

# 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"*

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – YEAR B

24TH NOVEMBER 2024

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING Daniel 7:13-14

### A reading from the prophet Daniel

I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence.

On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants.

His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire be destroyed.

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 92

Response: **The Lord is king;  
he is robed in majesty .**

1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;  
the Lord has robed himself with might,  
he has girded himself with power. **(R.)**
2. The world you made firm, not to be moved;  
your throne has stood firm from of old.  
From all eternity, O Lord, you are. **(R.)**
3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted.  
Holiness is fitting to your house,  
O Lord, until the end of time. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING Revelation 1:5-8

### A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!



## GOSPEL John 18:33-37

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

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

# 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	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151		<b>Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a></b>
<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

### Not from, but for, the World

What are we to make of the famous reply of Jesus to Pilate: 'My kingdom is not of this world'? Left there, it sounds as though Jesus is talking about a realm which is far removed from terrestrial concerns. Perhaps our task as his followers is to meditate into a blissful nothingness, to live other-worldly lives.

It is a poor translation, and it should read: 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would have fought to stop my being handed over.' Of all the ways in which our Lord could have contrasted his realm with all the other ways in which societies are ruled, he chose a contrast about the use of force. Rather, his reign springs from his Father's will that humanity should live together in a realm of non-violence.

We can easily criticise ISIL's blasphemous use of barbaric violence in the supposed service of religion. It is the most extreme opposite of Our Lord's teaching which He embodied in his practice. But, even for us, the challenge is there to restrain too-ready resort to armed violence and to humanely moderate its exercise where it is used to protect the innocent.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the coming of the Kingdom, not as an 'out of this world' experience, but in the words of the Our Father: 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

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## Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2024

Please donate generously to help homeless mothers and their children through Catholic Care. Special collections using the specified envelopes will be done at all Masses on 30th Nov & 1st Dec 2024. You can also donate using this QR code.



## 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

**Solemnity of  
the Immaculate Conception of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary  
9th December 2024 Monday  
English Mass at 9:15am.**

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Nov 30, St Andrew, apostle

**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 10.30 am 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.

### VINNIES CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

- \* 2025 Calendars now on sale \$10 per one
- \* Christmas Cards on sale \$5 per pack
- \* Please place proceeds of sales in Poor Box
- \* Christmas Appeal envelopes will be placed on Church Pews on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December.
- \* Christmas Trees will be set up on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov/1st Dec.

Your traditional generosity of Food /Gifts will be accepted up until 14th/15th December, this will allow for collation and delivery of Hampers before Christmas. It would be appreciated if your food donations could include some Christmas oriented items e.g. Christmas Cake/Puddings, tinned Ham, Christmas lollies etc as well as the usual goodies. We thank you for your generosity as always. S.V.D.P.



### 30th November/1st December ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	E. Caruana C. Maxwell	J. Jacob M. Joseph	T. Jones M. Novak
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	A. Bentley M. Samson	M. Joseph J. Skulander	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (29th November)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Tresa/Jesuina		
<b>Morning Tea</b>			
<b>Counting</b>	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

## Youth + Corner

### SOAP Reflection 24th November

**Scripture:** John 18:33-37

#### Observation:

In this Gospel, Pilate and Jesus converse and Jesus reveals to Pilate his identity. He reveals to him that he is not claiming to be king of the Jews but as a king of a different nature. Jesus is not an Earthly king he does not claim power through conquest and strength, he does not forcibly subjugate people as Earthly kings do. This should clear Jesus of the charges laid against him. The Jews brought Jesus to Pilate to be put to death for "claiming to be king of the Jews", which Jesus plainly denies. Yet Pilate, in the next passages does not step in to defend Jesus after this, he wipes his hands clean and tells the crowd to do whatever they wish. Despite being given the truth so plainly and simply Pilate does not act upon it.

#### Application:

How often can we be like Pilate? We are given ample opportunity to be given the truth, everyday we are given the gift of the good news. Yet so often, we fall to weakness. We do not defend Jesus, we can let him be misrepresented, we can let others misconstrue his words but we stand aside. As Children of God we should not simply wipe our hands clean and let our faith be attacked. Pilate is given the truth and yet does nothing, his inaction puts our Lord to death. It is the same with us, we are given the truth, but it is up to us to use our knowledge to spread good news, to go out and do something with it, not just to hear it, wash our hands of it, and let it sit in the back of our minds. The truth, the good news should always be at the forefront of our actions throughout our whole lives.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father grant, me the strength and courage to stand with our faith. Let me be used as a vessel to spread your word so that all may know you and allow for your spirit to work through me. In your name I pray. Amen

### 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.

#### Youth social Gathering

We will have our usual social hangout after Youth Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the 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.