

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

08TH OCTOBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Is 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79

Response: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)
2. Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
4. And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Phil 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is

true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?' 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.



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

Good Wine requires Hard Work

In the Hebrew scripture, Israel is spoken of as the Vineyard of God. We can say that now the Church is the vineyard of God. God is the Landlord, we are the tenants. It is our job to faithfully tend it and make sure it bears good fruit. If we are unfaithful, then God *will* find other people to carry on his plan, other tenants to tend his vineyard.

Certainly, we see that within the Universal Church. With the decline of the Eurocentric church, who has God turned to as new tenants for his vineyard? Look at the surging numbers of Catholics in sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria, the Philippines, Korea. The persecuted Church in Vietnam and China is surviving and growing despite the severity of oppression.

I think we may agree that the vineyard of the Church in Australia is not as fruitful as it could be. This is a challenge for us. It is wonderful to see the energetic work of the new immigrants and refugees in our parishes (including the Bishop of Parramatta!).

We could pause for a moment to commit to taking up the privilege and duty to work in the vineyard of the Church.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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

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

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 Elich, 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.

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

Restore Love Family Event

By Simon Carrington at St. Monica's Church
29th October 2023, SUNDAY, 2pm—4:30pm
With Talks to teens and parents about LOVE & PURITY

Adoration and Confession available.
It's FREE! All teens and parents are welcome.

SPECIAL MASSES in NOVEMBER 2023

1st Nov (All Saints Day, Wednesday)

2nd Nov (All Souls Day, Thursday)

Masses at 9:15am (English) &
7:30pm (English + Chinese)



World Youth Day Reflections

Although it has been over some time since coming back from my first ever overseas trip and where I was privileged to attend my first World Youth Day pilgrimage, I still can't forget the wonderful times I spent overlooking beautiful sites and visiting different places during those weeks.

I experienced a range of emotions throughout the trip, especially since it was my first significant trip, like my first time ever flying, but visiting Barcelona and Portugal and the trips in between to see all the cathedrals was an incredible experience. However, I had no idea what I was getting myself into before the trip began, particularly in light of the WYD events.

As the others have stated, during the entire week of WYD we only got to attend a few talks and exhibitions due to the sheer amount of pilgrims exceeding the capacity of the event locations.

As we got more and more frustrated that we couldn't attend most talks and sessions I think it taught me that even if we plan everything out we still have bumpy roads along the way and we don't expect what is to come next, but despite that, we got to meet people that came from all around the world and got to see so many young Catholics from around the world gathering during the first mass and the final mass that it felt like a place of belonging. Through the scorching heat to get to the place where the final Mass was being held all we could see was thousands of pilgrims and finding out that about 1.5 million pilgrims attended the final Mass was mind boggling.

But the most important part for me was the speech from Pope Francis during adoration as it really meant a lot to me and just has stuck with me ever since coming back from the trip. The Pope said to always think back to what the pope has said for us young people 'to go in haste as Mary went with haste and I always think back to this.

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

Thank you to all the youth who came along to our trivia night on Friday! We hope you had a good time.

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)**

14th/15th October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell G. Basha	Franklyn C. Cheung	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bently J. Knight	B. Hooker S. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (13th October)		
Children's Liturgy	Chidinma & Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Abbey Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		