

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"

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — YEAR B

03RD DECEMBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79

Response: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

SECOND READING

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

1 Cor 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

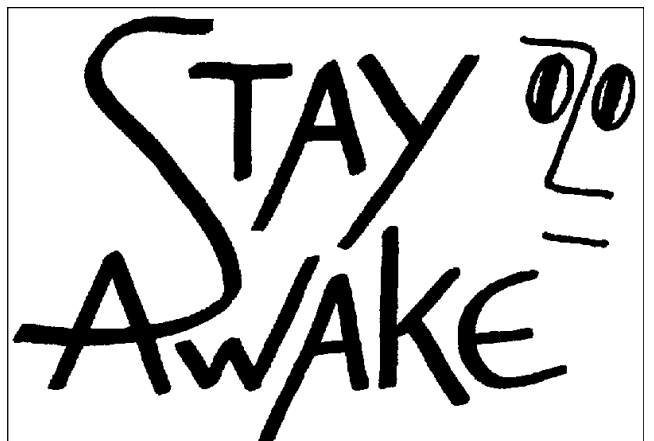
Mk 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



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

Timely Living and the End of History

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

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Stay Awake, not Away

Dear Lord, in your earthly ministry You talked about the importance of our being awake and alert to your presence as good stewards of your grace and blessings. In these troubling, challenging times, let me not lose sight of how much I need to hope and trust in you even when, especially when, darkness seems to surround me and my loved ones. Help me so that I may not turn away from you in worry, panic, or even fear about what may or may not be coming next. As far as you're concerned, with your help and grace, may I stay awake to your presence, and not drift away from you! Amen.

Please take a leaflet at the main entrance of the church for the Mass Time during the Christmas Season 2023.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Dec 7, St Ambrose, bishop

Dec 8, The Immaculate Conception of The BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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 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.



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.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

8th December 2023 FRIDAY

Masses:

9:15am (English)

7:30pm (English & Chinese)



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023

1 **Christmas cards and Columban calendars** are for sale at the Piety Stall. Please place the money into the Poor Box.

2 Take a tag at the **Gift Tree** at the main entrance and prepare a gift according to the details on the tag. Place your gift with the tag at the Christmas Tree beside the St. Joseph statue before 17th December.

3 **Donations of Hampers Items** are most welcome! Please place them at the Christmas Tree beside the St Joseph statue before 17th December.

4 **Cash donations** will be collected on 16th & 17th December during all Masses.

Your support will be highly appreciated.

9th/10th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C. Meleca	S. Jacob J. Jacob	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma M. Wilkinson	J. Payra J. Cruz	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (8th December)		
Children's Liturgy	Chidinma & Sheryl		
Morning Tea	J Payra & Family		
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney		



SOAP Reflection 3rd December

Scripture

Mark 13:33-37

Observation

The gospel today is self explanatory. Jesus implores his disciples to 'take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come.' No one knows when one will die or when and no one knows when the end of heaven and earth as we know it will be. These are not matters that we should dwell upon, rather we must place our faith in God and acknowledge that there are things reserved for the knowledge of man and some things which are rightly reserved for the knowledge of God only.

Application

Today's gospel reaffirms our need to be vigilant in our faith and recognise the frailty of the human condition. Nothing is certain in life but one's eventual death and God's radical love for man. By confronting this certainty with a well-rounded faith, it provides us with a sense of hope and peace that no material good or earthly pleasure can provide. As such, let us all continue to pray earnestly and receive his grace through the sacraments instituted by Christ and entrusted to us through his church. Only then can we fulfil Gods will for each and every one of us.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I'm sorry for my pride and false confidence. Too often I place my faith in the material and worldly recognition. Help me recognise that the only thing that is truly eternal is your love for me and may I develop the courage to truly understand you as you are love itself.

Gabriel

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 some games and friendly chats! Our new topic for December 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)