

# 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 EASTER – YEAR B**

**14TH APRIL 2024**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise, alleluia .

## FIRST READING Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 4

**Response:** Lord, let your face shine on us.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **(R.)**
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say.  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **(R.)**
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING 1 John 2:1-5

### A reading from the first letter of St John

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL Luke 24:35-48

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

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus  
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

# 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## COMMENTARY

### Ghosts, meals and humanity

When Jesus appeared to them, the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost, a sort of projection of a human image on the screen of the world but with no human depth and vitality. In fact, ghosts seem to drain life and warmth from those they encounter.

The disciples became convinced that they were in the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ when he assumed a characteristic way of acting – sharing a companionable meal (of fish).

His bodily presence of that sort is now withdrawn from us. But we are now encountered by him in the Mass which has many dimensions, one of which is that of a sacred meal. When we share in the sacramental signs of his Real Presence in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion, he brings us the life and warmth of the Risen Son.

In fact, he shares his very life with us, and because his life is gloriously fully human, we become less ghost-like as he heals those parts of our personality which drain goodness and vitality from the world.

We could take a moment to pray to take greater opportunities to share in the Real Presence of Our Risen Lord under the appearance of bread and wine. This will move us from the illusion of being alive to that vitality which is nourished by his glorified humanity.

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## Good Shepherd Appeal for the Seminary of the Diocese of Parramatta

Special envelopes can be taken at the main entrance of the church. Donations will be collected on **20th & 21st April 2024** at all Masses.

Online donations are also welcome, please use this QR code here or on the envelopes.



**DONATE**

### Prayer for Vocations

O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labour; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you. Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ. Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

**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.

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

### 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.*



### 20th/21st April ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	A. Bentley E. Caruana	S. Younes S. Jacob	T. Jones D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	J. Knight K. Handcock	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	A.Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera (19th April)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	School Holidays		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Pinto Families		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

## Youth Corner

### SOAP Reflection 14th April

**Scripture:** Luke 24: 35-48

#### Observation

In today's scripture, we have Luke's account of Jesus' appearance to his disciples. In this version, Jesus appears to all the disciples together and we see that they were all frightened at first. Then Jesus says to them "Peace be with you". The disciples thought they had seen a ghost but Jesus can quickly bring peace. He invited the disciples to examine him and then ate a piece of fish with them. This was all to show that he is not a ghost but the real Christ in the flesh, risen from the dead! Jesus did this to cast away any doubt and proclaim his mission for us. He established that he had defeated sin and death, and we should repent for our sins and they would be forgiven through his name. This is the basis of our faith and the importance of Easter. We are reminded of God's love for his people, that he died and rose again, and through him comes peace and forgiveness of sins.

#### Application

How often do we trivialize the celebration of Easter and forget what it is all about? In today's world, one might think that Easter is all about eating chocolate eggs and hot cross buns and spending time with family. Have you ever fallen into this kind of mindset? And like with the disciples, we may at times have doubts. If we were to see Jesus now, would we also react the same way, frightened? However, Jesus is always inviting us to believe, bringing us peace. Therefore, we must learn to trust in him, pray to him for strength and peace, and stand firm in our faith to reflect on the true meaning of Easter. It is the foundation of our faith, so may we rejoice and give thanks for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice, resurrection and victory over sin.

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for reminding us through your words what the true meaning of Easter is. I pray that as we go about our busy lives in this world that is increasingly more distant from you, we may be reminded of your love and beauty. I pray that as we continue the Easter celebrations, that we remember to always come back to you at the center of it all. 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.

