

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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

12TH NOVEMBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom
Wis 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
Thess 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be

the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Mt 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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.



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

The Hour and the Time

Israel was often portrayed as a bride in Jewish scriptures. So, the question was: 'When would the Bridegroom – the Anointed One of God, the Christ – appear?' Jesus' warning is to the attendants of the bride: 'Be alert, be vigilant, be prepared.' *Some* (the five foolish attendants) did miss the moment: the earthly ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

But his warning is also for the Catholic Church which is the new Bride of Christ. We are the attendants to the Bride and the imperative applies to us also: Be alert, be vigilant. Be prepared for the eruption, the intervention of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, into *our* history, into *our* moment of time.

For example, is Christ coming to meet us in the modern movements which demand to hold authority accountable, or which press for just recognition of women? We can foolishly remain in the dark or we can wisely try to throw light on these questions. Only then we will be able to discern whether indeed it is the Lord who is approaching.

We could pause to pray that we be ready when the Bridegroom responds to the ancient prayer: 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

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Prayer for Second Coming of Christ

Lord Jesus Christ, we come before You, asking You to remember us during Your second coming to judge the living and the dead.

We acknowledge that You are the Saviour of the world and that You died on the cross to save us from our sins. We beg You, dear Jesus, to give us the strength to resist all evils that may come our way. We want to join You in Your Kingdom in Heaven where no one with traces of sin will enter. Therefore, Dear Jesus, purify our hearts so that our desires may only be You. Help us to turn down the temptations of the evil one who loathes to see us loving, serving and praising You.

Dear Jesus, help us to do our task here on earth, which our Heavenly Father has assigned to us. May we accomplish that in the best way possible and in a way that is desirable to God. Jesus, we love You and again, we beg, accept us in Your Kingdom when You come for us on the last day. Amen

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Nov 17, St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious

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.



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 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

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



18th/19th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha C. Maxwell	P. Fleming M. Joseph	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Hernandez K. Handcock	J. Skulander S. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (17th November)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl & Chidinma		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		



SOAP Reflection 12th November

Scripture- The line which stood out to me most was 'Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Observation- Jesus tells this parable about the kingdom of heaven and his eventual return. We do not know the day or the hour that the Lord will come, which is likened to the ten virgins waiting for their bridegroom. All ten virgins were indistinguishable from one another- even the five foolish ones addressed Jesus as "Lord," and invited to participate in the wedding celebration. The only difference was that they did not bring the oil to go with the lamp. Moreover, none of the virgins knew when the groom would arrive, as they all slept. What was particularly interesting was that when the groom did arrive, the five wise virgins refused to share their oil- this was not because they were selfish, but because in doing so there would not be enough for the wedding. Although this story lacks detail which is not depicting a typical wedding, it is a parable which contains the necessary elements (bridegroom- Jesus; virgins- us; wedding celebration- kingdom of heaven) that remind us to remain vigilant and alert, because we do not know when the Second Coming will be.

Application- Throughout our lives, Jesus gives us many opportunities to practice our faith; love one another; obey his commandments and seek his forgiveness when we sin. This parable made me think, am I ready for the Lord's return? Will I be like one of the foolish virgins, who despite being given the chance to obtain oil for the lamp, rejects and later regrets my decision? The Lord will come without warning, and at a time where we least expect Him. When he does return, we cannot change our minds then like the five foolish virgins, as the Lord said in reply "I do not know you." We must therefore be prepared each day by acknowledging our sins, our need for salvation and trusting in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. After all, the kingdom of heaven may look exactly like what Jesus described- a number of people who look like Christians, but ultimately those who have faith cannot share what they have in Christ with those who do not. Every person is accountable for their own actions and choices.

Prayer- Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to this earth and for giving me this life. I believe that you are the son of God who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. I know that I am a sinner, who does not deserve your love, compassion, and mercy. Help me to free myself from temptations that I experience in my daily life, and that I may choose you freely every time. I trust that you are the Lord and Saviour, and that when you eventually return, we will be granted eternal life and happiness trusting in yours forever. 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)