

# 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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B**

**22ND SEPTEMBER 2024**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

## FIRST READING Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

### A reading from the book of Wisdom

The godless say to themselves,  
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 53

### Response: The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayers;  
listen to the words of my mouth. (R.)
2. For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God. (R.)
3. But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good. (R.)

## SECOND READING James 3:16 – 4:3

### A reading from the letter of St James

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray

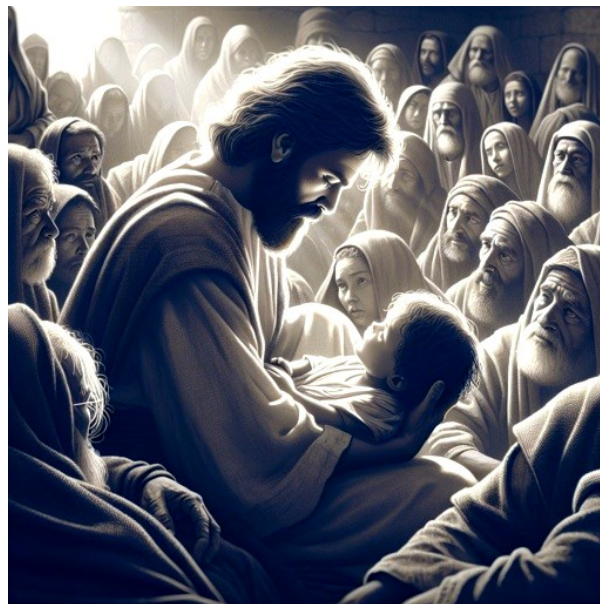
and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!



## GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37

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

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

# 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>ANOINTING 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

### Marginal people

Jesus was well aware of the constant temptation for the leaders amongst his followers to be conditioned by the surrounding social and political structures. So, when he became aware that his disciples were disputing 'who is the greatest', he decided to teach them a lesson by engaging in some counter-cultural street theatre.

Jesus saw a young boy on the edge of the crowd and beckoned him into the middle of his group of disciples. This was not because of some sentimental idea that all kids are little innocents, but because in his society, children were absolutely at the bottom of the social scale. Jesus moved an utter nobody from the margins of society to the centre, challenging his disciples to change their perspective.

This challenge is made to all of us. We must identify those on the margins, some of whom we have quite literally dislocated like indigenous communities or asylum seekers, and bring them into the centre of our concern. There may be pain, personal and social, in changing perspective.

We might pause for a moment to pray for a new way of seeing, for perseverance in re-locating someone in the centre of our concerns, for the graceful insight that in welcoming that person we have welcomed 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 23, St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

Sept 27, St Vincent de Paul, 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 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

Lesson 4 Saturday 26th October - 3.30pm (Mandatory)

### Bible Supper

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

- Hold via ZOOM on every FIRST and THIRD Thursday from 8pm to 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.



### 28th/29th September ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	J. Whippy G. Basha	S. Jacob J. Pinto	T. Jones M. Ellis
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma J. Knight	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	
<b>Acolytes</b>	J. Hilton	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (27th September)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	School Holidays		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Jacob Payra Family & Cheung		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 4 - Peter Mooney & Michael Falamich		

# Youth + Corner

## SOAP Reflection 22nd September

**Scripture:** Mark 9:30-37, with verse 37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me," being the most impactful

**Observation:-** In this passage, Jesus predicts his death for a second time. We can witness his disciples arguing over what the hierarchy of power could potentially look like when Jesus establishes his Kingdom, but Jesus redirects their focus. Instead, he takes a child in his arms, analogous to the way he might embrace us or others when they are weak and vulnerable, and states the importance of caring for those who are less fortunate than us, or can offer very little in return. This lesson is therefore not just applicable to young children, but extends to those in poverty, sickness, and absence of a strong faith or belief in Christ. When the disciples are given opportunities to do so, they are serving God and acting in Jesus' name- that is, being a representative of his love and obedience by caring for those the way Jesus would have. In a way, it also shows the disciples' willingness to listen and accept the true power and authority of Christ.

**Application-** Today's gospel is a great reminder to live out one of the most fundamental values within our Christian faith- to love and serve others the way Jesus did. It is a good way to stop and consider the people who require the most assistance. In our daily life, it could be a homeless individual you pass by often but have never sought the courage to speak or provide for them; or taking up that volunteering opportunity you have been putting off to truly make an impact in others' lives. It can be very easy to get caught up in our own bubble and forget the world is significantly larger, with millions of people everywhere. When we have been granted a chance from God to do something meaningful in our lives (even if it is something small, like giving money to someone on the street), we should embrace this- after all, we have been called to serve in Jesus' name. We should always strive to love and care for others, even if they are complete strangers because this is what Jesus would have done.

**Prayer-** Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for teaching us the importance of love and service, and for showing us that a true leader is one who does not desire power, but one who guides and leads the people, only wanting what is best for them. I pray that I may be able to emulate you in my daily life, and may I be more attentive to your calling so that I can readily act upon it. In moments where I do experience doubt or hesitation, please give me strength to overcome my fears and remind myself who I am doing this for, and who I am representing. In Jesus' name I pray, 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).

