

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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel .

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance
of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when
you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead
for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember
dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your
neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most
High, and overlook the offence .

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion .

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings . (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion . (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on
others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die
for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.
This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was
so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the
living,

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I
have loved you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 16:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often
must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as
seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but
seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to
a king who decided to settle his accounts with his
servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a
man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no
means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should
be sold, together with his wife and children and all his
possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw
himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said
"and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master
felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the
debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet
a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and
he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him.
"Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at
his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will
pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary,
he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt.
His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw
what had happened, and they went to their master and
reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for
him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that
debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not
bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I
had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him
over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And
that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless
you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your
wings.



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

Forgiveness

I don't like the phrase: 'Forgive and forget'. Remembering can be an important part of healing. Forgiving is about giving up the desire 'to get even', making sure that the 'punishment fits the crime'. It is that sort of forgiveness which we dare to ask of God for ourselves. But here's the catch: it is that sort of forgiveness which we must practise towards others.

When we don't, we are like the principal debtor in Jesus' story. In harshly dealing with a minor debtor, he refused to share his king's quality of forgiveness. If we don't pass on this aspect of God's life to others, then we are warned that we will end up in a hellish situation unable to share in the fullness of Divine life.

It is easy to talk 'Big Picture' forgiveness. It is much harder within the family or circle of acquaintances. It seems impossible to simply will it. But we have to ask for the grace to do it.

We could pause for a moment to pray:

'Our Father who art in Heaven . . . forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

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Prayer of the Diocesan 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

- 1st Lesson - Saturday, 14th Oct at 3:30pm
- 2nd Lesson - Saturday, 21st Oct at 3:30pm
- 3rd Lesson - Saturday, 28th Oct at 3:30pm

First Reconciliation Day

Select 8th/9th/10th Nov at 3.30pm to 6.00pm

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Sept 20, Sts Andrew Kim Tse-gon & Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions

Sept 21, St Matthew, apostle

Sept 23, St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

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

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Cancelled

(one time only)
On **21st September 2023, Thursday, 7:30pm**, there will be a solemn Mass of the Priestly Ordination of Deacon Tom Green at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at our church at that night will be cancelled. Please pray for our new priest and for more vocations.



World Youth Day Reflections

As one of six pilgrims from St Monica's who went to World Youth Day in Lisbon this year, I am incredibly grateful to have experienced the faith in such a unique and profound way – an experience that is difficult to put into words.

Before embarking on this journey, we reflected on what we wanted to get out of the trip. Whether it was to reconnect and rekindle our relationship with God, to learn and gain as much knowledge as possible or simply to experience all that was on to offer at one of the biggest events in the Catholic Church. I personally felt that this was an opportunity to dedicate my time and energy to God. A chance to physically separate myself from everyday life, to learn and meet other youths of the same faith from around the world and encounter the Lord in a foreign country. So, with great excitement and anticipation, we set off on our pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal where we would get a glimpse at some of the most incredible cathedrals, be inspired by various figures in the Church and realise what it means to be a follower of Christ: to arise and go in haste – like Mary.

Our pre-trip in Spain, following the Way of Saint James, led us to various small and quaint towns where magnificent cathedrals were built in the heart of it. At each stop I was struck with awe and wonder by the magnitude and beauty of every cathedral. Visiting the monastery in Monserrat and seeing the Black Madonna in an ornate throne room was the highlight for me. There was a peace and stillness within the beautiful Basilica that was indescribable. It was during this part of our pilgrimage where I developed a newfound appreciation for Our Lady. As a motherly figure in our lives, she gives us great comfort and guidance and sets a leading example of what it means to say yes to God.

Moving along to our week in Lisbon, where in the vibrant and rather hilly city, we were greeted with thousands of cheery pilgrims. Though there were difficulties along the way in dealing with the intense heat, long queues and disappointments in missing some amazing talks, it was incredible to be surrounded by so many diverse young Catholics. In this shared experience, we connected with youths from Romania, Czech Republic, Venezuela, France, Mexico, Portugal, and many others.

A particularly inspiring moment during this pilgrimage was visiting Mother Teresa's exhibition. We were able to gain an extensive insight into her life and I was overcome with admiration by her persevering faith and compassionate heart. She had a deep longing and desire to know Jesus and followed her calling to be the hands and feet of Christ and reveal his love and salvation to those in most need. Every person she encountered and cared for she saw them as Jesus under a "distressed disguise". She was a true witness to the faith, and this experience prompted me to reflect on what Jesus is calling *me* to be – a distinct theme that has been consistent throughout the trip.

And as we concluded our pilgrimage with the commissioning mass by the Pope, we were reminded to "be not afraid" and to reflect Mary's attitude to faith in our daily lives – to leave in haste and be active witnesses of Christ.

- **Rebecca**

23rd/24th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	R. Handcock A. Bentley	B. Hooker S. Younes	D. Llevado M. Novak
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley J. Knight	J. Skulander B. Hooker	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (22 September)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

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)