

# 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**19TH NOVEMBER 2023**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Prov 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127

**Response:** Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life. (R.)

## SECOND READING

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

1 Thess 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit .

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness,  
to place my hope in God the 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

### Befriending Time

God's plan for human happiness is mostly frustrated by a good person burying his or her personality traits, what one might call one's talents, which is really to bury oneself and to become invisible.

In the old language of my schoolboy catechism, we should be concerned not just with sins of commission, but with sins of *omission* – failure of courage, failure to take risks, failure to put everything on the line with the personality and the moment in time given to you and to me.

As Shakespeare says in Julius Caesar: 'There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in stillness and in miseries.'

The Divine Tide is flowing through human history. We should trust ourselves to that tide which can carry us to the shores of Heaven. Failure to take risks leads to Hellish stillness and miseries.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might use our talents so as to hear: 'Well done, good and faithful servant ... come and join in your Master's happiness.'

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## Prayer to Do God's Will

(Thomas Merton)

My Lord God, I have no idea where  
I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me  
Nor do I really know myself,  
And the fact that I think I am  
following Your will

Does not mean that  
I am actually doing so.

But I believe that  
the desire to please You  
Does in fact please You.  
And I hope that I will never do  
anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this, You  
will lead me by the right road  
Though I may know  
nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust You  
always though,

I may seem to be lost and in the  
shadow of death.

I will not fear,  
for You are ever with me,  
And You will never leave me to face  
my struggles alone. Amen.

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Nov 21, The Presentation of Blessed  
Virgin Mary

Nov 22, St Cecilia, virgin, martyr

Nov 24, Sts Andrew Dung-Lac, priest &  
companions, martyr

## 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.

## Write the WORD 2022-2024

Thank you for your participation! All the passages in the New Testament have been assigned. Now we are waiting the works to be finished by our participants and we are going to have a full New Testament, all hand-copied by our congregation.

## Bishop Christmas Appeal 2023

On next Saturday & Sunday, 25th & 26th November 2023, there will be a special collection to support our Chaplains through the **Christmas Bishop Appeal**. Envelopes are available at the main entrances of the church, or you can donate using the QR code provided.



# Youth + Corner

## SOAP Reflection 19<sup>th</sup> November

### Scripture

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’” - Matthew 25:21

### Observation

Integrity is a virtue which is highly regarded no matter the context or situation. From long-term friendships to job interviews, you will hear it described as an irreplaceable quality - a minimum requirement and the basic foundation upon which trust is built. What is most interesting about integrity though, is how it beguiles in its simplicity - whilst it can be as simple as ‘keeping your word’ or fulfilling a promise, it is often in the ordinary and habitual that we encounter difficulty.

In this parable, Jesus highlights to his disciples that it is our integrity and faithfulness in small matters which is defining in shaping the person we become. This passage challenges us to consider whether we are faithful in small matters: when no-one is around, or when there are no tangible consequences or rewards. Do we live according to God’s plan, or our own?

### Application

In this coming week, let us cultivate a spirit of fortitude and discipline - remind yourself that habits build character, and strive to become the person that God is calling you to be. Though it can seem daunting, be comforted by the fact that integrity stems from simplicity: foster prayerfulness and faithfulness when no-one is around, and the Holy Spirit will guide you whenever you are not!

### Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for blessing me with all the gifts in my life though I am your servant. I pray that you will grant me courage, fortitude and discipline to be a faithful disciple, who lives out their life with integrity and resolve. Shape my heart to be a dwelling place for your love and mercy so that I can be a bearer of your Son’s light to this world. Amen!

Ryan

## 25th/26th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	K. Handcock A. Bentley	Franklyn God’s Gift	M. Novak D. Cruuz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	W. Woodridge M. Samson	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Caplaincy (24th November)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Tresa & Jesuina		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Julie & Grazyna		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

## 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))