

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

17TH NOVEMBER 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

FIRST READING Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the prophet Daniel

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 15

**Response: Keep me safe, O God:
you are my hope.**

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **(R.)**
2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **(R.)**
3. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness forever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

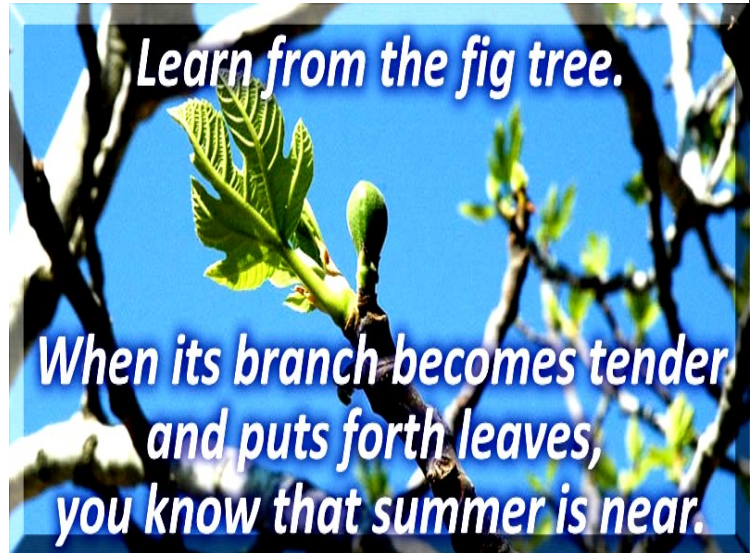
The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful, and pray constantly, that you

may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia!



GOSPEL Mark 13:24-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the 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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Angelic Swords of Light

Have you ever seen those pictures of angels? They are like babies with delicate gossamer wings. How sentimental, how pathetically trivial, how untrue. Angels are more like the light-swords wielded by Luke Skywalker in Star Wars. The good angels are lightning flashes of energy serving God's purpose in the battle against evil forces which can seem to dominate our worlds, private and social.

God loved us into existence in order to share in his life, but there are forces at work trying to frustrate that. There is a cosmic-scale battle going on. Who is on our side in that battle? The angels. Who are they?

They are non-bodily beings of great intelligence and power. Those are the angels, and those who have chosen to love and serve God are on our side.

Some are archangels with a cosmic-scale brief. We hear of one in the first reading: 'Michael, the great Prince who stands guard over your people'. Others are our individual Guardian Angels so that when powers of darkness seem to engulf us, we can turn to our Guardian Angel and say: 'Fight for me', and that light-sword of God will engage in battle because that is that sort of angel's way of serving God.

We could pause a moment to pray, thanking God for the Archangels who guard our church community and for our personal Guardian Angels, and asking our Lord Jesus Christ to command those angels to gather us as his chosen to share His glory.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

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 JOV, 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 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
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.



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 21, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Nov 22, St Cecilia, virgin 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

CHRISTMAS SALE

on 24th November after 9am MASS.

Range of bracelets, tea cosies, hand towels, haberdashery, X'mas stocking stuffers, books, relish, etc. AT REASONABLE PRICES.

All under \$50, CASH ONLY. Proceeds to support the Vinnies X'mas Appeal

23rd/24th November ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C. Meleca	A.Espiritu S. Joseph	M. Novak D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson L. Iemma	S. Joseph J. Payra	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 - Vera (22nd November)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl/Maria Corera		
Morning Tea	Raj & Innu Kakamanu & Beth		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth Corner

SOAP Reflection 17th November

Scripture: Mark 13:24-32

Observation: In the gospel reading, Jesus refers to the coming of the final judgement. In the Final Judgement, Jesus will gather people judged worthy of eternal life to Him. In the book of Daniel, the Final Judgement is described as a time of distress in which the deceased will awake, with some people entering eternal life and some people condemned to be separated from eternal life. However, it offers hope to the righteous, because it is the righteous who will be brought into eternal life. As the first reading from Daniel states the wise will shine brightly and those who lead others to justice will be like the stars. Jesus says the Final Judgement will be preceded by signs, such as the darkening of the sun and the moon not giving off its light. In the Final Judgement, God will demonstrate His power and glory as the judge and saviour of mankind. The signs will indicate when Final Judgement is imminent, but people cannot know when the time will come, as only God the Father knows this.

Application: As humans, we like to prepare for events that we know are going to happen. We like to be in control of our lives. Preparing for events means we are more likely to influence the outcome or how the events occur. However, as today's gospel reminds us, not everything will be in our control. The timing of the second coming is determined by God. The best way to prepare ourselves is to make sure that our thoughts, intentions and actions are righteous, particularly in our treatment of other people, because that is what God will judge us on. We always need to reflect on our intention in our treatment of other people, because people who act with compassion towards others and are responsive to the needs of other people will be called to eternal life.

Prayer: God, you are the judge and saviour of mankind and you call us to seek eternal life with you. We are often afraid of events that are not in our control, such as your judgement of our souls. Help us to wash away this fear by instilling with us a desire to act with righteous intent towards other people, to treat other people with kindness and compassion, so that we can present our righteousness to you, and show our acceptance of your calling to eternal life with you.

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group (FYRE)

Youth Group continues for another month in the community room, starting at 10:30AM! If you're year 6 and up, come hang out for some games, make new friends and learn about God together! 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! 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 are aiming to reach a total goal of \$2,500 and we are only \$500 away from our target! We hope to see you there!