

# 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"*

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

05TH NOVEMBER 2023

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!

Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Malachi

Mal 1:14 - 2:2. 8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 130

**Response:** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me. (R.)
2. Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. (R.)
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. (R.)

## SECOND READING

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

Thess 2:7-9. 13

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is,

God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;  
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.



# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm		
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am		
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Thursday 8pm—9pm Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,		
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request		
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior		
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST</b>	Fr Pio Jang	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151	Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>	
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

### Titles and Burdens

There have been periods in the church's history where the burdens placed on the shoulders of people – particularly an exaggerated sense of guilt for certain sins – truly weighed people down, creating a terrible sense of unworthiness, leading to the living of distorted lives.

Our Lord makes it clear that leaders cannot evade responsibility for this by hiding behind honorific titles.

In the Gospels, we find the One who said: 'Come to me all you who toil and are burdened and *I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.*' (Matt 11:28-30)

If people don't find that the burden laid on them by Church leaders (who often long to be greeted obsequiously) leads to refreshment and rest for their souls, then it is right to question the burden, and to question the leaders who impose such burdens.

Perhaps we could pause for a moment to pray for Pope Francis whose favoured titles are simply: 'Bishop of Rome', 'Servant of the Servants of God'.

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## A Prayer for the Forgotten Dead

O merciful God,  
take pity on those souls  
who have no particular  
friends and intercessors  
to recommend them to Thee, who,  
either through the negligence of  
those who are alive,  
or through length of time  
are forgotten  
by their friends and by all.  
Spare them, O Lord,  
and remember Thine own mercy,  
when others forget to appeal to it.  
Let not the souls  
which Thou hast created  
be parted from thee, their Creator.

May the souls of all the faithful  
departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. Amen.

### St. Monica's Sacraments

[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation Day

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

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Nov 9, The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Nov 10, St Leo the Great, pope

Nov 11, St Martin of Tours, bishop

**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  
Esteria, 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 130<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:write.the.word.2024@gmail.com)

**Pilgrimage Walk to learn our history & the great faith of our local saints:**  
Date /Time: 24<sup>th</sup> 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



11th/12th November ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Meleca S. Meleca	S. Younes A. Espiritu	T. Jones D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Woolridge J. Knight	J. Cruz B. Hooker	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera (10th November)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Jesuina & Tresa		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Abbey Liu & Payra Family		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 5 - Peter & Kris Handcock		



## SOAP Reflection 5<sup>th</sup> November

**Scripture-** Today's Gospel reading is from the book of Matthew, specifically 23:1-12.

**Observation-** In the passage, Jesus is preaching to the crowds and his disciples about the pitfalls already suffered by the Pharisees who are meant to be role models for the faithful. He explains, quite eloquently, that while they may preach the faith, in reality they contradict its core tenets in their everyday lives. Reading through this passage, it was interesting to observe just how corrupt and prideful the Pharisees have become – something that is a common thread throughout the whole Gospel. However, while we may not like to think it, we are much closer to the Pharisees than we often wish to admit. At the crux of this passage is Jesus' warning against hypocrisy. As I mentioned, the Pharisees who preach the word of God, who preach selflessness and humility, go out of their way to show the people how 'holy' they are, and how much discomfort they put on themselves in order to pray. By doing this they draw away from the purpose of prayer, and instead seek self-gratification. This is a trap we fall into ourselves. Jesus, however, offers us a way to escape this pitfall – humility.

**Application-** Humans are social creatures and by virtue of that, we often desire to be seen in the best light by others. This can come in many forms, but by prioritising this, we risk falling into pride and vanity. Furthermore, when we feel criticised or judged, it can often go a long way to making us feel small and weak. That being said, Jesus isn't saying that we should make ourselves invisible and only focus on ourselves. Instead, he offers us another path, that of humility. Humility means understanding that we are not the most important, or the greatest, and when we reach this understanding and implement it in our daily lives it becomes so much easier to carry out our heavenly mandate – to love others. When we get rid of all obstacles by lowering ourselves, it becomes so much easier to put others first, and to share the love of Christ. In doing so, we also exalt ourselves, we let true goodness that is free of ulterior motive shine through and become a role model for those around us. It may be difficult to let go of perceptions we've carried around for our whole lives, but doing so will give us a clear path to better living.

**Prayer-** Dear Lord, please help us cast away all false images of ourselves. Help us to stay true to your mission and not be misguided by false perceptions and a need for self-gratification. Guide us towards the path of humility, so that we may put others and You above everything else. Amen

Rashane

## 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](mailto:gabbyfleming2007@gmail.com))