

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"

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

14TH JANUARY 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Samuel

1 Sam 3:3-10.19

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 39

Response: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING

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

1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 1:35-42

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' - which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' - meaning Rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



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

What's in a Name?

What's in a name? A Lot, if it is God who confers the name. Jesus of Nazareth, the embodiment of God-for-us, knew the power of naming in relation to calling and destiny.

So, when Andrew brought his brother to Jesus, Jesus exercised the divine prerogative of changing Simon's name to 'Cephas' which in English is 'Peter'. Jesus gave Simon a nickname, 'rock-solid' which was the exact opposite of his character! Nevertheless, he did become the rock on which Jesus built his Church.

The tradition continues with the successor of Peter. So, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio took the name 'Francis' which indicates that he believes that the Holy Spirit inspired the Cardinals to choose him to be Pope to follow in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.

Each one of us has a divinely ordained name (Rev 2:17) which we may not be aware of, but the Holy Spirit is always prompting us to live up to that name.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might so live as to reach Heaven to find that name which God has loved from and for all eternity.

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Prayer to St. Andrew

O Glorious St. Andrew, you were the first to recognize and follow the Lamb of God. With your friend St. John you remained with Jesus for that first day, for your entire life, and now throughout eternity. As you led your brother St. Peter to Christ and many others after him, draw us also to him. Teach us to lead others to Christ solely out of love for him and dedication in his service. Help us to learn the lesson of the Cross and to carry our daily crosses without complaint so that they may carry us to Jesus.

Prayer to St. Peter

O Glorious St. Peter, because of your vibrant and generous faith, sincere humility and flaming love our Lord honoured you with singular privileges and especially leadership of the whole Church. Obtain for us the grace of a living faith, a sincere loyalty to the Church, acceptance of all her teachings, and obedience to all her precepts. Let us thus enjoy an undisturbed peace on earth and everlasting happiness in heaven.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Jan, 17 St Anthony, Abbot

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 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 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 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 a NEW 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 Statue 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.

A big THANK YOU from St Vincent De Paul Society

Thank you to the parishioners of St Monica's Church for their generous donations and presents and also to St Monica's Primary School for their presents which enabled us to provide 35 families with a Christmas gift hamper and presents for the children. Your generosity has really made a big difference to those 35 families this Christmas.

Also, we would like to thank St Monica's Catholic Women's League and St Monica's Youth Group for their fund-raising efforts and contributing the proceeds to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

We should all be proud of this parish who has lived up to the true Christmas spirit of giving and sharing!! Thank you once again!!

Vinnies, St Monica's North Parramatta Conference

Chinese Chaplaincy Lunar New Year Banquet



Date: 3rd February 2024 (Saturday)

Time: 6:30pm

Place: Rhodes Phoenix Chinese Restaurant
(Waterside Shopping Centre, Rhodes)

Tickets: **\$80** (Adults)
\$60 (Youth age 18 or under / Pensioners)
\$40 (Children age 12 or under)

Enquiries: 0411 192 278 (Chinese Chaplaincy Hotline)

20th/21th January ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	S. Jacob J. Jacob	T. Jones D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge K. Handcock	J. Skulander B. Hooker	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	A. Cheung

Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (19th January)
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays
Morning Tea	Not provided
Counting	Group 5 - Kris & Peter Handcock



Youth Corner 14th January

Scripture: John 1:35-42, but in particular verses 37 and 41

Observations:

From this passage, where the son of God makes his entrance and catches the attention of John and his two disciples, my attention was drawn as they show initiative in trying to understand and follow the Lord: "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), where are you staying?" This passage reminds us what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is about being in the company of Jesus and wanting to learn more about him. It is wanting to grow your relationship and have faith in Jesus. The Gospel illustrates Jesus' invitation to us: "'Come,' he replied, 'and you will see.'" This invitation is for us all to stay and remain with Jesus, to follow our faith. His invitation is not conditional but is universal to all who wish to know his grace.

Application:

In our lives, we proclaim we are the brothers and sisters of Christ, but what does that mean? Sometimes we are stagnant in our faith and we are content with what we know and what we don't know. However, Jesus' invitation invites us to stay and learn more about him. As such, as Catholics we should be ever exploring our faith and continually wanting to learn more about our role as disciples of Christ and ultimately his teachings. We should be constantly aiming to develop our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

Lord, you are so kind, you always welcome me into your grace. Thank you for the opportunities you have granted me to know you and learn more about you. Thank you for surrounding me with people who facilitate growth and learning. I ask that this joy and urge will be experienced and shared by all as we accept Jesus Christ as our king and savior. 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 some games and friendly chats! 😊