

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"



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

27TH AUGUST 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 137

Response: Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen,

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.



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

What's in a Name?

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros.

Jesus puns with the nickname: 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build my church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus).

Notice that Jesus only makes promises about 'my church', not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

Fortunately, we have a successor of St Peter responding to our Risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi, 'Rebuild my church'.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the 265th successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity.

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A Prayer to St. Monica

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven Who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers.

Dear St. Monica, we now ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all parents who are worried over their children.

Pray also for us that, following your example, we may, in the company of our children, one day enjoy the eternal vision of our Father in Heaven. Amen.

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 28, St Augustine, bishop

Aug 29, The Passion of St John the Baptist

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, Gesualda Borg, Monica Teresa & Fernanda Carigliano, 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.



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.



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.

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

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. You can also donate by using the QR code on the envelopes and posters.



For their lifetime of selfless service to God and His people, let us give thanks and care for our priests.



Youth + Corner

World Youth Day Reflections

World Youth Day was a truly special experience which touched the hearts of not just the six of us from St Monica's, but also the other million pilgrims from across the world. We are glad to have shared this with you all in our short presentation over the past few weeks, but we also invite you to read our individual reflections as we delve a little deeper into what 'World Youth Day' meant for each group member. This week's article is beautifully written by Ryan!

The term 'World Youth Day' is in many ways a misnomer - not least because it actually lasts for around a week. There is an inviting tendency to view it as some kind of religious gala or festival, but beneath all the exuberance and noise is a simple pilgrim's journey. Our pilgrimage to Lisbon began long before we left Australian shores, marked by the first of our formation sessions we held here at St Monica's. During that session, we asked ourselves an important question: "What am I seeking from World Youth Day?" (I'll let you know my answer at the end of the article.)

Having committed much time, energy and money into travelling to quite literally the other side of the globe, I had high expectations heading into World Youth Day. Despite wearing a nine-hour coach ride from Santiago de Compostela, our arrival into Lisbon reinvigorated my enthusiasm and anticipation for the week ahead. As we settled into our apartment and made for dinner in the suburban hills of Graça, I can admit that it was not long before I had fallen in love with the charismatic and lively streets of Lisboa.

However, the next few days revealed the sobering reality of accommodating over a million Catholic youths in the small Portuguese municipality, as we rubbed shoulders with pilgrims from all across the world on public transport and in shared spaces. Venues, conferences, and talks filled up to and beyond maximum capacity hours before their official start time, and we soon became accustomed to rejection and disappointment. In six days, we were admitted into just three talks and exhibitions, and spent significant time in long queues and on public transport.

But despite all this, I never felt that World Youth Day would fail to live up to my expectations. Though the week certainly did not go to plan, there was a thrilling serendipity to journeying with our small St Monica's troupe. Time and time again, dismay gave way to solidarity with other youth who were in a similar situation, and through newfound friendships with complete strangers, I felt a glimmer of optimism that perhaps God's presence was all around, waiting to be found.

My answer to the question which preceded our pilgrimage was one of hope: I hoped to know God – not just to know of Him, but to have a personal, intimate relationship with Him. At Lisbon, I'm pleased to have met Him – His name was Eliška, Phuong, Robert, Martin, Carolina. I shared meals with Him, slept on stones with Him, and laughed to tears with Him. He reminded me that kindness is free, and that in every act of love, He is there. To me, my World Youth Day pilgrimage has not yet finished – it's only just begun!
- Ryan

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' led by a few of our youth leaders 😊

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)

02nd/03rd September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C. Meleca	C. Cheung S. Joseph	T. Jones M. Novak
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock A. Hernandez	S. Joseph J. Payra	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (01st September)		
Children's Liturgy	Trinette & Chidinma		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 5 - Kris & Peter Handcock		