

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"

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

20TH AUGUST 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 56:1.6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 66

Response: O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

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

On Catholic Dogs

A pagan woman approaches a Jewish man and she begs Jesus to heal her daughter.

Jesus gives a dismissive answer to the woman: 'It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the house dogs.' The children are obviously the Jewish people.

This remarkable pagan woman stands her ground and engages in a verbal joust with Jesus! She argues: 'Yes, Lord, but even the house dogs get the crumbs that fall from their master's table.'

Jesus recognises *her* faith and the daughter was healed. This story was put in the Gospels to show how Jesus extended his saving mission to non-Jews in Pagan territory.

That is Good News for billions of non-Jewish people over the course of history since then and into the future. That is why we are truly 'Catholic', which, as you know, is the Greek for 'world-wide'.

We could pause for a moment to celebrate this Canaanite woman as the first 'Catholic'!

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Prayer of Diocese of Parramatta 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 Reconciliation

- Parents Lesson (via Zoom),
Wednesday, 30th August at 7pm
 - 1st Lesson - Saturday, 9th Sept at 4pm
 - 2nd Lesson - Saturday, 16th Sept at 4pm
 - 3rd Lesson - Saturday, 14th Oct at 4pm
 - 4th Lesson - Saturday, 21st Oct at 4pm
 - 5th Lesson - Saturday, 28th Oct at 4pm
- First Reconciliation Day**
- **Select** 8th/9th/10th Nov at 3.30pm to 6.00pm

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Aug 21, St Pius X

Aug 22, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Aug 24, St Bartholomew, apostle

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.



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



A BIG THANK YOU from the Vinnies

We would like to thank our parishioners for their generous contribution and also to the staff and students of St Monica's Primary School for their generous donation of warm clothes and blankets towards the Vinnies Winter Appeal. This would make a big difference to the people who need our support! Thank you once again!!

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal for Retired and Sick Priests

will be collected on 2nd & 3rd September 2023. Envelopes are available on the pews and the tables at the entrance of the Church from 26th August 2023. You can also donate by using QR code on the envelopes and posters.



SOAP Reflection 20th August

Scripture- today's scripture comes from the book of Matthew, specifically Matthew 15: 21-28. Put briefly, it recounts an encounter Jesus has with a Canaanite woman begging him to help her daughter who was troubled by the devil. Though he initially says nothing, and though his disciples beg him to send her away, the woman persists. As a result, though a Canaanite, Jesus acknowledges her faith and cured her daughter.

Observation- Something I observed that seemed quite interesting to me was that Jesus seemingly ignores her in the beginning. At first, I was somewhat perplexed. Why would Jesus, the epitome of love and compassion, ignore a woman so obviously in need of help?

If you consider it a bit more, it becomes apparent that while Jesus does at first say nothing, it isn't out of irritation, but rather he seems to be gauging her. Even when the disciples try to get him to rebuff her, he merely explains that he was only sent to save the those lost descendants of the House of Israel. In this way, rather than sending her away, he seeming gives her a chance to explain herself, and in doing so, she is able to prove her faith. She kneels before him, and kneeling while obviously a sign of fealty, is also an acknowledgement that she recognises Jesus as who he truly is – it is something that has been echoed by many others in the Gospel.

Application- While there is a lot more that can probably be analysed, the important thing to take away from this Gospel is that salvation is not just limited to the house of David, but rather, to those who display true faith. And therefore, while it is so easy to just ignore those who do not believe in God, under the pretext that there is no point helping them, it is important to remember that this is not necessarily the case. It is precisely because of faith being the key to salvation that as Catholics we have a duty to also give others a chance at it, and to spread the word as far as we can, even through the simplest things in our daily lives.

Prayer- Today, while reading this Gospel, I pray that we can be reminded that God's love and hope for us extends past those who are Catholic and to those who do not currently have a place for him in their hearts. May we have the courage to go towards them and reach out a helping hand – a hand free of judgement, and full of care. I pray that all those currently lost find their way towards you in the hopes that they too can experience your salvation. Amen.

Have a good week everyone.

Rashane

St. Monica's Feast Day Party

A night of Dinner, Games Raffle, Music Performances
Date: 26th August 2023 (Sat) / Time: 6:30pm / Place: Hall
Tickets are sold out. See you there!

26th/27th August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha K. Hancock	Franklyn God's Gift	M. Novak D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Hancock A. Bentley	B. Hooker S. De Araujo	
Acolytes	P. Hancock	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (25th August)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl & Maria		
Morning Tea	Abbey Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney		

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYR)

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 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 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)