

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"

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

03RD NOVEMBER 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong
salvation!

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17

Response: I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be to the God that saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown love for his anointed. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.



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: 9630 -1951	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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

The Dual Command

Jesus does not command us to love 'God' in the abstract. Teaching Jew to Jew he says: 'You shall love the Lord your God' – the Lord who had rescued the Jewish people from slavery. So, commanding a love which responds to an initiative of Divine Love.

Why wouldn't one respond 'heart, mind, strength, soul' in gratitude for the gift of life itself, for some particular person or incident, for the beauty and grandeur of nature, for rescue from some situation which seemed to engulf us? And if the Lord God loved you in such a way, why wouldn't you love yourself?

Then you can properly 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. There is nothing sentimental in his teaching from Leviticus 19:18 and the preceding verses. Jesus was pointing to the system of social justice which looked after the poor and which did not exploit workers. It is up to us as global citizens of the 21st century to recognise as 'neighbours' those beyond our borders and to love them in the practical 'Levitical' way.

Fulfilling the Dual Command, we guard against the extremes of religious piety or social activism and become Christian humanists loving God and neighbour.

We might pause a moment to pray in responsive gratitude to the Lord God, and to commit ourselves to loving our neighbour, hoping to hear the words of Jesus Christ: 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'

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Pastoral Prayer

Patient God, we find it so easy to give lip service and "check" service to the commandment to love. We can say we know of your love and that we respond in kind, but we far too often do not respond in loving ways toward others. We write checks to support ministries of compassion without ever truly feeling the deep compassion that service demands.

Dig deeper into our souls, O God. Expose the vain selfishness and the fear that seem to block true discipleship. Engage us in ministries of justice in which the kind of love that you call us to have is required, not just in our spoken word or in our offerings of monies, but in our very passionate nature.

Free us and inspire us to love all persons, those whom we would deem unlovable, and those whom we find it easy to love. Help us love ourselves, respecting ourselves in gratitude for the gifts you have given to us; then move us to use these gifts in service to you.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Nov 4, St Charles Borromeo, bishop

Nov 9, The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

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 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
Third Monday of the month 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 Every FIRST & THIRD Thursday of the month, 8pm-9pm, via Zoom.
Fr. Ephraim will introduce every book from the Bible. All are welcome. To get the Zoom Link please scan the QR code on the left.

Catholic Women's League Melbourne Cup Luncheon

Date: 5th November 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: Midday to 4pm

Place: Parish Centre

Fee: \$30 per person

Lunch, drinks, sweets, and fruit platter are provided

Contact Julie Skulander for details (0411 988 361)

ALL are welcome and MUST wear a hat

Youth + Corner

SOAP Reflection 3rd November

Scripture: Mark 12: 28-34

Observation: When Jesus was asked "which is the greatest commandment", he said "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God, with all your mind, and with all your strength." Jesus directly quoted the passage in Deuteronomy. He extends this answer with the second which is "you shall love your neighbor as yourself..." again quoting the old-testament, this time in Leviticus, where God gave Moses the ten commandments. Love is central to everything as it stems from God. You cannot truly love God if you don't love your neighbor which just means other people. Unlike the others, this scribe showed a deeper understanding in this answer than just the words. Love for God and one another is greater than all the offerings, deeds, formalities and ceremonies. Without it, all of it is meaningless and empty, simply acts to show people you know the customs. You must first love God, and once you understand this, the rest will follow.

Application: We can sometimes find ourselves just doing things for the sake of routines. Going to mass on Sunday, saying the Lord's prayer, offerings, taking communion etc. We must ask then am I doing this with true love for God, or am I just doing it because it is what I do every Sunday. Likewise, I think we all try to be nice to people around us and give to charities etc. But is that simply because it is a nice thing to do, or do we see God in others and love them as we love ourselves? It can take a lot of strength to be able to love close ones selflessly, let alone people you are not close with or people you don't even know. I challenge us to reflect on whether we are putting God first above all things, and if we are living with love for God and others. And lastly, we should all aim to read the scriptures searching for the deeper meaning than just mere words on a page, like the scribe in the passage.

Prayer: Lord, help us learn to love selflessly and keep your commandment to love you with all of our hearts. Open our eyes, ears, and hearts so that we may understand your teachings in its full truth, so that we may live out our faith that brings us closer to Your Kingdom. 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 4th Sunday of this month (24th November)! 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.

St Monica's Got Talent! – 23/11/2024 Saturday 7:00-9:30pm

St Monica's is blessed with many talented parishioners, so why not come see them perform at the first St Monica's Got Talent, to be held in the hall on 23/11/2024 at 7pm! There will be a diverse range of musical and dance performances that are sure to wow you. Light canapes and drinks will be served, but we recommend having dinner before the event. Tickets will be \$20 for adults and \$15 for under-12s. All proceedings will go towards funding the maintenance and repair costs of the church buildings. We look forward to seeing you!

09th/10th November ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell A. Bentley	S. Younes	T. Jones D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge L. Iemma	J. Cruz J. Payra	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (8th November)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria		
Morning Tea	Cheung & Payra Families		
Counting	Group 5 - Kris & Peter Handcock		