

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94

Response: O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that

cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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

Boundaries and Juries

Our Lord acknowledged that the community he was establishing had to set boundaries. Who is to decide who is within or outside those boundaries?

In today's Gospel, Our Lord teaches that a nuanced step by step process should be invoked. First, there is private conversation, then slightly extended to bring in two or three others, then a sort of church community jury before a person is put beyond the pale. Our Lord promises to be with them to help guide their decision.

We all know of marriages which are fractured and where one partner has found intimacy and security in a second (civil) marriage.

Pope Francis has not suggested that the second marriage be regarded as valid. But he has suggested a process of discernment to allow a divorced person to receive 'the Eucharist . . . a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.'

Could a jury of ordinary Catholic lay people help make that discerning judgement, and then advise the Bishop as to the next step?

We could pause for a moment to ponder the promise: 'Where two or three are gathered into my name, I am there with them.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Prayer of Diocese of Parramatta Synod.

"Behold, I am doing a new things"

Isaiak 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

- 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 13, St John Chrysostom, bishop

Sept 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sept 15, Our Lady of Sorrow

Sept 16, Sts Cornelius, pope, and Cyprian, bishop

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 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

Fathers' Day Appeal 2023

Thank you for your generosity. From the envelopes and cash donations we have collected \$3765.90

Youth + Corner

World Youth Day Reflections

Most of you would have seen our presentation or read the previous youth corner on our time in Spain and Portugal for World Youth Day. Instead of recounting what we did, I want to share something more personal. Before I begin, I would like everyone to think of a time when things did not go according to your plan, how did you feel? We will come back to this at the end.

Having experienced the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in 2019, I was really looking forward to all the talks and conferences. The other aspect of World Youth Day I was really looking forward to was all the praise and worship concerts. After our pre-trip in Spain for the Way of St James, I was full of excitement arriving in Lisbon. Our official first day of World Youth Day did not disappoint either, as we attended a high-quality seminar on the Shroud of Turin, then experienced not 1 but 2 moments of pure awe when we attended the Australian gathering with over 3000 people, followed by the opening mass with approximately 400,000 pilgrims from all over the world.

However, if you have read some of the previous reflections, you will know that from day 2 onwards, we only managed to get into 1 conference, 1 rise-up meeting and 1 exhibition. As the week went by, everyone was becoming more and more frustrated. The lowest point for me must have been missing out on Father Rob Galea and Matt Maher's concerts. We arrived early for both of these but missed out in the end due to different reasons which made it worse. However, despite the disappointment of missing all of these, I reminded myself time and time again to look beyond the disappointment and find joy in the moment. We actually encountered God in all sorts of different ways, from meeting people from all over the world to seeing the joy and pride expressed by the different groups of pilgrims, and a world united as one in the name of Jesus. Even as we battled the heat of the final day, the fact that multiple groups of pilgrims came to help us when some of us fell ill with heat stroke demonstrated this unity and God's love.

So back to the question I asked at the start "How did you feel when things did not go according to your plan?" Before this, I would have been frustrated and may even act out my anger. I wanted to experience praise and worship, I wanted knowledge, but God had other plans. He taught me to let the little things go, learn to see Him in all situations, and that I need to calm my emotions so I can love those around me who are also hurting. This pilgrimage taught me to have an open heart, and always embrace the moments because that is the only way to encounter God in our lives

Gordon

16th/17th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	A. Bentley G. Basha	B. McGettigan J. Pinto	O. Holsinger D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson M. Woolridge	J. DeAraujo S. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthopre	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (15th September)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina & Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Abbey Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

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 😊

• Youth Trivia Night

Hi everyone! We will be hosting a Youth Trivia Night on Friday 6th October at 6:30PM in the hall- come along for a night of food, games and the chance to catch up with each other 😊 Let any of the leaders know if you have any questions!

• 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)