

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"

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD — YEAR B

24TH MARCH 2024

ENTRANCE GOSPEL Mark 11:1-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately"'. And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it. And those who stood there said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it. And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!'

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21

Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

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

GOSPEL Mark 14:1 – 15:47

The Passion of Jesus according to Mark

Please refer to the Power Point on the screen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.



HOLY WEEK

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/ EUCARIST 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

Women and War

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to non-violent revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.

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Holy Week Liturgies (in English)

- *Holy Thursday (28th March)*
Mass 7:30pm
- *Good Friday (29th March)*
10am Stations of the Cross
3pm Passion of the Lord
- *Easter Vigil (30th March, Sat)*
Mass 6pm
- *Easter Sunday (31st March)*
Masses 9am, 6pm

Mass for Feast of the Annunciation

Date: 8th April 2024 MONDAY
Time: 9:15am
Language: English

Prayer for Palm Sunday

Merciful God,
as we enter Holy week,
turn our hearts again to Jerusalem,
and to the life, death,
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Stir up within us the gift of faith
that we may not only
praise him with our lips,
but may follow him in the way of the cross.

Increase the faith of those
who place their hope in you,
and graciously hear the prayers of those who
call on you, O God,
that we, who today hold high
these branches in our minds and hearts
to hail Christ in his triumph,
may bear fruit for you
by good works accomplished in him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

March 28, **HOLY THURSDAY**
March 29, **FRIDAY, OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD**
March 30, **EASTER VIGIL**
March 31, **EASTER SUNDAY**

**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.

St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com



SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

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

Project Compassion 2024

Please return the boxes with your donations on or before Good Friday, 29th March 2024. You can also make your donations using the QR code on the boxes.

JEWELLRY SALE (CASH ONLY)

Sunday 7th April, after 9am & 11.30am Masses
Huge range of bracelets and necklaces on Sale
Proceeds to support Catholic Women's League Charities



SOAP Reflection 24th March

Scripture: *He came back and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Had you not the strength to stay awake one hour? Stay awake and pray not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing enough, but human nature is weak.'*

Observation:

The metaphor of falling asleep to describe succumbing to temptation is used several times in the Bible to help us understand and be aware of how easy it can be to fall from God's path and victim to sin. Notably, in Mark 13:34-36, Jesus tells his disciples: 'It is like a man traveling abroad: he has gone from his home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own work to do; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow or dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.'

In this passage, and the one from today's reading, we are reminded of the limitations of our own bodies - that though we often have the desire to follow and emulate Jesus, our human nature (in some translations, our flesh) is vulnerable to the alluring ease of sin. I'm reminded personally of the time I tried to pray before I slept, but found myself waking up with hands clasped together the next morning instead!

Application

Fortunately, Jesus does provide a solution (not necessarily to resisting the human requirement for sleep, but for the battle against temptation) which is habitual prayer! Speaking with God frequently (at least daily), listening closely to your conscience, and taking the time to reflect upon the inner movements of your heart are important tools and gifts God has given us to build our resilience to temptation. Take the moment to consider how often you really stop to listen to your heart, and contemplate upon what course of action God is calling you towards.

As in the passage from Mark 13, we each have our 'own work to do' and unique challenges to face - the temptations I face day-to-day will invariably differ from yours. However, we can be confident in knowing that our approach has been informed by Jesus himself! Like any habit, it takes patience and repetition, but as our faith grows stronger, the hold of temptation and sin will weaken.

Prayer

Dear God, I thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who comforts and guides me through the challenges which I face daily. Please instill in me the virtues of patience and fortitude so that I can remain near to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and resolute in the face of sin and temptation. I trust in you completely - please open my ears so that I may hear your call through the people who need my help, and open my heart so that I can respond to your call with humility and purpose. 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. 😊

Good Friday Night Walk

The annual Good Friday night walk held by the Catholic Youth Paramatta is coming on 29th March (Good Friday). You will be joined by hundreds of youths from across the diocese as you pilgrimage from St Patrick's Catholic Church in Blacktown to St Patrick's Cathedral in Paramatta. The walk is fully supervised and held overnight from 10pm to 7am. You will be stopping at several churches along the way where there will be reflections on the Stations of the Cross and Christ's Passion. St Monica's will be hosting one of the stations! If you are interested in joining the pilgrimage walk, please message Rebecca Cheung on 0449 055 395.

30th/31st March ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha A. Bentley	I. Franklyn C. Cheung	T. Jones M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma J. Knight	B. Hooker S. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (29th March)		
Children's Liturgy	Trinette/Sheryl		
Morning Tea			
Counting	Group 5 - Peter & Kris Handcock		