

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"

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

24TH DECEMBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel
2 Sam 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88

Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Rom 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



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

'Spirit Hovering'

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Christmas & New Year Mass Time

23rd December 2023 (Sat)

5pm (English Vigil Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent)

24th December 2023 (Sun)

9am (English Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent)

11:30am (Chinese Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent)

6pm (English Christmas Eve Mass)

9pm (Chinese Christmas Eve Mass)

25th December 2023 (Mon)

12am (English Christmas Midnight Mass)

9am (English Christmas Day Mass)

11:30am (Chinese Christmas Day Mass)

30th - 31st December 2023 (Sat & Sun)

Feast of the Holy Family

All Masses are at usual time

1st January 2024 (Mon)

Solemnity of Mother God

9am (English Mass)

6th - 7th January 2024 (Sat & Sun)

Epiphany of the Lord

All Masses are at usual time

8th January 2024 (Mon)

Baptism of the Lord

9:15am (English Mass)

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Dec 26, St Stephen, the first martyr

Dec 27, St John, apostle

Dec 28, The Holy Innocents, martyrs

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK. ESPECIALLY

Peter Handcock, John Hilton,
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 It will be resumed on 8 Feb 2024, then every Thursday, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Participation via zoom is available.
Enquiries: Nathan Cook, email:cookn4@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 It will be resumed on 13 Jan 2024, then every Saturday, 6pm–8pm. The Art Group will gather at the Parish Centre. Mini workshops are available in Feb 2024. Please contact Vera (WhatsApp 0402936947) for details.



Bible Brekkie It will be resumed on 4 Feb 2024, then 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.

Youth + Corner

SOAP Reflection 24th December

Scripture

Luke 1: 26-38

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Observation

In this week's Gospel the focus is on Mary and her response to God's calling, it gives us the opportunity to reflect on her example of believing that God will fulfill promises made. It also allows us to further expand our understanding of the incarnation to show us that the incarnation includes participation in terms of engaging with Gods will and work in the world. Mary isn't honoured because her womb carried Jesus, but she is honoured with all the other prophets because she believed God would accomplish what was promised and wanted to be a part of it. It's safe to say Mary didn't understand all the complexities of her decision, however, she was willing to participate in this calling.

Application

The Gospel encourages us to have faith in God. It is an invitation for us to consider areas of our life where God might be asking us to transform. We know that God makes the impossible possible, we should consider what saying "yes" to God can do for not only ourselves but for others.

Prayer

Help me, Lord, to be before you and to hear your word in this time of prayer. You know the needs of my mind. You have heard my words. Now, let me listen to your voice and know your presence. I lay aside my demands to receive what it is you offer to me.

Brian



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 some games and friendly chats! Our topic For December is Social Justice 😊
- **Wishing you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy new year! Thank you to the youth for**

30th/31st December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock C. Maxwell	A. Espiritu P. Fleming	T. Jones M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight L. Iemma	S. Joseph B. Hooker	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	TBA
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (29th December)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	Not Provided		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		