

# 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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**03RD SEPTEMBER 2023**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.  
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of mercy to all who call to you.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**  
**Jeremiah 20:7-9**

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 62**

**Response:** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**  
**Rom 12:1-2**

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

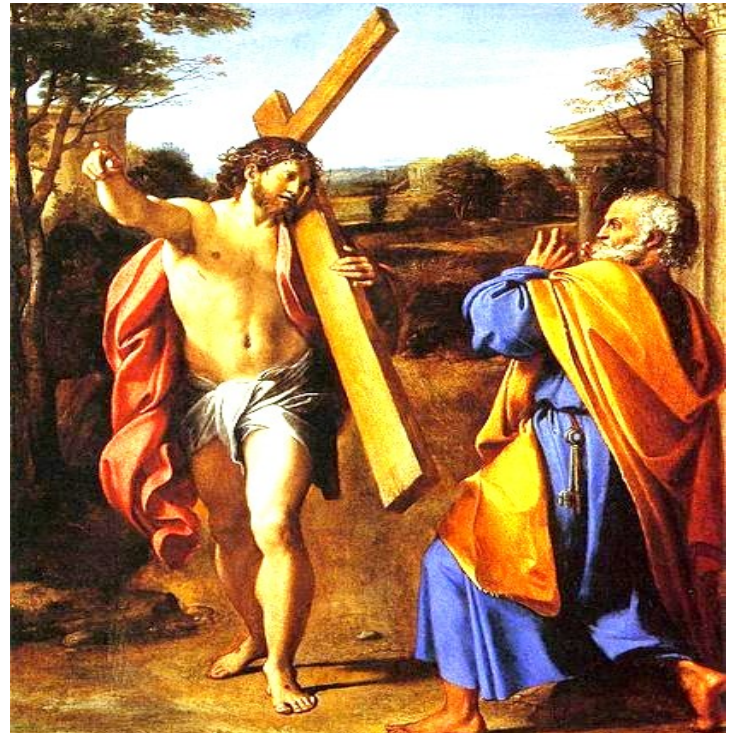
*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**  
**Mt 16:21-27**

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,  
that you keep for those who fear you.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Thursday 8pm—9pm Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630 -1951 Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST</b>	Fr Pio Jang Phone: 9630 -1951 Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151 Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

### 'Get behind me, Satan'

We have to get one terrible thought out of our heads, i.e. that the Heavenly Father of Jesus *wanted* him to suffer a tortured, agonising death. Yet we do say: 'It was necessary that Jesus suffer and die.' What can this mean? I believe this refers to the necessity of divine mission and the necessity of divine love.

First, it was the Father's will that Jesus remain true to the mission to preach and embody the gospel of mercy and forgiveness. It was inevitable that powerful elites would find this intolerable and have Jesus eliminated. Secondly, God so loved the world where death ravages human beings, that God determined to absorb the suffering and pangs of death.

The temptation to avoid that dreadful necessity lead Jesus to rebuke Peter: 'Get *behind* me, Satan', a terrible variation of the initial call: 'Come, *follow* me.'

We could pause for a moment to very consciously make the sign of the Cross, the consequence of Jesus' mission and love for us.

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Prayer for 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](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)

#### Sacrament of First Reconciliation

- 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

Sept 8, The Nativity of the 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, 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.

## Write the WORD 2022-2024

To participate the celebration of the 130<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

## SOAP Reflection 3<sup>rd</sup> September

**Scripture-** In today's reading from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples about His death on the cross and His resurrection three days after His death. Peter then complains about Jesus' prediction, and Jesus rebukes him, telling his disciples that anyone who wishes to follow Him must take up His cross, engage in self-denial, and be willing to give up their lives to follow Him. Jesus also tells His disciples that God will judge people according to their conduct. This is why Jesus says, 'for anyone who wishes to save His life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.'

**Observation-** In this story, Peter's complaint about Jesus' prediction of His death and resurrection seems like a very understandable, human reaction. People don't like thinking that catastrophic events, like someone's violent death, will inevitably occur. Catastrophic events can leave people feeling distressed, feel like their lives are not in their control, feel like they've lost a sense of predictability and security in their lives, feel embarrassed and humiliated. It is possible that Peter, who considered himself to be a devoted follower of Jesus, felt these anxieties when Jesus predicted his own death, which is why Peter did not want to consider that such an event will happen, and deemphasised Jesus' prediction that He will rise from the dead. However, Jesus rejects a framing of His predicted death and resurrection that is based on individual anxieties and desires, because He believes that the fulfilment of His mission required His death and resurrection. He recognised that His mission to save humanity is more important than the desires of individuals. In other words, Jesus recognised the value and importance of deprioritising self-interest in favour of pursuing a greater good and this is something Jesus criticised Peter for not understanding.

**Application-** In the modern day context, we all recognise the concept of putting aside our own interests and desires in furtherance of a greater good. However, while society does perceive some people-centred aspects of life, such as developing careers, maintaining positive family relationships, improving the lives of citizens as 'values' worth making sacrifices for, secular societies don't necessarily perceive attaining salvation and showing love of God as worthy values worth making sacrifices for, particularly if religious beliefs are considered unimportant and unnecessary. Despite this, Catholics are always called to prioritise showing our love of God in our lives, even if it means giving up things we value highly, even if people may not understand our choices, or criticise them. We do not have to literally risk our lives to be Catholics, but there may be times when we feel tempted to reject our Catholic values and beliefs in order to 'fit in,' to 'get ahead' in society, to get what we want. It is important that in those moments, we remember that to choose to love God and abide by His will, and to achieve eternal, spiritual union with Him is our ultimate aim and calling as followers of Jesus, which surpasses all our other goals and desires.

**Prayer-** Dear God, there may be times where we are tempted to reject our calling to love you, to serve you and to always aim to be united with you, particularly if we think our calling conflicts with our desires. Give us the strength to overcome these temptations, to see the value and beauty in always choosing to love you and do your will. Help us to trust in your grace and power to give us the wisdom to make the right decisions and strengthen our faith in your promise of eternal life to those who accept your calling. Amen.

Rachel

## 09th/10th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	G. Basha J. Whippy	S. Jacob J. Jacob	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Samson L. Iemma	J. Cruz M. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera (08th September)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Maria & Tresa		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Julie & Maris		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		

## 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](mailto:gabbyfleming2007@gmail.com))**