

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"

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

28TH JULY 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people .

FIRST READING 2 Kings 4:42-44

A reading from the second book of the Kings

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144

**Response: The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.**

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 6:1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd

followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.



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 4-4.30pm, 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		
ANOIDING OF THE SICK/ EUCARIST 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 (temporarily serve at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith) Phone: 4721 2509		
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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

A young lad and the hungers of humanity

The disciples fell into the verbal trap which Jesus set. They believed that market forces should dictate how the hunger of the crowd could be satisfied. It was a young lad who put the disciples to shame, simply handing over five barley loaves and two fish to Jesus. It was because of his generosity that Divine generosity was able to feed the crowd.

Divine desire to satisfy the hungers of humanity for the various necessities of life (food, shelter, companionship, education, medicines) require human generosity. Otherwise, Divine Compassion cannot be effective in the world.

Voluntary renunciation of property and sharing of wealth still occurs in the little oases of monasteries and convents, echoes of the radical redistribution of wealth recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 4:32-35). St Luke makes it clear that this was essentially linked to the Apostles' testifying to the Resurrection 'with great power'.

Francis of Assisi and now Francis of Buenos Aires remind us that the Church itself needs to engage in the redistribution of its wealth to enable the hungers of humanity to be satisfied. This will give authenticity to its preaching of the Gospel, and enable its evangelising to be undertaken 'with great power'.

We could take a moment to pray that we become more like the little boy in the Gospel, more like Francis of Assisi, more like Francis of Buenos Aires, voluntarily sharing our wealth to satisfy the hungers of humanity.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

SACRAMENT of 1st HOLY COMMUNION

Lessons: 3:30pm—5pm on
3rd August 2024 (Sat)
Then all join the 5pm Mass.

Rehearsal:
2pm on 10th August 2024 (Sat)

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

St. Monica's Parish 130th Anniversary

MASS

24th August 2024 (Saturday), 5pm
Celebrated by Bishop Vincent

Dinner & Raffle

23rd August 2024 (Friday),
7:30pm
Tingha Palace Restaurant
(Level 2 Parramatta Eels League Club)
Details about dinner tickets and
raffle tickets will be put out next
weekend.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

July 29, St Martha, St Mary and
St Lazarus

July 31, St Ignatius of Loyola, priest

Aug 1, St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop
and doctor of the Church

Aug 3, Saint Dominic, priest

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 book near
the altar of
the Sacred Heart of Jesus

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: Patricia Brown, email:pabrown02@bigpond.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. New workshops are available each week. Please contact Vera (WhatsApp 0402936947) for details.



Bible Brekkie Every FIRST 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 Church Roof Needs Repairing
If you would like to recommend a roofer to us, please call or WhatsApp
Sumod Abraham (0400 865 406),
a member of our parish council. Thanks!

Vinnies Winter Appeal
This Saturday & Sunday (27th & 28th July 2024), we shall have our Vinnies Winter Appeal collections. Please use the Vinnies Winter Appeal envelopes which will be on the pews. Donations can be made in cash, cheque, credit card, or use this QR code. Thank you for your generosity.



SOAP Reflection 28 July

Scripture: John 6: 1-15

Observation:

The first thing to note is in this week's gospel is God's providence. Jesus knew that the crowd that had followed him was spiritually hungry. Afterall, they had followed him wherever he went to hear him preach, but Jesus also recognised their physical hunger and knew that the crowd required physical sustenance as well as spiritual. God knows what we need. We only need to trust that He will provide.

The second thing that stood out was abundance. God not only provide but He provides in abundance. When Andrew brought the five barley loaves and two fish to Jesus, he asks "...but what are these among so many?". It's a question of helplessness and doubt. Surely, when the apostles realised that Jesus was intending to feed the crowd with five loaves of bread and two measly little fishes, they must have thought there was absolutely no way this was going to happen. Yet, Jesus did just that and more. So much so there were twelve baskets of food remaining after everyone had had their fill.

The last thing that was observed in the gospel was the boy that brought the five loaves and two fish. It is suggested in the gospel that the boy was young and poor as the loaves were described to be "barley loaves", with barley being common among the poor. Yet despite this, the boy offered what he had. He could have kept quiet and eaten his meal himself but this was not what he did. He acted with love and selflessness in hoping that his contribution could potentially alleviate the hunger of the crowd around him.

Application:

Sometimes it is hard to see God's plan for our lives. We often struggle to or forget to put our lives into God's hands and to trust in his providence. But we see in today's gospel, God's love for us is abundant and overflowing and he will provide everything we need as long as we put it into His hands. If we remember to put all our helplessness and things we deem to be impossible into God's hands, he will provide us with what we need. And just like the boy in the gospel today, we are called to offer what we have in service to God and our community. Even if it's as small as five loaves and two fish, God will multiply that offering and make it so plentiful that it is felt by everyone around.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I choose to put my everything into your hands. My failures, my successes, my concerns, my joys; I lay them all down knowing that you love me and know what is best for my life and will provide for me accordingly. Help me to remember to be your hands and feet and to serve selflessly with the knowledge that the love I pour out to those around me serves as a reflection of Your love

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!



3rd/4th August ROSTERS			
	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock E. Caruana	M. Joseph J. Jacob	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson J. Knight	J. Skulander S. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Caplaincy (2nd August)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria/Chidinma		
Morning Tea	Julie & Grazyna		
Counting	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		