

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B 06TH OCTOBER 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 127

Response: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**
2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **(R.)**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom

everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 10:2-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us,' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.



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 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		
ANOINTING 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	Phone: 4721 2509	Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com
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

Counter-cultural on Marriage

One of the differences between human beings is that between male and female. These distinctive ways of being human are surprisingly able to be integrated into a unity. In today's gospel, Our Lord is saying that when a man and a woman cleave to each other in faithful commitment, that is 'a Paradise moment' as they are incorporated into a new unity which paradoxically enhances the difference.

Same sex partners can, of course, bring many virtues and loving dimensions to their relationship: enduring friendship, care in troubled times, joy. But they cannot embody the celebration of difference in the way a heterosexual couple do in their new unity. That latter deserves its own title: Marriage.

Marriage is not a creation of the Church, but the Church celebrates this 'Paradisal' unity by way of Sacrament. What happens when that unity is fractured? Our Lord teaches: '... what God has united, man must not divide'. This was counter cultural in the Jewish and Roman societies of his day, as it is in the Australia of today.

But we all know of instances where the sad trauma of this dividing has occurred. Is the Church sufficiently a place where an injured party can find the healing presence of God? Can we have pastoral practices which give the 'medicine of immortality' to a wounded party within the communion of the Church?

We could pause a moment to pray for the Church to be a minister of grace to help hold men and women together in the gender-enhancing unity of marriage, and to be a minister of mercy when that unity is fractured.

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Prayer for peace

Lord our God, Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Father of all mankind, Who in the cross of Your Son and through the gift of His own life, at great cost You wished to destroy the wall of enmity and hostility that separates peoples and makes us enemies.

Send into our hearts the gift of the Holy Spirit, that He may purify us from every feeling of violence, hatred and revenge, enlighten us to understand the irrepressible dignity of every human person, and inflame us to the point of consumption for a peaceful and reconciled world in truth and justice, in love and freedom.

Almighty and eternal God, in Your hands are the hopes of men and the rights of every people. Assist with Your wisdom those who govern us, so that, with Your help, they will become sensitive to the sufferings of the poor and of those who suffer the consequences of violence and war; may they promote the common good and lasting peace in our region and throughout the earth. Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, obtain the gift of peace for the Holy Land that gave birth to you and for the whole world.
Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Oct 7, Our Lady of the Rosary

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 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.
- 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 6th October

Scripture: Mark 10:2-16

Observation:

In today's Gospel there are two teachings that are emphasised, the first being divorce. The Pharisees question Jesus about the legality of divorce, attempting to test him. In response to this Jesus references God's original intent for marriage, emphasising that marriage is meant to be a lifelong union. Jesus teaches us that divorce and remarriage is adultery, reaffirming the importance of the marital bond of a man and woman. The second observation made is Jesus blessing the little children. When people bring children to Jesus for a blessing, the disciples try to stop them. Jesus, however, welcomes the children and blesses them, teaching that the kingdom of God belongs to those who receive it like children, with simplicity, trust, and humility.

Application:

Today's Gospel really teaches us two main things that we can apply in our lives. If you are married or considering marriage, it is important to honour the commitment by viewing marriages as a sacred and lifelong bond. Focus on trying to grow your relationship by cultivating love, respect and forgiveness. The Gospel also reminds us to embrace our faith. Jesus calls us to receive the kingdom of God with humility and trust just like the children in the passage. In our lives, we can practise trusting God fully, being open to his guidance. We can approach God in prayer and foster a sense of wonder and dependence on Him, much like children do with their parents. Both these teachings encourage us to focus on relationships: first with others, by committing to them deeply and faithfully, and second with God, by embracing Him with a pure and trusting heart.

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for teaching us the importance of relationships, help me to honour all my relationships, that I may live my life with love, faithfulness and commitment, reflecting Your love to those around me. I pray that you grant me the grace to embrace my faith, trusting You fully with my heart. I pray that you guide me in all my decisions, that I may grow closer to You each day. Amen.

12th/13th October ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	A. Bentley K. Handcock	A. Espiritu C. Cheung	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley K. Handcock	J. Cruz J. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (11th October)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	Julie & Maris		
Counting	Group 1 - Joel Pinto & Jacob Payra		

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 4th Sunday of this month (next is 27th 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.

