

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

22ND OCTOBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Is 45:1.4 - 6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue
nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to
force gateways before him that their gates be closed
no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the
setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is
nothing.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95

Response: Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
1 Thess 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church
in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and
thank God for you all, and constantly remember
before God our Father how you have shown your faith

in action, worked for love and persevered through
hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that
you have been chosen, because when we brought the
Good News to you, it came to you not only as words,
but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter
conviction.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between
them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they
sent their disciples to him, together with the
Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an
honest man and teach the way of God in an honest
way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a
man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your
opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar
or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and
replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for
me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.'
They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose
head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied.
He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar
what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to
God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.



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

Whose Image and Likeness?

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. *They* are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, *and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.*' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

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Pope Francis Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father,
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead,
he commissioned his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations"
and you remind us
that through our Baptism
we are made sharers
in the mission of the Church.
Empower us by
the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission
entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion,
may find new and efficacious expressions
that bring life and light to the world.
Help us make it possible for all peoples
to experience the saving love
and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen.

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

- 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 28, Sts Simon & Jude, apostles

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.

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)

Pilgrimage Walk to learn our history & the great faith of our local saints:

Date /Time: 24th November 2023 (Friday) 9am to 1:30pm
Cost: \$20 per person (lunch and public transport not included)
Gathering Point: Wynyard Station, Wynyard Park Skydome
Pilgrimage Places: **St. Patrick's Church, Wynyard & Mary MacKillop Chapel, North Sydney**

Registration: Scan the QR code or use the special form

Enquiries: Chinese Chaplaincy: 0411 192 278



28th/29th October ROSTERS

| | 5pm Vigil | 9am | 6pm |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Readers | G. Basha E. Caruana | S. Jacob B. McGettigan | O. Holsinger D. Cruz |
| Extraordinary Ministers | M. Samson M. Wilkinson | J. payra B. Hooker | |
| Acolytes | P. Senjak | N. Joseph | A. Cheung |
| Cleaning | Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (27th October) | | |
| Children's Liturgy | Tresa & Chidinma | | |
| Morning Tea | Julie & Maris | | |
| Counting | Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera | | |



SOAP Reflection 22nd October

Scripture- Today's Gospel reading is one of many in which the Pharisees try to trick Jesus with a question that he cannot answer. In this case the dilemma presented by the Pharisees is political in nature rather than theological. They ask Jesus whether or not it is lawful for a Jew to pay tax to Caesar. The Pharisees ask this as a way to remove Jesus' popularity amongst the people as his preachings often criticised the pharisees. The trap is such that whether Jesus says yes or no the Pharisees gain a favourable outcome; if he says that it is lawful he will lose favour with the Jews but if he says it isn't lawful he could be arrested by the romans. So Jesus answers by saying quote "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God, the things that are God's." Thus remaining in the good graces of the local authorities whilst emphasising the fact that God is still above Caesar.

Observations- When reading the gospel what initially jumps out is Jesus' answer about the tax and the coin. The tax levy, the coins, the wealth that is demanded by Caesar belongs to Caesar. But why? I always wondered what does the face on the coin have to do with it belonging to Caesar over everyone else. After some reflection here is what I interpolated. The face on the coin shows the ruler of the land, it is a demonstration of dominion, power and sovereignty. Even now we display the monarch as a show of ownership and sovereignty. And so for people signs of material wealth and power are very important- that's why Caesar has his face on the coin. But for God, he requires no such thing. What he desires are virtues, for us to live in grace with him, and to have faith in him the material coins mean nothing to God. That's why Jesus says render to Caesar what is Caesar's and render God what is God's. The Pharisees' question frames itself as, should you devote coins to Caesar or to God. Jesus is saying God doesn't need the coin, if you do or don't give tax is of little concern, don't render what is Caesar's to God.

Application- I believe, when taking this Gospel into our everyday lives, the most valuable thing it provides us, as young catholics, is perspective. A perspective on what God wants from us, because for many of us and certainly myself we can sometimes get lost in what God wants from us and what we should or shouldn't be doing to have a good relationship with God. It reminds us that God isn't concerned about our material lives, how much money we earn, what house you live in etc. The way for us to have a greater relationship with him is through being virtuous and doing good. When Jesus says "... and to God, the things that are God's " he isn't saying give back material things to God, but to do good things for others and live a virtuous life in service of others for when we do good to others we give back to God. So in our everyday lives always remember that God is looking for good deeds in the service of others, that is how we can give back to him for all he has done for us.

Prayer- Dear heavenly father, we give thanks to you for providing us the greatest gift of all, the gift to serve others as you did for us. We pray for your continued and everlasting wisdom, and may we use it in the service of others. In your name we pray. Amen

Raphael

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)