

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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

15TH OCTOBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Is 25:6 - 10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22

Response: I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Phil 4:12-14

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my

hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 22:1-14

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.



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

Wedding Garments at Baptisms!

The servants of the king went out and gathered in 'all whom they found, good and evil alike'. They respond, drawn by the attractive prospect of sharing in the life of the Lord of the Feast, and they are welcomed, whether good or evil.

What about the king's (God's) question to the wedding guest? 'My friend, how come you are here without a wedding garment?' The guest might have replied: 'Because of dire poverty', or 'Lack of time', but the story goes on, 'But the guest was silent'. The guest was tongue-tied because he was caught out having decided not to enter into the spirit of the occasion.

That is why, at every baptism, we look for a signal of commitment to respond to the spirit of the occasion, by the wearing of a white garment. This anticipates the later receiving of Holy Communion which is a foretaste of the Feast of Heaven.

We could pause for a moment at this Mass to enter into the Spirit of the occasion wearing the garment of our baptismal commitment.

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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

- 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 17, St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop

Oct 18, St Luke, evangelist

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.

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)

21st/22nd October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock A. Bentley	S. Joseph J. Jacob	T. Jones D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Hernandez K. Handcock	S. Joseph J. Skulander	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (20th October)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria & Jesuina		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		



SOAP Reflection 15th October

Scripture- Matthew 22:1-14

Observations- From this didactic passage, where metaphorical parallels are drawn between a great wedding banquet and society, my attention was drawn as Jesus describes the kingdom of God: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son". This parable compares the invitation to a great feast to the invitation to the Kingdom of God with the reward of eternal salvation. It is a reminder that our decision will determine whether we remain at the King's feast or find ourselves thrown "outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth". The parable ultimately calls out to all people, whether we listen to God's servants and follow them back into the banquet or ignore God's calling: "the wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find". God is calling out to us.

Application- In our daily lives it is easy to be tempted by sin or forget our place as God's children as stewards of the Earth, straying from the path of eternal salvation. In each and every person, the image of God is present and Jesus constantly reminds us, we belong to him as a family. Instead of looking down upon those that have forgotten or strayed from the path of God, pray or help them so they may find his mercy and love and the 'banquet' that he prepared for us so lovingly.

Prayer- Lord, you are so kind, you always reveal your kingdom to me through the people you have surrounded me with. Thank you for the opportunities you have granted me and the friends and family you have surrounded me with to love and support each other. I ask that this joy and these sensations of comfort and love will be experienced and shared by all so that we, as your children, will come willingly and desiring to join you at the great feast where your kingdom resides. May you lead those that have lost the path of grace into welcome arms and may they find your love and mercy. Amen

Adrian

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 'Relationship with God through Prayer' led by a few of our youth leaders 😊

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)

