

# 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"*

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B**

**11TH FEBRUARY 2024**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Leviticus  
**Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 31

**Response:** I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,  
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. (R.)
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
**1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1**

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do

anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
**Mk 1:40-45**

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they craved.



# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

**Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta**

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm		
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am		
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Thursday 8pm—9pm Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am,		
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.40pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request		
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior		
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>ANointing OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST</b>	Fr Pio Jang	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151 Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>		
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	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

### Jesus outcast for us

Lepers were social outcasts forced to live outside the villages and towns. Jesus heals the leper, allowing him to return to communal living, but, in touching him, Jesus put himself on the outer. The Gospel says that Jesus 'had to stay outside where nobody lived'. Jesus willingly changed places with the leper!

This incident prefigures the deepest mystery and scandal of the Gospel. Because of our deliberate wrongdoing, we are 'on the outside' with God. Our Lord and Saviour willingly experienced that alienation on Calvary, outside the walls of Jerusalem, in a desolate place where no-body lived. He suffered the dis-locating consequences of sin in his body and mind: 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'

He took our place outside the human awareness of the loving presence of His Heavenly Father so that we might be located in the right place, insiders with God.

We might pause for a moment to lovingly thank our Saviour for leading us into 'the One in Whom we live and move and have our being'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

**St. Monica's Sacraments**  
[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

### 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** 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.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**  
From 18th Feb, then every Sunday at 9am Mass (during School Terms)  
Young children haven't receive Holy Communion are welcome to join.

### ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Abstinence & Fasting 14th February 2024

Masses: 9:15am (English)  
7:30pm (English + Chinese)

### 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.



### 17th/18th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	G. Basha C. Maxwell	C. Cheung I. Franklyn	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma J. Knight	J. Payra M. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	TBA

**Cleaning** Group 2 - Vera (16th February)

**Children's Liturgy** Jesuina/Sheryl

**Morning Tea** Pinto Families

**Counting** Group 4 - Peter Mooney



## Youth Corner 11th February

**Scripture:** Mark 1:40-45

### Observation:

In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers us a glimpse into his compassion and power over physical disease and death. At the time, lepers would have been filled with despair and suffering, having been ostracised by their own community and family.

However, the Gospel offers us hope, showcasing the power of faith in Christ. Despite his suffering, the leper had faith, and his faith led Christ to touch him, a touch that removed all disease.

### Application:

In a sense, the lepers suffering is a symbol our own sins, sins which inadvertently impair or even sever our relationship with family, friends and the wider community.

The leper is a model for us Christians to follow, as it is only faith and repentance that allows us to be free from the chains of sin. Despite the lepers immense suffering, he did not resort to despair or self-pity. Rather he chose faith. A faith that is able to remove sins and provide us with everlasting life.

### Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for revealing your love and compassion to us through the Gospels. As we read the Gospels, may we be transformed in our ways and imitate the leper in his faith, as it is a faith that will lead to a peace and joy only found in our love for you.

### 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! 😊

