

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"

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – YEAR B

12TH MAY 2024

ENTERANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46

**Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 16:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, 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

Resurrection for the whole cosmos

Our Risen Lord could have appeared to groups of followers generation after generation until now. But he withdrew his visible bodily presence from us. Why? I think because he needed to wean human beings from our tendency to be self-centred. The Resurrection starts the transformation of the whole of creation, not just us.

Ordinary human beings are the heart and mind and voice of non-angelic creation. We love and understand and speak on its behalf. The transforming effect of Our Lord's glorified humanity is much more profound. Every molecule, every quantum of energy, the past, present and future are all in the process of being changed towards 'the fullness of him who fills the whole creation'.

At every Mass, this divine resurrection power is at work. Elements of the universe, wheat-bread, grapes-wine, become the Real Presence of Our Lord's glorified body.

The privilege of a ministerial priest is to be the ritual servant of this divine transformation. Invoking the Holy Spirit and reciting the words of the Last Supper is the priest's role in Our Lord's creative real anticipation of the end of time.

We could take a moment to pray for the grace to let go of our self-centredness, to stop staring into the empty sky as though lamenting Our Lord's absence, and to savour the privilege of receiving his Real Presence in the transformed elements of creation as we and they share in that Holy Communion which is the destiny of the whole cosmos.

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St. Monica's Sacraments
stmonicasacraments@gmail.com
SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION



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

May 14, St Matthias, apostle

**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.



Tap & Go is now available for donation for ongoing Church building maintenance fund. Machine is placed near the Statute of Saint Joseph. Envelopes are also available on the tables at the entrance to the Church if you wish to donate via cash/credit card. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

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: 3:30pm–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)

18th/19th May ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha J. Whippy	M. Joseph J. Jacob	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock M. Woolridge	S. Joseph J. Payra	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (17th May)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl/Maria		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth + Corner

SOAP Reflection 12th May

Scripture: Mark 16:15-20

Observation:

In this week's Gospel, Jesus clearly commands his disciples to 'proclaim the gospel to every creature'. We are also presented with fantastic signs that will accompany those who believe, the driving out of demons, picking up snakes and miraculous healing. These signs still occur to this very day, with exorcisms taking place and the occasional healing miracle.

Application:

I want to focus on a miracle that happens closer to home and occurs much more frequently. The Eucharistic miracle. Whilst what we see very rarely changes, as it is the 'substance' and not the 'accidents' or physical characteristics of the bread and wine changing, occasionally, both the 'substance' and the 'accidents' change, with a recent example being in Legnica, Poland, with Professor Barbara Engel stating "The material was analyzed using UV rays with an orange filter and the results were univocal. We have identified myocardial fibres, typical of myocardial tissue with alterations that often appear during the agony." Jesus was in extreme agony when he died on the cross, let's never stop proclaiming the 'source and summit' of the Christian life, the Holy Eucharist.



Prayer:

Thanks God for sending down your son to us, so that we could be saved. Thanks for instituting the sacrament of the Eucharist, an instrument of grace that allows us to adore and receive you in the body. 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.

