

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"

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B 01ST SEPTEMBER 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 14

Response: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R.)**
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

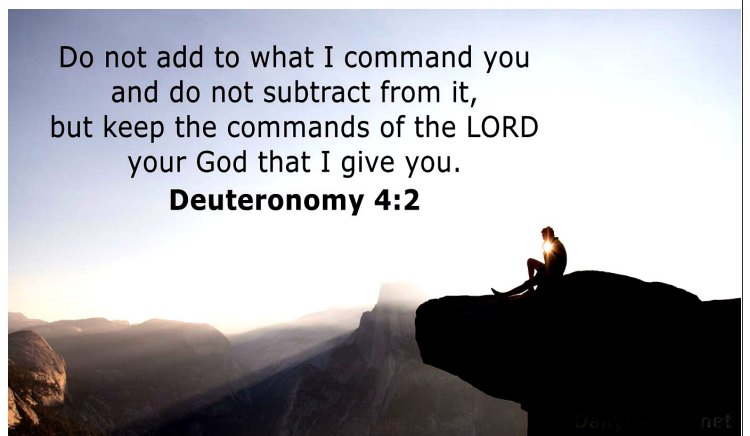
The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

Do not add to what I command you
and do not subtract from it,
but keep the commands of the LORD
your God that I give you.

Deuteronomy 4:2



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/ 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 (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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Holiness: Contagion not Quarantine

Many religious leaders have thought that some foods or some people are such a threat to the holiness of their followers that contact with 'unclean', 'defiling' foods or people must be avoided. Our Lord was totally opposed to the idea that holiness was something secured or gained by being quarantined or separated from any-thing or any-person.

On the contrary, he could touch a leper or have a meal with a prostitute. Rather than defilement flowing from the leper or prostitute to Jesus, his life flowed into them repairing their broken humanity, healing them bodymindspirit, holistically, making them holy.

The fact is that God, embodied in Jesus Christ, is contagious. The contagion of Divine Life is meant to flow into the inner depths of personality, into the heart. When this occurs, the Divine Life in the human person causes 'holiness'.

We have to strive to put ourselves in the way of this contagion. We become holy when we allow ourselves to be touched by our Lord Jesus Christ. How do we do this?

By hearing of His life in the Gospel, by being nourished by His life in Holy Communion, by being touched by the plight of those in whom He is to be found. St James in the second reading describes some who are particularly vulnerable in a patriarchal society with no social security system: the widows and orphans. No doubt, we can identify equivalent groups in our own society and overseas.

We could take a moment to pray that we might be more conscious of the Holy Spirit germinating something in our hearts, making us holy from the inside out, that our holiness be authenticated by good works so that we may be holy as the Lord our God is holy.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

St. Monica's Sacraments

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

SACRAMENT of 1st RECONCILIATION

PARENT ONLY SESSION: (Mandatory)
via Zoom at 7:30pm on 2nd September (Monday)

4 Lessons (Mandatory)

Lesson 1 Saturday 7th September - 3.30pm

Lesson 2 Saturday 14th September - 3.30pm

Lesson 3 Saturday 21st September - 3.30pm

Lesson 4 Saturday 26th October - 3.30pm

All above lessons are compulsory with 5.00pm Mass attendance on the same day.

Note: There will be no catchup/makeup lessons available

2024 Father's Day Appeal

There will be a special collection at every Mass on 31st August and 1st September 2024 to support all the retired clergies in the diocese. Cash or Credit Card donations can be done using the special envelopes, or scan the QR code attached for online donations.



Clivia for Sale

On 1st September 2024 (Sunday), there are Clivia (in pots) for sale at the side door of the church after the Masses, while stock lasts. It is to raise funds for the maintenance of our church buildings. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

St Monica's Church

130th Anniversary Feast Day Raffle Winners

1st prize A02346

2nd prize A00535

3rd prize A00496

4th prize A01832

5th prize A01341

6th prize A03624

7th prize A01098

8th prize A01700

Please contact the Parish Office if you are a winner to claim your prize.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

September 3, St Gregory the Great, pope and doctor of the Church

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 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: 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.



Remember the Deceased There is an open diary and pens next to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue and you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased loved ones or family members on the day of their anniversaries and we will pray for them.

PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

O God, who always guide Your people on their pilgrim way, accompany us as we embark upon the path of discipleship towards greater communion, participation and mission. Enable us to journey with all people and lift them up by the hope of a world made new. Attune our ears to the cry of the earth and the voice of the poor. Give us new hearts as we respond to the signs of the times and become more effective instruments of Your Gospel. Form us into a community of mutual empowerment and credible witness by deep listening, learning and discernment. May we all embrace our baptismal call, and enliven Your Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, who is with us until the end of the ages, and continues to guide Your Church, to the fullness of your Kingdom, now and forever. Amen

07th/08th September ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell A. Bentley	C. Cheung M. Joseph	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley L. Iemma	J. Cruz S. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (6th September)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina/Trinette		
Morning Tea	Raj & Innu Kakumanu & Beth		
Counting	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		

Youth + Corner

Scripture: Mark 7

Observation:

In today's gospel reading, Jesus, after being provoked, calls out the Pharisees after they insinuate that his followers failed to adhere to traditions and were thus unclean. There are two things in this passage that really stand out. First is the fact that Jesus creates a strong divide between the commandments of God and human tradition. This particular exchange is reminiscent of Jesus denouncing those who like to make it known they are fasting and praying in order to heighten their image of devoutness. Though we follow the word of God, we are only human and at times we may find our priorities confused and not aligned with what God really wants for us. This is true for the individual and as history has shown, even sometimes for the Church. The second thing is Jesus' proclamation that what defiles us is the filth and evil that comes from within our own hearts. It is really easy to overlook our own faults, and a lot of the time we are satisfied if we believe we are doing better than those around us. However, according to Jesus, it is our own tendency to sin which is the most pressing issue – the biggest obstacle between us and eternal life in Heaven. While this is no real revelation, it is still extremely important, and something that often gets lost within the rush of everyday life.

Application:

Our faith is not something we are meant to parade around. In a similar fashion, it is also not purely measured by the practices or traditions we adhere to. While you will often hear (and I'm sure many of us heard this during religious education or formation) that you should find a quiet place to pray and that you should have specific times set aside, this may not be the best for everyone. For some people, prayer might be something that naturally comes to them while doing other things, or while actively living out God's mission. What's important is that we, in whatever form, continue to deepen our relationship with God. Finally, do not be too focussed on what others around you think, that you fail to see your own problems. It is so easy to compare yourself to another, or use them as a benchmark, but what really matters is how we develop our own faith, and how we can then bring that faith to those around us.

Prayer:

Dear God, please provide me the strength to grow in spiritual maturity and deepen my understanding of You. Help me be humble and ready to change, so that my actions better reflect Your love. Please bring people into my life who can help me become more like You each day. Like Jesus did, so too help me to live your mission in my daily life. 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! In the coming months, we will be talking about what a Jubilee year is (psst... its next year!).

Monthly youth social

We will have our usual social hangout after youth mass on the 4th Sunday of this month (22nd September)! Come talk to one of the leaders if you want to come or would like further details.