

# 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"*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B**

**03RD MARCH 2024**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

## FIRST READING Exodus 20:1-17

### A reading from the book of Exodus

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 18**

**Response:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. **(R.)**

4. They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING 1 Cor 1:22-25

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

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. *The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL Jn 2:13-25

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



# 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

### Where does God really dwell?

The Ten Commandments are badly named. Rather, they are the Ten Responses which should characterise a liberated people, freed from slavery by 'the Lord, your God'.

By the time Jesus came on the scene, the Temple in Jerusalem was no longer a fit dwelling place for a God who desires to free people from oppression and exploitation. To the contrary, Jesus saw the Temple ideology as placing undue burdens and shackles on people.

His anger at this erupted in dramatic street theatre. His overturning of the tables of the money-changers signalled the overturning of the Temple system.

What Our Lord revealed to uncomprehending authorities was that His body was the true sanctuary. The body of Jesus of Nazareth is the dwelling place of God, the habitation of the Lord God who liberates people. In short, God's sanctuary is not a place, but a person.

We could take a moment to pray, using the Ten Responses to review and guide our reflection and practice as we move towards Easter. This will help us to celebrate the enigmatic saying: 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again.'

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



## SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

### 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.*

**2024 Holy Week & Easter**  
**Liturgy Timetable**  
**is available at the main**  
**entrance of the church.**  
**Please take one and join our**  
**celebrations.**

## 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

## 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.

## Special Masses during Lent 2024

**St. Patrick's Feast Day**  
18th March (MON) 9:15am (English)

**St. Joseph's Feast Day**  
19th March (TUE) 9:15am (English)  
7:30pm (English & Chinese)

## 9th/10th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	S. Meleca C. Meleca	B. McGettigan S. Jacob	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma M. Wilkinson	J. Cruz J. Skulander	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	N. Jospeh	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera (8th March)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Sheryl/Maria		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	J Payra Family & A Liu		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		



## SOAP Reflection 3rd March

**Scripture:** John 2:13- 22

**Observation:** One of the interesting things for me in today's Gospel is that you could take two different messages away from the Gospel because it is almost split into 2 parts. The first section is probably the one that most people know the best, it describes a moment in which Jesus 'loses his cool'. People are often confused as to why Jesus got so angry at the people in the temple. It was not as if the people were defrauding people, or committing crimes, nor were they acting with malicious intent. Yet Jesus, runs the people out of the temple with force. The reason for this is not because of what they were doing, but where they were doing it. By conducting business in the temple of God they are depriving others of the opportunity to pray, the opportunity to have their connection to God. Jesus, in this passage is not condemning the act of doing business, but instead he is telling us that there is a time and a place for that, and it isn't in the place of worship of God. The second half refers to when Jesus talks with the Jews and says he will destroy the temple and raise it up again in three days. It is then noted in the passage that the temple Jesus was referring to was his body. But what is the purpose of this section of the passage, why is it notable that the Jews talked about the temple being built in 46 years vs Jesus building it in 3 days, is it just to show how much more powerful Jesus is than us people? The answer is no, see, the temple which the Jews refer to as being built in 46 years was built by King Herod in order to try and convince the people that he was the Messiah as the prophets foretold that the Messiah would build a new temple. Now, it becomes clear that Jesus is telling them that he is the Messiah that will build a temple but of his body rather than an earthly structure. The reason that Jesus tells the Jews this now is because the Jews asked him "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this" Basically asking him what gives you the right to do this. To which Jesus replies, although cryptically, that he is the Messiah.

**Application:** Both of the Gospel's messages can be applied to our lives. The first one being the idea of doing the right thing in the right place and time, is very applicable to our current circumstance. Probably applicable in the current moment you are reading this. The idea is that a place of worship, the church, is simply that and we shouldn't be doing things that go against that purpose. Going to Church should not be for a purpose other than to have a relationship with God and to grow deeper in your love and understanding of him. We should always try our hardest to stay focused on the worship of God when at mass. Like the people in the temple doing trade, even if the actual activity itself is not inherently bad nor are our intentions malicious it isn't the right place or the right time to, for example, think about what you're going to have for lunch. The second message that being Jesus' conveyance to the Jews of his nature can also be applied to our lives. Sometimes we can be fixated on the wrong things, like the Jews and the Temple we can be hyper fixated on the material world. So much so that we can conflate Jesus' teachings and Gospel to apply in ways that they shouldn't. As the Jews thought that the Messiah's temple would be a physical temple they couldn't comprehend that the Scripture could mean anything else beyond their narrow, material world view of what that could mean. We must avoid this mistake and keep our minds and hearts open to the true meaning of Jesus' teachings.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, I pray that you can aid me in growing in my understanding and love of you. I pray for guidance as I know I do not know all the answers and I place my trust into your hands that you will show me the truth. Teach me to learn in your ways and to remain diligent in my prayer with you. In your name I pray 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! This month, we will be talking about what it means to live out our faith. 😊

### Youth Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be run by youths on Friday 22nd March. It will start at 7pm and 8pm. Please come and participate if you can!

