

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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

10TH NOVEMBER 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145

Response: Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. **(R.)**
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with

the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 12:38-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.' He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.



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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

The Widow's Mite

This is the most commonly misunderstood passage in the Gospels. It is usually read in a 'pat on the back' tone of voice, commending the widow for her generosity. But it should be read with the tone of white hot anger which Jesus had displayed against the money dealers whom he expelled from the temple only days earlier.

This vulnerable widow was exploited and brainwashed by the scribes and temple authorities so that she gave 'all she had to live on'. She was left destitute, unable to afford the necessities of life.

On the contrary, Jesus wanted to create a band of followers who would look after widows and orphans. Look at Acts 4:32-37 to see that in operation. In fact, deacons were created in the early Church precisely to care for non-Jewish widows.

The message for the Church from this Gospel story is that it must never exploit the religious fervour of the poor to build up its own resources. Pope Francis is emphasising that the flow must be the other way if we are to be authentic Christians.

We could pause a moment to pray that, imitating the earliest Christian communities, our parish practises true concern for the marginalised and vulnerable, ensuring that they have all the necessities of life in all its dimensions.

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

ST MONICA'S FIRST

GOT TALENT NIGHT

**23RD NOVEMBER 2024
7PM SHARP**

PARISH HALL
ADULT \$20 CHILD \$15

FEATURING
VOICES OF ST MONICA, YOUTH MUSIC TEAM,
MONICA 5,
DIVINE JOY, ADORAMUS,
AND FR LAM

TICKETS ON SALE EVERY WEEK UNTIL 17TH NOV
For more information, text +61 481 507 169
www.stmonicanp.org.au @stmonicas_yg

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.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Nov 11, St Martin of Tours, bishop

Nov 12, St Josaphat, bishop and martyr

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

Youth + Corner

SOAP Reflection 10th November

Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

Observation- In this gospel passage, Jesus provides a striking dichotomy between the scribes and the poor widow and cautions us to avoid the sanctimonious behaviour of the former. Dressed in long robes, the scribes enjoyed receiving honour and praise from the crowds, boasting of their dedicated time to 'lengthy prayers' yet paradoxically 'devouring widows' houses'- a direct phrase describing how the scribes and other religious leaders would cheat and swindle widows out of their property whilst distributing the profits to themselves. Their selfish exploitation of the poor would be masked by a public show of perceived devotion- it is therefore clear their actions oppose all that Jesus teaches us. Jesus warns that, especially because they have more knowledge of the law, the punishment for deviating from their responsibility in upholding their spiritual life is significantly greater. Our attention is then turned to the poor widow who offers two small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Jesus observes that whilst most of the rich gave what they can easily spare, the widow places everything she possesses in the temple treasury. The passage makes a poignant mention of 'two coins'- she could have easily contributed one given her circumstance, yet she gives all that she has- a distinct contrast from the people before her, and Jesus acknowledges this act of complete trust.

Application- This passage is one with meaningful consideration and reflection. There could be instances where we act like the scribes- using 'Catholic' as a label to define us, but our behaviours and thoughts do not readily reflect Jesus' teachings. For example, are there moments where you are boastful or arrogant about aspects of your faith such as hours spent in prayer, or the number of times you go to Mass? Do you belittle others who do not have as much knowledge about Christ and the Church, instead of taking it as an opportunity to give and serve? Contrarily, we might encounter fellow Catholics who exhibit such behaviour. Jesus reminds us not to worry about them- God will be the one to judge. Rather, we should always focus on giving- not necessarily in monetary terms, but also in our time, our talents, and skills. This is our way of expressing trust and gratitude to God for giving us these opportunities to be charitable and generous.

Prayer- Dear Lord, as I reflect on this Gospel, please grant me wisdom and guidance in knowing when you are granting me a chance to be giving and unselfish. Help me to trust in your providence and care, that through these selfless deeds I am fulfilling your plan for me. In the words of St Ignatius, Lord Jesus teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to labour and not to seek to rest, to give of my self and not ask for a reward, except the reward of knowing that I am doing your will. 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 (next is 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! We have a great line up of acts including all of the musical groups within St Monica's Parish and other solo performers. 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!

16th/17th November ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	A. Bentley K. Handcock	B. Hooker C. Cheung	M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight M. Samson	S. DeAraujo J. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	R. Joseph
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (15th November)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina/Tresa		
Morning Tea	Julie & Grazyna		
Counting	Group 1 - Jacob Payra		