

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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Is 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144

Response: The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Phil 1:20-24. 27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life
or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then
death would bring me something more; but then again,
if living in this body means doing work which is having good
results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught
in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ,
which would be very much the better, but for me to stay
alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.
Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be
unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven
is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers
for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers
for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard.
Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing
idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my
vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went.
At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour,
he went out and did the same. Then at about the
eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing
round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing
here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they
answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too."
In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff,
"Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with
the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who
were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and
received one denarius each. When the first came, they
expected to get more, but they too received one denarius
each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The
men who came last" they said "have done only one hour,
and you have treated them the same as us, though we
have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He
answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not
being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius?
Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer
as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with
my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus
the last will be first, and the first, last.'

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

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

No Salvation outside the Church?

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius.

This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the Kingdom of God.

Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of their idea that God's grace could not be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People.

We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us 'the Bread of Life', given for the salvation of all the world.

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Prayer for 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

- 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 27, St Vincent de Paul, priest

Sept 29, Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels

Sept 30, St Jerome, 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



WYD Reflections

Despite documenting this more than a month after the conclusion of World Youth Day, I still find myself thinking back to the days of sweltering, incessant heat, endless cathedral hopping and identifying country flags from around the world before delving into a questionable conversation where we realized our multilingual abilities were significantly lacking. Although these memories are a reminder of the joy I experienced throughout the trip, nothing will compare to the intimacy I felt when I was in (and surrounded by) God's presence.

Prior to leaving, our small group of 6 pilgrims pondered on 'What would you like to get out of World Youth Day? Why are you going, and what do you hope to learn?' I personally wanted to be closer to Christ again, and experience the same peace and trust I felt had been missing from my life for a while; and understand my calling in life, perhaps through being inspired by the lives of other Catholics. I had heard great things about this international event- the promise of an impactful and inspiring atmosphere; the wonderful people you get to meet; and even the possibility to encounter God in all his glory! My expectations were high, to say the least.

Admittedly, I was mildly disappointed with how the World Youth Day week eventuated. Under the blistering sun, we traveled across the city of Lisbon in hopes of attending the talks, conferences and activities that prompted our initial excitement and anticipation, only to be met with long queues which rarely guaranteed a place in the venue as the capacity was often already at its maximum. Notwithstanding, the events we were able to participate in were some of my more favourable moments- touching a first class relic of Pope St John Paul II (a strip of the cassock he was wearing during his 1981 attempted assassination) was particularly incredible as he is someone I look up to deeply, and have always been in awe of his perseverance, intense love for God, Mary, and the youth. Having a sister from the Missionaries of Charity give us a detailed, guided tour of Mother Theresa's life prompted a reflection of whether I too can experience sacrificial love- Mother Theresa was devoted to a calling of aid and support for those less fortunate. Listening to a comprehensive discussion on the shroud of Turin was a unique learning opportunity which solidified my belief that Christ was a real human being who suffered significantly, and ultimately died for us. Witnessing my faith by meeting others from France, Melbourne, Czech Republic, Mexico, USA, Azerbaijan to then seeing 1.5 million Catholics gathered in the final mass only strengthened this credence- Christ is alive, and is living through each of us.

Contentment is how I would sum up my overall experience. Although it seemed defeating in the moment to stand exposed in the sunlight after waiting many hours, or pushed amidst a crowd of perspiring and clammy individuals, God was still able to provide the comfort and peace I sought out. It was through the people we shared laughter and bonded with over building rock barriers; the valuable information I learnt, and the time spent in prayer and meditation that I could come face to face with Christ. World Youth Day left me fulfilled, because I knew God, and so did 1.5 million others.

30th Sept/01 October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	E. Caruana K. Handcock	A. Espiritu M. Joseph	D. Llevado M. Novak
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson L. Iemma	J. Payra M. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (29th September)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	Julie & Maris		
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney		

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)**