

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

**29TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

## FIRST READING Numbers 11:25-29

### A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18

**Response: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R.)**
3. So in them your servant finds instructions; great reward is in their keeping.  
But who can detect all his errors?  
From hidden faults acquit me. **(R.)**
4. From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me.  
Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING James 5:1-6

### A reading from the letter of St James

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers

have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:

make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

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

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

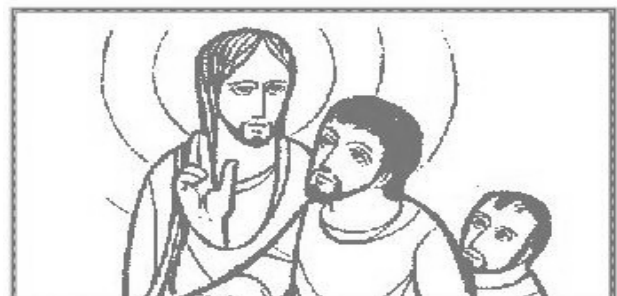
'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope.

This is my comfort when I am brought low.



Anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name ... will certainly not lose their reward.

# 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 Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am		
<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: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

## St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## COMMENTARY

### Beyond the Boundaries

An easy way to deal with this Gospel: 'anyone who is not against us is for us,' would be to emphasise the transformation of the relationship of Catholics with Protestants. Too easy.

But what about our relationship with the Muslims? There is a huge gulf between Muslims and us about Jesus Christ. Muslims do not even believe that he was killed on the cross, let alone raised to life. We hold to the testimony and the faith of the Apostles.

But Catholics also believe that the Divine Wind blows where it pleases amongst all people of all religious traditions (and of none). In the early Church this was expressed by saying that the Seeds of the Word were sown by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all human beings.

We need to recognise the Seed of the Word in Islam – our shared belief in the one God, Creator of the cosmos, Lord of history, merciful and just. The task of the Church is to bring that Seed closer to the illumination of Divine Light so that it may eventually grow in belief that God is indeed One in the loving relationship of Triune life.

The world is holding its breath over the encounter of the Catholic Church and Islam. There is a history of mutual violence and contemporary barbarities which are inhumane and blasphemous. But, in the face of indifference and hostility to religion, at least in the West, it is good to acknowledge what we share in common.

We may take a moment to pray for the grace to relate to those Muslims whom we know in our own society in light of our faith that the Divine Wind has sown and is nurturing the Seed of the Word amongst them.

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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 30, St Jerome, priest and doctor of the Church

Oct 1, St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin and doctor of the Church

Oct 2, The Holy Guardian Angels

Oct 4, St Francis of Assisi, religious

**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.

### 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.



## Youth + Corner

### SOAP Reflection 29th September

**Scripture:** Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

#### Observation

In this passage, we witness Jesus' teachings on the seriousness of sin and how we should deal with anything that causes us/others to stumble. Initially, Jesus encounters a situation where John reports someone casting out demons in Jesus' name, in which he emphasises how "whoever is not against us is for us." This continues into his warnings against His disciples about the consequences of causing others to 'stumble,' metaphorically stating how one should cut off their hands/feet and pluck their eyes to signify the importance of removing anything that leads to sin. Jesus finishes by stating how it is beneficial, as Catholics, to remove all sin by any means possible to lead a life into God's kingdom, than to allow sin to persist and face eternal punishment in hell.

#### Application

As Catholics, we are called to reflect on the seriousness of sins in our lives and the impact our actions can have on others. Jesus' warning to remove anything that causes sin, even at great personal cost, reminds us to examine our lives and remove habits, behaviours, and influences that lead us or others away from God. This passage challenges us with integrity, to take sin seriously, and to act in a way that upholds and nurtures the faith of others.

#### Prayer

Dear God,  
Thank you for the unconditional love and mercy You show us each day. As we reflect on your teachings, we pray to take sin seriously and to have the courage to remove anything that may lead us astray. Give us the strength to make the sacrifices necessary to follow You wholeheartedly, knowing that eternal life with You is far more precious than earthly comfort. 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! 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 (next is 27<sup>th</sup> October)! Please speak to Brian Wong or Gabriel Lau 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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).



5th/6th October ROSTERS			
	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	E. Caruana C. Maxwell	S. Younes B. Hooker	T. Jones O. Holsinger
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Samson M. Woolridge	M. Joseph J. Skulander	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	R. Joseph
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (4th October)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	School Holidays		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Pinto Families		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 5 - Kris & Peter Handcock		