

# 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"*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B**

**21ST APRIL 2024**

## ENTERANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

## FIRST READING Acts 4:8-12

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117

**Response:** The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men:  
it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. **(R.)**
2. I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.  
The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**
3. 'Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord; I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-2

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

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL John 10:11-18

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

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, 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

### The Voice

In the regions where Jesus was an itinerant preacher, three or four flocks could be kept in a communal sheepfold for safety. In the morning, the shepherds would come and, as each called out, the sheep attuned to the sound of his voice would follow to life-giving pasture.

We are surrounded by hundreds of voices clamouring for our attention. We are bombarded by messages, social media incessantly chattering. Jesus invites us to get attuned to his voice, listening for the distinctive sound of it so that, even if it is faintly heard in a cacophony, we immediately turn toward it so that we can follow it in a life-giving direction.

How do we get attuned to that voice? By reading the gospels. A Chinese student once told me that the Chinese character for gospel is 'happy sounds'. I like the plural. Jesus' gospel voice is not a monotone but a polyphony sounding in different ways in different situations.

As disciples, we have to get onto the same wavelength as that voice so that we can echo it in our own lives. We become reverberations of Christ's voice in many different situations, helping him to lead others to life-giving pastures.

We could take a moment to pray for better listening so that we might recognise the gospel voice of Jesus Christ, especially at the moment of death. Then we may hear the one voice we need and long for: 'Today you will be with me in paradise.'

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

Special envelopes can be taken at the main entrance and on the pews. 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 posters & 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

April 26, St Mark, evangelist

**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 ACTIVITES



**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.

**Catholic Women's League - Mothers' Day Raffle.**  
Tickets on sale after all Masses from April 20th.

Cost is **three tickets for \$5**. Please bring cash only. Thank you for your generous support.

### St. Monica's Sacraments

[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)

#### SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

#### RECONCILIATION & REHEARSAL (Mandatory)

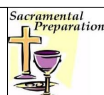
Sat 11th May - 2.00pm (Church) -

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.*

### 27th/28th April ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	A. Bentley K. Handcock	J. Pinto P. Fleming	O. Holsinger D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma M. Woolridge	J. DeAraujo J. Payra	
<b>Acolytes</b>		I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera (26th April)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	School Holidays		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Julie & Grazyna		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 4 - Peter Mooney		

## Youth + Corner

### SOAP Reflection 21st April

**Scripture:** John 10: 11-18

#### Observation

Today's Gospel begins with Jesus stating that he is "the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". Jesus being the good shepherd came down from heaven and was nailed to the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus laid down his life for us so that we are able to come before God and reconcile with him. This act demonstrates Jesus' selfless love and salvation for us. Being the sheep we like to flock together due to the mentality of safety in numbers. We surround ourselves with like-minded people. We tend to follow the crowd and so we typically follow the wrong people and ideas which eventually lead us to sin. The hired hand in this passage represents the materialistic things and ideas we idolise in our life. The hired hand fails to protect us, they do nothing but pull us into the wrong direction. Eventually we are snatched by the wolf which represents sin and evil. Jesus being the good shepherd is slowly gathering the sheep who have not yet found his flock. He reminds us that he is the one who truly cares for us and that he is the one who will save us from sin.

#### Application

The passage reminds us how easy it is to be lost and not know Jesus. In today's society there are many sinful acts which are normalised which further causes a divide between us and God. If we continue to indulge in these acts we are essentially consumed by sin. In order to apply this passage in our life we should accept Jesus' calling into his flock. We should accept this invitation as it surrounds us with a community of faith. Being in this community helps better strengthen our relationship with God. By developing this loving relationship with God we are able to take small steps away from the things that cause us to sin. We should continually appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made and use that as a reminder to help us stay on the path God has intended for us.

#### Prayer

Dear God, I pray that I strive to live according to your ways and may you continue to guide me on the right path. I pray for those who have not found your flock yet and hope that they accept your calls so that they can experience salvation. I pray that I will continue to rid sin out of my life and trust in Jesus as my saviour. 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.

