

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 EASTER (DIVINE MERCY) – YEAR B

07TH APRIL 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117

Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.' 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

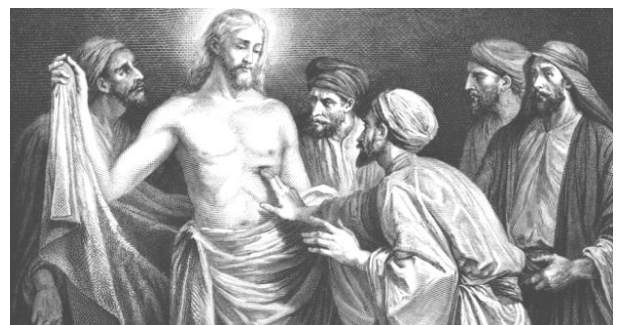
Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Thomas the Doubter seeing the wounds

The true believers in the Risen Christ kept Thomas the Doubter within their circle, rather than expelling him. This gave him a further opportunity to experience the very Real Presence of the Risen Lord and his gift of peace. Companionable patience is our best response to those struggling with belief in even fundamental tenets of the faith.

Thomas saw that the wounds of Christ were still present, not obliterated. Does this suggest that our redeemed bodies will bear the marks of the wounds unjustly inflicted on us? However, they will not be disabling to our personality because they will be incorporated into the resurrection life of Christ. Incredibly, our self-inflicted wounds, i.e. our sins, will be obliterated in the mercy of God.

Pope Francis emphasises that it was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: 'My Lord and my God'. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith.

We could take a moment to pray for the strength to touch the wounds of Christ in others, 'the least'. And we could pray that, wounded as we may be by the vagaries and injustices of life, we may be liberated from their evil effects as the Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own.

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Prayer of Entrustment to Divine Mercy

O Lord, our God,
we place our trust in You,
because you are mercy itself.

We repent of our sins
and turn to You for mercy.

We trust You to provide for our
every need, according to Your will.

Help us to forgive others
as You forgive us.

We promise to be merciful by our
deeds, words and prayers.

Though we have fears because of
human weakness,
we rely on Your infinite goodness
and mercy.

We entrust to You the future of
our planet, our Church, our nations,
our families and all our needs.

With loud cries we implore your mercy
on us and on the whole world.

Look upon us, created in
your image and likeness.

Form us in the Heart of Mary
by the power of the Holy Spirit
into the living images of mercy.

May all come to know
the depth of Your mercy
and sing the praises
of Your mercy forever.

Amen!

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

April 8, The Annunciation of the Lord

April 11, St Stanislaus, bishop & martyr

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK. ESPECIALLY

Peter Handcock, 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.

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

Mass for Feast of the Annunciation

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

Half Day Retreat for Adults

(hosted by Fr Ephraim Lam)

Date & Time: 4th May 2024, Saturday, 9am-12pm
Place: Holy Innocent Chapel
8 Greyfriar Pl, Kellyville, NSW 2155

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

Inspiration talks,
silent prayer time, Mass.



13th/14th April ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	J. Whippy C. Maxwell	J. Jacob B. McGettigan	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson M. Wilkinson	J. Skulander J. Cruz	
Acolytes		N. Joseph	
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (12th April)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	Abbey Liu & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth Corner

SOAP Reflection 7th April

Scripture: John 20: 19-31

Observation

In today's scripture, there are a few important moments that I thought were worth exploring. The first is how Jesus appears to the disciples in their darkest moments, fearing persecution. He said "shalom" or "peace be with you", and showed them that he is Jesus and he has risen. This part doesn't just demonstrate to the disciples that he was resurrected. He had the power to come into a locked room without anyone's notice, and he brought them peace in their unrest. The next part is Christ's great mission to all of us. He is sending us out into the world to continue his mission with the power of the Holy Spirit in us. He then gives priests the power to forgive sin in Jesus's name, bringing us the gift of the sacrament of reconciliation. You can also look at sin here as not believing, not following Christ, not repenting for our own sins. Then the last part of this chapter is the famous doubting Thomas. When Jesus appeared to the disciples again in the locked house, this time with Thomas, he called Thomas specifically to put his finger into the holes in his hands, and his hands into his side. Jesus knew exactly what was said between Thomas and the other disciples, and instead of being angry at Thomas for doubting, he let him examine him fully so that he would not doubt anymore. This was the revelation Thomas needed and he replied with the powerful proclamation "My Lord and My God!" Thomas clearly would've been ashamed and embarrassed by his apparent lack of faith, but Jesus knew his faith was sure, it just needed a little nurturing. Then Jesus ends with "blessed are those who have not seen and yet come to believe". This also reminds us that he other disciples had already seen Jesus with all the holes from the nail and spear, so they believed. This is a message for us who may be struggling to see Jesus in our lives.

Application

It is hard in today's society to tell people that you are Catholic, let alone trying to tell them about Jesus. This is disheartening and can lead us to lose faith, doubt and fall into sin. Faith can waiver even in those with the "strongest" faith (one of the 12 apostles). But God is always there reaching out to us, he wants us, and he brings peace. The important thing is that we remain in community with each other so that we can see God's work, rekindle our faith and repent for our sins. When we stray away, we might miss the opportunity to see God, just as Thomas did the first time. The passage also demonstrates how difficult it can be to believe without seeing. How can we evangelize to those who don't believe? Let them see God's love in our actions. Love each other unconditionally, your family, friends, neighbours, classmates, strangers, everyone. This is easier said than done, especially when you are upset or if you felt the other person had wronged you. Most of us fail to love at some point but remember that Jesus died for us out of love, and that is the love we should aim to have for each other.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for your sacrifice on the cross for us, and thank you for your gift of salvation, reconciliation, love and life. May we learn from your words and let it strengthen our faith so that we can be better ministers of your mission to the world. Teach us to love even when it is hard to love so that we may be the visible sign of you to the world. In Jesus's name, 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! Over the next few months, we will be talking about the theology of the body. 😊

Sports Day - 27th April

Come join us for sports day during the coming school holidays. It will be held on the 27th April in the halls at St Monica's. Timing will be confirmed soon. Bring your smiles, energy and all-around good vibes for some friendly competition! Come speak to Brian or Cheryl if you're keen or want more details.

