

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"

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

04TH FEBRUARY 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God .

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Job

Job 7:1-4. 6-7

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than
pressed service, his time no better than hired
drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the
workman with no thought but his wages, months of
delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own
but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have
passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath, and that
my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 146

Response: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-
hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

SECOND READING

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

1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a
duty which has been laid on me; I should be
punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this
work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I
have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into
my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this:
in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News
free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel
gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made
myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as

I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made
myself all things to all men in order to save some at
any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel,
to have a share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Mk 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with
James and John straight to the house of Simon and
Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed
with fever, and they told him about her straightaway.
He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her
up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on
them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him
all who were sick and those who were possessed by
devils. The whole town came crowding round the
door, and he cured many who were suffering from
diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out
many devils, but he would not allow them to speak,
because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and
left the house, and went off to a lonely place and
prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in
search of him, and when they found him they said,
'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us
go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so
that I can preach there too, because that is why I
came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in
their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders
for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty
soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.



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

The Divine Touch

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter) was sick in bed with a raging fever. When Jesus learned about her distressed state, he 'took her by the hand and helped her up'. He broke the taboo about physical contact with a woman not his relative because he wanted to holistically heal her disease.

Simon's mother-in-law didn't need an aspirin and a cup of tea. She felt quarantined, isolated, and needed a hand reassuring her of sociable relationships. Jesus overcame her fever and her dis-ease with the world. At every Mass we exchange a physical gesture at the greeting of Peace. This quite often overcomes being ill-at-ease with a family member or just with the neighbour in the pew. We need to take that symbolic action into the world. For somebody, it may be the most touching thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to identify that person who needs us to reach out, to take their hand and help them up.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com



SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

Registration Mass (Mandatory)

Sat. 17th Feb 5.00pm or
Sun. 18th Feb 9.00am

Commitment Mass (Mandatory)

Sat. 24th Feb 5.00pm or
Sun. 25th Feb 9.00am

Parent ONLY Zoom Meeting (Mandatory)

Mon. 26th Feb 7.00pm
(Zoom link will be given at registration)

4 Candidate Sessions

3:30pm Start then 5pm Mass

- 1st - Sat 2nd March
- 2nd - Sat 9th March
- 3rd - Sat 16th March
- 4th - Sat 23rd March

RECONCILIATION & REHEARSAL

(Mandatory)

Sat 11th May - 2.00pm (Church) -
Candidate **MUST** attend with Godparent/
sponsor

CEREMONY

Fri 17th May at 5.30pm (Photographs)
7.00pm Mass Start

*Note: Candidates **MUST** attend all 4 lessons and Masses after lessons to be eligible to receive the sacrament. There will be **NO** catchup/makeup lessons available.*

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Feb 5, St Agatha, virgin and martyr

Feb 6, St Paul Miki & companions, martyrs

Feb 10, St Scholastica, virgin

**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 Every FIRST and LAST Sunday of the month, 10.15am - 11am, at the School Teacher's 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.

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.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2024

Every Friday from 16th February to 22nd March
English 7pm
Chinese 8pm
Confession is available from 7pm to 8:45pm

Half Day Retreat for Adults

(hosted by Fr Ephraim Lam)

Date & Time: 2nd March 2024, Saturday, 9am-12pm
Place: Holy Innocent Chapel
Ellerstone Ct, Kellyville, NSW 2155

Registration please call the parish office 9630 1951 or using the QR code.

Inspiration talks, silent prayer time, Mass.



10th/11th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	A. Espiritu P. Fleming	T. Jones D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson K. Handcock	J. Cruz J. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	TBA	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (09th February)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria/Chidinma		
Morning Tea	Abbey Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		



Youth Corner 4th February

Scripture: Mark 1: 29-39

Observation

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus's compassion. Though it was the Sabbath Day and the law necessitates that no work be done on the day, Jesus felt compelled to cure Simon's mother-in-law because she was ill. Later in the Gospel, Jesus continues to show His healing power by curing the sick and casting out demons. Despite all this work, Jesus still made time to pray and speak with God, His Father.

Application

There are two things we can learn from the Gospel today. The first is Jesus's willingness to help people. As Catholics, we are called to be available and assist people who are in need. After Jesus heard about Simon's mother-in-law, He didn't dilly-dally. Jesus didn't take a stroll in the park with his friends or watch TikTok videos on his phone. Jesus went to heal Simon's mother immediately. He helped those in need without hesitation and we are called to do the same.

The second thing we can learn from the Gospel is Jesus's role in our lives. Yes, Jesus is the healer. Just as He cured all the sick people in the Gospel and casted out demons, He can also heal the aching in our souls. We know that we can rely on Jesus to mend our hearts and take away the pain. However, just as Jesus left the crowded to go to a quiet place to pray, we must also remember that Jesus's role in our lives is not just to heal. He doesn't want to only be a part of our lives when we have illnesses that need curing or wounds that need healing. He wants to have a relationship with us. In order for us to foster that relationship with Him, we must pray and pray regularly. Not only to ask for Jesus to do things for us but also to praise Him, give thanksgiving to Him and get to know Him.

Prayer

Lord, we need your healing; but even more, we need a relationship with you. Help us to know you and develop a deeper faith in you so that we can make you known to others also. Give us a compassionate heart so that we may imitate Jesus in His love for others so that we may better help those in need. 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! 😊

