

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"

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

13TH AUGUST 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

They are descended from the patriarchs and from their
flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever
blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Kings

1 Kings 19:9.11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God,
he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he
was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the
Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty
wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the
rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind.
After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not
in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But
the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came
the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this,
he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood
at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84

Response: Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us
your salvation .

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps . (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union
with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with
the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is
this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless,
I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ
if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and
blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the
glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were
drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 14:22-33**

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go
on ahead to the other side while he would send the
crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up
into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he
was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the
lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-
wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards
them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw
him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost'
they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called
out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It
was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell
me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus.
Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking
towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the
force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord!
Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and
held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?'
And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men
in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you
are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

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

Keep Rowing!

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to 'the other side', the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home.

Buffeted by storms, the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory.

Some of the storms include a new attitude to authority, to gender roles. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up. Many of our contemporaries are openly hostile or contentedly indifferent.

In all these situations and many more, Our Lord will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We are not to throw Tradition with a capital 'T' overboard. To jettison the spirit-led experience of the Church over two millennia will not help us. Discerning tradition from nostalgia, we must make our way to the other shore.

We could pause for a moment, resolving to row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter whom our Risen Lord assures:

'Do not be afraid.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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

First Holy Communion Mass
Sunday 20th August 3pm

- Registration for 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 14, St Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Aug 15, The ASSUMPTION of Blessed Virgin Mary

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 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.

Congratulations! On 14th August, Mrs Sheila Watts (94 years old), is being honoured with an award at Parliament House NSW for 27 years of service to the **Catholic Womens' League**. Sheila comes at the 9am Mass. She has been a parishioner for many years and is currently our CWL president.

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 (96301951), or send an email to write.the.word.2024@gmail.com

Special Masses in August 2023

Assumption of Mary

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

Tickets are sold from 5th August—20th August

ALL ARE WELCOME!

19th/20th August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell C. Meleca	M. Joseph P. Fleming	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight M. Woolridge	S. De Araujo J. De Araujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (18th August)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina & Tresa		
Morning Tea	Angela & Michael Falamich		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		



SOAP Reflection 13th August

Scripture- Matthew 14:22-33, specifically when Peter doubts Jesus and says, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

Observation- From this passage, Peter's dubiety stood out to me the most because I realized that I too can be hesitant about my faith and even Jesus' existence. Peter's reaction is not unjustified- after all, experiencing uncertainty and fear about being able to walk on water is a humanly reasonable response yet despite this, Jesus encourages him to step forward as if He knows Peter would not sink in the raging waters. With this reassurance, Peter begins to "walk on the water towards Jesus," but quickly becomes frightened when he notices how strong the wind is. As Matthew records, Jesus "immediately" reaches out and grabs Peter- rather than rebuking him, he asks gently, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" This question can also be directed towards myself, as I wonder in moments where I may become enveloped in challenges and daily life that I lose sight of Jesus' love and providence, and like Peter I cry out "Lord save me!" because I need Him; yet there would be no need for such desperation if I had full trust and faith in Jesus.

Application- This passage can allow us to reflect on our own faith, and whether we truly believe in Jesus or the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is only after Jesus saves Peter that the wind dies down and the other disciples realize that "Truly [He] is the son of God." Do we need the Lord to give us 'evidence' or proof of his existence? How often does our faith waver? Do we only reach out to Jesus when we are in danger or desperation- simply put, do we deny Jesus in occasions where we don't need Him? Although we may never encounter such a severe situation like Peter whereby the Lord directly intervenes and calms a storm for us, it is important to note that when we do experience fear or uncertainty, we can trust that the Lord will save and provide. It may not be immediate, but that should not change how much faith we have in Jesus.

Prayer- Dear Heavenly Father, you give us peace and calmness in our hearts and minds because you love, care, and provide deeply, especially during times of struggles. Help me to realize this, and truly believe in your providence and your word. It is through such experiences that we may grow closer to you Lord, and strengthen our faith. Help me to notice when my faith is lacking, or my trust in you is weak, and bring me back to you. Help me to live through your grace and faith, and not just through sight. Amen.



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 and friendly chats and discussing 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 have just returned from **World Youth Day** pilgrimage and excited to share with you our experiences!

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)