

# 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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B 15TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 50:5-9

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 114

**Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

1. I love the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal; for he turned his ear to me in the day when I called him. **(R.)**
2. They surrounded me, the snares of death, with anguish of the tomb; they caught me, sorrow and distress. I called on the Lord's name. O Lord my God, deliver me! **(R.)**
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me. **(R.)**
4. He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING James 2:14-18

### A reading from the letter of St James

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you

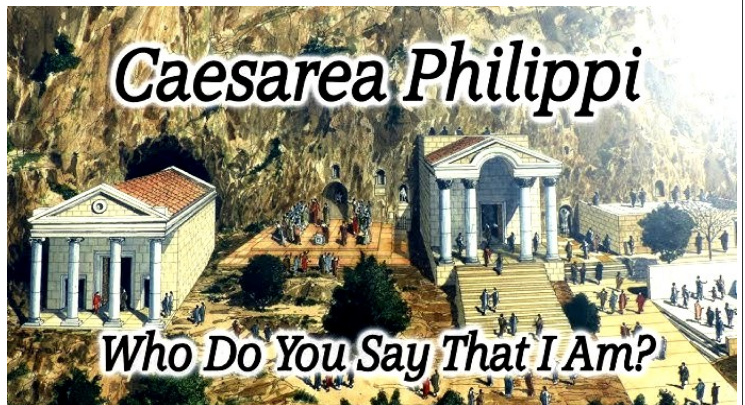
my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!



## GOSPEL Mark 8:27-35

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

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!  
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

# 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 ( <i>will be cancelled beginning October 2024</i> ) Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am, (will be continued)
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.30pm, 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>ANOIDING 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 (temporarily serve at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith) Phone: 4721 2509
<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: <a href="mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com">stmonicanp@bigpond.com</a>

## St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: [stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## COMMENTARY

### Peter: earthquaked and then upside down

Here in our Australian democracy we hardly feel the force of the famous gospel passage in which Jesus forewarns his disciples of the high cost of following him. We trivialise the meaning of taking up the cross to make it refer to bearing a chronic ailment, or putting up with a particularly irritating family member or work colleague: 'It/he/she is the cross I have to bear.'

No, our Lord was referring to the terrible reality which could be inflicted on his followers, as even happens today: the beheadings by ISIL in Iraq, the rape and enslavement of women in Nigeria, the displacement from homelands in Syria. The True Cross is not to be found in splinters of wood but in the various means by which suffering is inflicted on those whose allegiance to Jesus Christ does not waiver.

Peter could not, would not, grasp this. His head was full of political fantasy, easy sovereignty. Jesus rebuked Peter quite savagely: 'Satan, get behind me.' Only after the resurrection, believing that our Lord had conquered the worst that death could do, did Peter follow Jesus to crucifixion, upside down at the base of the Vatican Hill.

We could take a moment to pray for and, where possible, give appropriate political support to, our fellow Christians wherever they are persecuted, forced to bear the true cross of suffering. May God give those Christian martyrs victory in the embrace of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

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## 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

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Sept 16, St Cornelius, pope, and St Cyprian, bishop, martyrs

Sept 20, Andrew Kim Taegön, priest, St Paul Chông Hasang companions, martyrs

Sept 21, St Matthew, apostle and evangelist

## 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.

### St. Monica's Sacraments

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

#### SACRAMENT of 1st RECONCILIATION

##### 4 Lessons (Mandatory)

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.**

#### Bible Supper

(Online Bible Lessons and Sharing, hosted by Fr Ephraim Lam)

- Hold via ZOOM on every FIRST and THIRD Thursday from 8pm–9pm.
- It will begin on 3rd October 2024.
- Brief introduction of every book and selected text in the Holy Scripture will be presented.
- To join please scan the QR code and we shall send the zoom link to your email, or call the Parish Office.



#### 21st/22nd September ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	S. Meleca C. Meleca	M. Falamich P. Fleming	M. Novak D. Llevado
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Wilkinson M. Samson	S. Joseph J. Skulander	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 2 - Vera (20th September)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Tresa/Jesuina		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	M Falamich & J De Araujo		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

# Youth + Corner

## SOAP Reflection 15th September

**Scripture:** Mark 8: 27-35

### Observation:

This week's gospel sees Jesus tell us of the Passion for the first time. He revealed the whole mystery of our faith and perhaps not unexpectedly, Peter took him aside and rebuked him. Jesus rebuked back saying this is the thinking of humans, calling him Satan. The mystery of faith defies our human understanding, we cannot explain how this happened, but all is possible with God. Here Jesus called him Satan. This is significant because this very human limit of understanding the mystery is all the devil needs to plant seeds of doubt, leading us astray. Following this, Jesus also outlined what it means to be his disciple. To be a Christian and a follower of Christ is to live a life of service. Jesus said we must lose our life for his sake and for the gospel to save it. This is another way to say that we must dedicate our life to serving those in need, for Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew "just as you did to one of the least of these...you did it to me".

### Application:

We often find things that we cannot see or explain hard to believe. In our day-to-day lives, we can lose sight of all the miracles that are around us and easily fall into the trap of Satan, just like Peter did. When we look around, feel the air and the warmth of the sun, all of God's creation, and remember the miracle that is life. One way to further experience these miracles is through the works of charity and service. When we serve others especially those in need, we live out our faith and allows us to see God's miracle in a way that we can understand, as well as be a part of the wider community.

### Prayer:

Father, thank you for your sacrifice for us. I pray that in this self-centred world, you give us the motivation and strength needed to live a life of service, to lose our life to you so that we can be saved. 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!

We would like to extend our invitation to the Children's Choir to join us every 2nd Sunday of the month! Come join us on 13th October for a SMYG taster! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our leaders Rebecca Cheung on 0449 055 395.

### Monthly youth social

We will have our usual social hangout after Youth Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of this month (22<sup>nd</sup> September)! Please speak to Brian or Gabriel if you want to come or would like further information. Please be aware that we need to confirm attendance 2 weeks in advance so we can finalise all the logistics and transport.

### Trivia night and Vinnies community sleepout

Every night we end our day in our warm comfy beds, but countless people don't have this simple luxury due to all kinds of life situations. On 5th October (Saturday), St Monica's Youth Group will be holding a sleepout to raise awareness and money for the disadvantaged. Registration to the sleepout is open to youths in year five and above. We aim to raise a total of \$1,500 through both entry fees and donations. Please use the below QR code to support the SMYG youths for the sleepout! For more information or for an application form, please contact Brian Wong (0491 138 451).

