

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 OF LENT – YEAR B

25TH FEBRUARY 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24

Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

SECOND READING Rom 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us. *The word of the Lord*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Mk 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.



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

Transfigured Bodysouls

St Thomas Aquinas famously said: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' And yet many Christians do think that our ultimate goal is, by the grace of God, to end up as souls in Heaven.

No, I am a human being, bodysoul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthling, needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, especially as recounted in the other gospels, shows what happens when human nature is in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. The amazing truth is that God ardently desires that each one of us should share in the transfigured life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this to occur, we must play our part, accepting that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Beloved Son of God, listen to him, and put into practice what we hear.

We could take a moment to pray that after the "repose of the soul" after death, we may participate as bodysouls in the transfigured humanity of the Risen Lord.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com



SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

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

**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 Parish Office. Fr. Ephraim will talk about interesting topics from the Bible. All are welcome.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Every Sunday at 9am Mass (during School Terms)
Young children haven't receive Holy Communion are welcome to join.

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.*

Project Compassion 2024

Please take a box at the main entrance of the church, or make your donations using the QR code on the boxes.

The boxes with the donations can be returned to the parish by Good Friday, 29th March 2024.

2nd/3rd March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	E. Caruana K. Handcock	J. Jacob S. Younes	M. Novak T. Jones
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge A. Bentley	J. Payra B. Hooker	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (1st March)		
Children's Liturgy	Tresa/Jesuina		
Morning Tea	M Falamich & J DeAraujo		
Counting	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		



SOAP Reflection 25th February

Scripture: Mark 9: 2-10

Observation: In this week's gospel, Jesus' status and identity as the Son of God is revealed to His close disciples, Peter, James and John during the transfiguration. His status is highlighted when He appears alongside Moses, who freed the Israelites from captivity in Egypt and passed down laws from God governing ceremonies, morality and civil life of the Israelites. He also appears alongside Elijah, who was a renowned miracle worker, critic of worship of idols and false Gods such as Baal and prophet who performed miracles such as making rain after three years of drought and multiplying a widow's grain and oil. In many respects, the transfiguration can be considered a deliberate act of revelation from God about Jesus' mission and importance to humanity. Like Moses, Jesus would free humanity from slavery, though not from slavery in Egypt, but from slavery to sin, and would pass down commandments for humanity from God. Like Elijah, Jesus would encourage people to repent and bring to the fore God's power and presence through working miracles. Jesus' identity is revealed when God the Father calls Jesus His beloved son and tells Jesus' disciples to listen to Him. Jesus' mission and importance to humanity is defined by His identity as the Son of God the Father, and Jesus never forgets His mission to save humanity. Jesus knows that part of His salvific mission involves dying on the cross and rising from the dead, which is why He tells his disciples not to tell anyone what they saw until after those events have occurred. However, the disciples do not understand completely the nature of Jesus' mission and what it entails. Jesus knows that the time for the disciples to fully understand this will come later.

Application: This week's gospel is a reminder that God always has a vision and purpose in mind for humans (as individuals) and for all of humanity. This vision and purpose may not always be revealed to us all at once, but may be revealed gradually, over time, as we witness events, encounter different people and go through life experiences. The disciples would end up spreading Jesus' message to both Jews and Gentiles across the Roman Empire, but they first had to be followers of Jesus. At certain stages of our lives, our purpose in life may not be obvious, and the significance of our experiences and encounters may not be apparent, but it is important to believe that God always has a purpose in mind for us, and we need to be aware of what God may be calling us to do and reflect on our experiences and encounters. For example, if you had the opportunity to mentor and guide a Bible sharing group and you found you really enjoyed it and people benefited from your mentorship, perhaps God is telling you that your potential lies in teaching others about the Catholic faith.

Prayer: Dear God, you have shaped and moulded us as people and you give all people a mission and purpose. Help us to always recognise our purpose and mission in our everyday lives, in our work, study and activities, and to recognise when we may be straying from this. Help us to always have trust in you so that we may be willing to embrace our calling, and willing to embrace your will as Jesus did.

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! 😊

