

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"

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

29TH OCTOBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

Ex 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 17

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thess 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell

other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

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

True Perspectives

Did you notice that Our Lord does not command us to love 'God'? No, we are to love 'the Lord *your* God', the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love *the Lord your* God'.

Then Our Lord does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, 'Love your neighbour as *yourself*.' But who is 'yourself'? In the wonderful storytelling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had Divine Breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being. We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath at the core of our being.

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way, and thereafter every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically or culturally distant.

We could pause for a moment to see the true dimensions of God, self and the other, to more easily fulfil the dual command.

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Pope Benedict XVI's prayer for peace and transformation of hearts

May the Virgin Mary give us her Son, may she show us the Face of her Son, the Prince of Peace. May she help us to remain in the light of this face that shines upon us, in order to rediscover all the tenderness of God the Father; may it be she who supports us in invoking the Holy Spirit, so that he will renew the face of the earth and transform hearts, dissolving their hardness in the face of the disarming goodness of the Child who was born for us. May the Mother of God accompany us; may she obtain for us and for the whole world the desired gift of peace.

Amen.

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

First Reconciliation Day

Select 8th/9th/10th Nov at 3.30pm to 6.00pm

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Nov 1, All SAINTS

Nov 2, ALL SOULS DAY

Nov, 4 St Charles Borromeo

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



4th/5th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	E. Caruana A. Bentley	B. Hooker J. Pinto	M. Novak. D.Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley L. Iemma	S. Joseph M. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (03 November)		
Children's Liturgy	Trinette & Sheryl		
Morning Tea	M Falamich & J DeAraujo		
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney		



Youth Corner 29th October

Scripture- The line which stood out to me the most was Jesus' firm response to the Pharisees: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment."

Observation- From this passage, we can see the Pharisees are testing Jesus, wanting to humiliate and question him in front of the people. It is considered a 'test' because they all know the standard answer which comes with the question 'What is the greatest commandment?'. In Deuteronomy, this is reinforced in Chapter 6, verse 4-5 "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." However, what surprises the Pharisees is Jesus' continuation that you must also "Love your neighbour as yourself." Together, Jesus says, they are the most important commandments which everything else depends upon. Without love not just for our creator, but also for one another, nothing will work. Both these actions are comparable, and are considered equally as great and important as each other.

Application- Although it sounds quite straightforward to follow these two main commandments, it can also be difficult to be consistent. In our busy schedules and daily life, we can forget to work on our relationship with God, forgetting to pray, read the Bible or even thinking about the current state of your faith. We may tend to focus more on the second commandment- loving others, building your relationships with them or helping the community. However, Jesus tells us we must attend to *both* commandments! We cannot prioritize one over the other simply because we think it is easier, or suits us better. Growing in both simultaneously can have complementary benefits- for example, praying and talking to God might encourage you and fill you with the faith and courage needed to help others who are less fortunate than us. You simply just need that push from God.

Prayer- Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us the ten commandments, and emphasizing the importance of firstly loving you, and secondly, loving those people around us. Thank you teaching us how to love- we can only do this because you were the first to experience it, and you gave us this gift. Let us use it in our words and actions, singing your praises and being a servant to others. Amen

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)**

