

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"

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

05TH MAY 2024

ENTERANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97

Response: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

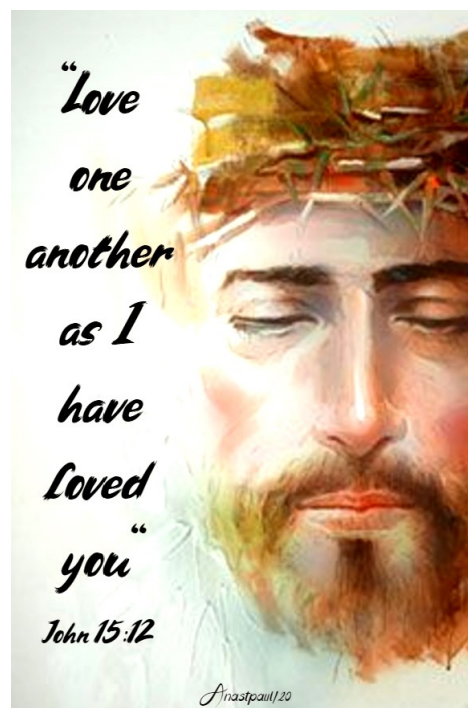
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, 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

Cornelius, Catholics and Love

A pagan Roman officer was so evidently graced by the Holy Spirit that St Peter realised that the followers of Jesus Christ need not be constrained within the confines of Judaism. This incident, together with St Paul's mission, has helped Christianity spread to every tribe and nation on the face of the earth.

'Catholic' simply means 'world wide', and the Church's universal mission is to preach the truth of Christ's victory over death and the true meaning of love: 'No greater love can a man have than to lay down his life for his friend.'

In our experience, this is best exemplified in the desire of a mother or father to substitute themselves for a dying infant or child. Our Lord practised what he preached with incredible intensity. He substituted himself for the whole of humanity dying because of a broken relationship with its Creator. He did so on behalf of us whom he calls friends, those with whom he wishes to share his victory over death.

This is the message entrusted to the members of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church to be spread to the people of every tribe and nation.

We could take a moment to pray that we better express our undying gratitude for our status as friends of the Risen Lord, and better do our part as missionary disciples spreading the news of his great love embracing the whole of humanity.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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



Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them
the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.

And you will renew
the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light
of the Holy Spirit
you have taught
the hearts of your faithful.

In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice
in your consolation.

We ask this
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

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

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.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY
Every Sunday at 9am Mass (during School Terms)
Young children haven't receive Holy Communion are welcome to join.

Catholic Women's League Mothers' Day Raffle.

Tickets on sale after all Masses today.

Cost is **three tickets for \$5**. Cash only.

Thank you for your generous support.

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

SACRAMENT of 1st HOLY COMMUNION

Timetable and Enrolment Form are available at the main entrance of the church. Catholic Children who are studying Year 4 or above, have learned the Sacrament of Reconciliation are eligible.

Registration can be done after the

- 5pm Mass on 25th May 2024 (Sat), or
- 9am Mass on 26th May 2024 (Sun)

Commitment Mass for parents and children

- 5pm Mass on 1st June 2024 (Sat), or
- 9am Mass on 2nd June 2024 (Sun)

Parents' Zoom Meeting: 7:30pm on 3rd June 2024 (Mon)

Lessons: 4pm–5pm on 15th, 22nd, 29th June & 3rd August 2024 (Sat). Then all join the 5pm Mass.

1st Communion Mass: 3pm on 18th August 2024 (Sun)



Youth Corner

SOAP Reflection 5th May

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Observations:

This week's gospel passage continues from where we left off last week. We were told to be the branches that bear fruits, the fruits of the spirit. In doing so, we stay with Jesus and God forever, and Jesus in us. And now, just like the 10 commandments, Jesus essentially tells us the most important of these is love. And this love is meant to be mirroring Jesus's love for us. God is the most beautiful form of love, a love so pure and powerful that it will bring us complete joy. This is the love Jesus is talking about. He commands us to love one another as he has loved us. Then as he explains that no love is greater than when one will lay down their life for their friend, he simultaneously tells his disciples the depth of his love and foreshadows how he will die for his friends. And if we keep his commands, then we are in his love and we are also his friend, whom he laid down his life for.

Applications: The word love is sometimes thrown around so casually that we sometimes don't really know what love is. Jesus showed us what it means to love in the purest way and commanded love each other the same way. This is the love that is one of the 7 fruits of the spirit. You might say you love your friend, your partner, or even your family. However, if you are asked to sacrifice yourself for them, will you do that for all of them, or only those closest to you? Now of course, we are not asking you to die to show your love to everyone. Self-sacrifice can also mean selflessness. This is a more common example. When someone asks you for a favour such as a lift home or loose change for food or bus, how often do we say yes, and how often do we say yes begrudgingly? If we can't even say yes to giving someone a lift home, or say yes but with annoyance, then are we showing self-sacrificing love? Jesus highlights this because it is the greatest and also the most difficult. It is the source of all the other fruits (joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control). Yes, it is hard, but love is hard, and this is Jesus's commandment for us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you for loving us infinitely in the purest way, sacrificing your only son so that we may live. In today's world, this form of love is getting harder and harder to find, but you have commanded us to love one and other as you have loved us. So I pray that you can give us the courage and strength to love as you did, so that the world will see you through our love for one another. 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. 😊

Youth Camp 9-11th July

Registration for youth camp 2024 is out! This year's theme will be Mulan! We will look at what it means to serve the community, church and God. If you would like to find out more, you can speak to any of the leaders. You will find the registration forms with Gabriel and Cheryl.

11th/12th May ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca S. Meleca	C. Cheung Franklyn	T. Jones D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley L. Iemma	J. Cruz M. Joseph	
Acolytes		I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (10th May)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina/Tresa		
Morning Tea	Cheung & Payra Family		
Counting	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		

