

# 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"*

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE - YEAR A

26TH NOVEMBER 2023

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and divinity,  
and wisdom and strength and honour.  
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**  
**Ezek 34:11-12. 15-17**

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22

**Response:** The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose. (R.)
2. Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.  
He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. (R.)

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**  
**1 Cor 15:20-26. 28**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in

his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**  
**Mt 25:31-46**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace .

# 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

### Necessities of [Eternal] Life

The eternal destiny of every human being of a certain maturity is determined by decisions made in relation to food and drink for the famished, clothing and housing for those without decent clothing or shelter, visiting those in circumstances which cut them off from life-giving contact with others (the sick and prisoners).

Those who provide such assistance, in the words of Pope Francis, touch the wounds of Christ! A Christian can be fully conscious of this, but for non Christians it is possible to do so without any of our awareness or belief. Christ is *completely* incognito to them: 'When did we ever see you hungry and feed you ...?'

We know the doctrine of the Real Presence in the poor and marginalised. Woe betide those of us who ignore this fact of faith. We are on the way to a Hellish state of existence. That is equally possible for those who do not share our faith, but who ignore the plight of the marginalised and continue in a self-absorbed way.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we, and many billions of non-Christians, may hear the invitation: 'Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

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## Prayer to Jesus Christ the King

Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You  
King of the universe.  
All that has been created  
has been made for You.  
Make full use  
of Your rights over me.

I renew the promises  
I made in Baptism,  
when I renounced Satan  
and all his pomps and works,  
and I promise to live a good  
Christian life  
and to do all in my power  
to procure the triumph  
of the rights of God  
and Your Church.

Divine Heart of Jesus,  
I offer you my efforts  
in order to obtain that all hearts  
may acknowledge  
your Sacred Royalty,  
and that thus  
the Kingdom of Your peace  
may be established  
throughout the universe.

Amen.

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Nov 30, St Andrew, 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  
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 ACTIVITIES



**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.

## Bishop Christmas Appeal 2023

Today there is a special collection to support our Catholic Care 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.



## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

8th December 2023 FRIDAY

Masses:

9:15am (English)

7:30pm (English & Chinese)



## SOAP Reflection 26th November

**Scripture:** In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus teaches His disciples that God will judge who is worthy of eternal life and who is not by examining how individuals have treated other people in their lives.

**Observation:** In this story, people who performed acts of compassion, such as giving food to the hungry, welcoming strangers, visiting the sick were deemed to be deserving of entering God's kingdom, and those who failed to perform acts of compassion were judged to not be deserving of entering God's kingdom. Jesus shows us that people will be judged by not only what they do, but what they failed to do. To be morally good and virtuous, in the eyes of God, is not solely defined by actively avoiding doing harmful acts to other people, such as stealing their property or bullying them. Demonstrating moral virtues such as kindness and compassion also requires people to recognise the needs of other people, particularly the vulnerable and needy, and actively take steps to address their needs. It is only through the compassion of humans that the needs of people who are vulnerable, poor and needy will be met. For God, actively demonstrating compassion is important because He cares deeply about the dignity and wellbeing of the humans that He has created. God is aware of, and cares about people's lives and how they are being treated by others. God notices when humans are being degraded, ignored, or shown care and provided with help and emotional support. This is why Jesus says, 'in so far as you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

**Application:** In order for us to respond to God's calling to be people who are motivated by and act on our compassion for other people, we must reflect on the internal thoughts and attitudes that prevent us from showing that compassion or feeling empathy for others. For many people, indifference to the lives of other people, particularly others who are not like us in our personal histories, cultural background, experiences is a major barrier to showing compassion for others. This indifference often manifests in a belief that we should care more, or only care about the welfare of people who are close to others or who are like us, like our family members or friends, or only care about problems that affect us. The implication is that problems that affect other people, like the homeless, asylum seekers or victims of domestic violence, are not our problem to deal with. We must overcome this apathy and choose to care for other people who are not like us. Recognising the universality of human rights and dignity can help us care about the needs and wellbeing of people who we consider strangers.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to respond to your calling to love and show care to strangers by guiding our hearts. Remove any apathy that may prevent us from showing this love and compassion and help us to recognise your image and likeness in all those we encounter. Help us to develop the moral courage we need to respond to the needs of others, so that those who are vulnerable, who are suffering and in distress will also feel your love through our words and actions.

Rachel

## 2nd/3rd December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	G. Basha E. Caruana	C. Cheung S. Joseph	T. Jones M. Novak
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	A. Bentley J. Knight	J. Skulander S. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (1st December)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Maria & Trinette		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	M Falamich & J DeAraujo		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

## 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! Our topic for December starting next week is "Social Justice". 😊
- **Christmas Party**  
We will be having our annual Christmas party on the 16th December (Saturday night) at 6PM in the hall! Come along for a fun night as we reflect on the past year.
- **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))