

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

01ST OCTOBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
Ezek 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24

Response: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Phil 2:2-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own

interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.



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, no, no, no ... Y-yes!'

Jesus tells a little story about two brothers. One said 'Yes', but never did anything. The other said 'No', but then had a change of heart and did what was required. Jesus loved the brother who came around. He was very hard on the one who said 'Yes' but did not 'walk the talk'.

That is why he loved those tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities, and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army, but who switched allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God. This signalled a profound change of heart.

We may have said 'No' to God at various times with various intensity in our lives. But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear 'No' many times in the hope of hearing 'Yes'. God's patience never runs out. But our time to say 'Yes' does run out. We only have a relatively short life span!

At the end of Mass, I will say 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.' As St Francis of Assisi put it, 'Preach the Gospel, and occasionally use words.' Walk the talk.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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

Oct 2, The Holy Guardian Angles

Oct 4, St Francis of Assisi

Oct 7, Our Lady of the Rosary

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.



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

St Margaret Mary's Church in Merrylands (1-5 Chetwynd Road, Merrylands) will be holding two Marian devotions

- Public Rosary Procession** on 7/10/23 (Sat) commencing with Mass at 8am followed by the Procession.
- Men's monthly Rosary** on every first Saturday of the month starting at 9:30am in front of the Church



WYD Reflections

Time surely flies! It's hard to believe that it's already been almost two months since we returned from our World Youth Day pilgrimage. Yet, the experience continues to inspire me as if it was only yesterday.

As this was not my first WYD (I attended the 2016 WYD in Krakow, Poland), I thought I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting myself into and what I was about to experience. But boy, was I wrong. Whilst the joyous atmosphere and the excitement was still the same, I was faced with challenges I hadn't experienced at the Krakow WYD and certainly, did not expect.

As already accounted by others from the group, we unfortunately had to face the disappointment of not being able to attend many talks, discussions and events we had originally planned as most venues were at capacity despite our group waiting in queues for an hour or so in the unforgiving European heat. Though I certainly also felt the disappointment along with the rest of the group, especially during the first two days, I came to realise that perhaps, God was trying to teach me something more than what I could have learnt in the talks and seminars. I felt that not only was God testing and honing my patience and empathy, but also that He was inspiring me with the many Catholics that we met and connected with along the way, young people who had come from all over the world and shared the same faith as we do.

Although we couldn't get into very many presentations, we certainly did see many beautiful sights during our pilgrimage, from the amazing views of the cities we visited to the breathtaking Cathedrals we prayed and celebrated Masses in. However, I think the most beautiful sight was the vision of the 1.5 million Catholics that congregated together to celebrate the same faith. I saw the endless sea of people holding countless different national flags as we neared the site of the final Mass and I remember feeling so inspired and so overwhelmed with joy that it brought a happy tear to my eye. This pilgrimage was less about how much I gained in knowledge of the Church or the Bible but how much I gained in the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the intensity of the fire that now burns in my heart to continue to serve God in my everyday life.

I still recall the words of Pope Francis's homily during the Commissioning (Final) Mass of WYD, reflecting on the Gospel of the day of the Transfiguration; to shine, to listen and to be unafraid. Pope Francis reminded us young people that though WYD has come and gone and we may return to our monotonous everyday lives with failures and challenges to face, we should always shine as Jesus shone during the transfiguration by doing works of love and loving others as he does. While there are days where I may fail in actioning this, as we all may do, I still wake up each day with these words and the memory of an inspiring WYD in my heart as I continue to serve this beautiful Parish of ours and live out my life as a proud Catholic.

- Cheryl

07th/08th October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	A. Bentley C. Maxwell	God's Gift P. Fleming	T. Jones O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock M. Wilkinson	J. Cruz J. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (06 October)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	De Araujo & Michael Falamich		
Counting	Group 5 - Peter & Kris Handcock		

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)