (children 6 years or under)

Dinner tickets are being sold after Masses.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

12th/13th August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock A. Bentley	A. Espiritu M. Falamich	T. Jones D.Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson M. Samson	J. Cruz J. Payra	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (11th August)		
Children's Liturgy	Chidinma & Trinette		
Morning Tea	Julie & Maris		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser, Brigid McGettigan		

SOAP Reflection 6th August

Scripture- This week we see the Jesus with his disciples go up a mountain. But it's not the mountain itself that is important, but more what happens on the mountain. As we see them reach the top, Jesus transfigures and emanates a bright glowing light from his face, and his clothes shine a blinding white. In a sense, there an aspect of wonder as He rises, with Moses and Elijah to appear next to him to converse. Fearful and in awe of what is happening, the disciples offer to make housing for Jesus and the strangers that appear to him. Mid-sentence, the heavens opens and a voice appears speaking to the disciples, frightening them into a position of prostration, with their heads to the ground, confirming Jesus and to continue to head his word. Further words of comfort are then provided to his disciples to not fear the voice from above, but also not to share the world of the Lord just yet until after Jesus' resurrection.

Observation- We enter this week coming upon a gospel passage that is not only referenced in the gospel of Matthew, but also mentioned in Luke 9:28-36. Jesus' transfiguration can be seen as a key moment in Jesus' life and ministry, often compared to in importance as events such as his baptism, resurrection and ascension. Here we also see a cloud forming over the group, understood to be God, as he is often depicted as a large following cloud such as in Exodus as he watched over Moses. Seeing what would be a miracle to the disciples, we observe the transfiguration from their point of view, unable to hear the conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah, but only the booming voice of God encouraging our continued following of God.

Application -It is difficult to truly understand what is happening here in this week's gospel as this is an example of a test of one's faith which differs from person to person. In some way, we understand as much as the disciples Peter, James and John did in the moment. Upon seeing Jesus' rise, with two grand figures who we know understand to be Moses and Elijah in a blinding light, as well as the booming voice of God from the clouds, it is a true testament and confirmation of all that the believe and follow Jesus, actualised before their eyes. In today's society, we wait for the second coming of Jesus, and today's gospel somewhat prepares us for this aspect and to show us different ways our faith will one day actualise before ourselves. We take this a reminder to strengthen our faith in anticipation of his passion

Prayer- Lord, we pray that we thank you for the mysteries of faith. May your wonders be truly boundless and work in time. As we wait for your return, we pray that you may give us the virtue of patience and to strengthen our faith to also once again experience your passion. We ask that you also give us guidance throughout this week so that in the actions we take, we grow closer to you. Amen

- Samuel

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 games, friendly chats and discussing 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)