

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 IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

28TH JANUARY 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
Deut 18:15-20**

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94

Response: If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord for you are
God my saviour. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'
(R.)

SECOND READING

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 7:32-35**

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is

torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Mk 1:21-28**

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.



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: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Evil Spirits versus the Holy One of God

The word 'diabolical' comes from a Greek word referring to something broken in two, shattered. Looking at persons and societies torn apart, it is obvious that the diabolical spirit is powerful. However, it harbours a fear that a more powerful Holy Spirit could reintegrate a personality, could make a community out of divided groups.

'Have you come to destroy us?' indicates that this fear was realised in the coming on to the scene of Jesus Christ. Jesus' answer was a resounding 'Yes', not in words but in action, healing a man torn apart by a diabolical spirit.

Jesus Christ invites and empowers us to join in his healing mission to overcome whatever it is which tears people apart, whether at the individual, community or global levels. We do so in the confidence of His Resurrection which overcame the diabolical tearing apart of His body and soul.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to joining Jesus' mission, so putting the fear of God into the devil!

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Catholic Prayer Against Evil

O God, You are the preserver of men and the keeper of our lives. We commit ourselves to your perfect care on the journey that awaits us.

We pray for a safe and promising journey.

Give Your angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways.

Let no evil befall us, nor any harm come to our dwelling that we leave behind.

Although we are uncertain what the days may bring, may we be prepared for any event or delay and greet such with patience and understanding.

Bless us O Lord, that we may complete our journey safely and successfully under Your ever watchful care. Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Jan, 31 St John Bosco, priest

Feb, 2 The Presentation of the Lord

**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 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Day of Abstinence & Fasting

14th February 2024

Masses: 9:15am (English)

7:30pm (English + Chinese)

We are collecting old palms for making the ashes. Please put them at the collection boxes at the main entrance of the church.

03rd/04th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	A. Bentley E. Caruana	J. Pinto B. Hooker	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson A. Bentley	J. Skulander S. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	TBA
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (02nd February)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina/Trinette		
Morning Tea	TBA		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		



Youth Corner 28th January

Scripture: Mark 1: 21-28

"The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law."

Observations:

The word 'authority' is often associated with negative connotations; perhaps, the glamorisation of power and its susceptibility to abuse has distorted my perception of its meaning. Yet, this passage has allowed me to realise that Jesus' authority was far from a selfish quest for power but rather a selfless act of service for His people which in turn grants us freedom. His teachings contrasted greatly against that of the scribes, who taught in accordance with laws and traditions; a reminder that God's will far surpasses the rigid boundaries of tradition. Furthermore, we can trust and have faith that this authority is liberating because it articulates God's will. In fact, the exorcism described in today's Gospel is proof in itself that Jesus' authority brings about blessings and healing.

Application:

Sometimes we may misconstrue God's authority to be one that is punishing, that maybe we've lost his trust and love through our wrongful actions. This Gospel is a reminder that Jesus' authority is liberating and not condemning - just like how exorcism drives out the evil but not the sinner. Let us recognise His great love for us and may we offer our worries to Him and ask Him for guidance for He is the one who knows best.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I am grateful that your authority is one that is liberating and loving, one that protects us from the temptations of evil and saves us from sin. May my heart be opened to this authority and my ears opened to your teachings so that I may become more like you! I thank you that your love is unwavering despite my failures and I offer up my worries and fears to you, because I have faith and trust that your way is the truth. May my faith be deepened and my worries soothed with the knowledge that you are greater than any evil. 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! 😊

