

# 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"*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C**

**01ST DECEMBER 2024**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

### A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 24

**Response: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**
3. His ways are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep his covenant and will.  
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere  
him; to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2

### A reading from 1st letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

## *The Jubilee Prayer*

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen*

# 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	
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151	Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>	
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm	Phone: 9630-1951	Fax: 9630-8738 Email: <a href="mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com">stmonicanp@bigpond.com</a>

## St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: [stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## COMMENTARY

### The Coming of our Saviour

Sometimes our own lives, the life of the Church, the life of societies and nations cry out for Our Lord Jesus Christ to come again right now and rescue us right now.

In some instances we can become conscious of Jesus' saving, transforming power in a particular situation. But, for the whole of humanity across the millennia, we do not know the day or the hour when death and all its warriors such as disease and violence, will be absolutely vanquished by Christ in glory.

This can lead to a type of pain which finds solace in all those things which dull the spirit. Our Lord gives examples: debauchery, drunkenness. Today he might have added 'living in the virtual world'. Rather, Our Lord wants us to live in the real world on high alert.

In the meantime each one of us can be a signal of what is to come. Each time we exhaust ourselves heroically loving someone whom others might abandon, each time we take a risk because we cry out against injustice, and in a myriad other ways, we signal that the Kingdom is already being established on earth.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the strength to be on high alert for the opportunities to translate the legacy of Jesus into our own time and place, thus giving reasons to each other for our faith and hope that Christ *has* come, Christ *is* risen, Christ *will* come again.

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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 special envelopes is to be done at all Masses this Saturday and Sunday.

You can also donate using this QR code.



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

**Mass Timetable of  
Christmas 2024 is available at  
the main entrance of the  
church. Please take one.**

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Dec 3, St Francis Xavier, priest

Dec 7, St Ambrose, bishop and  
doctor of the Church

**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**  
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.

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.



**Vinnies Christmas Appeal**  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
good works

## Youth Corner

### SOAP Reflection 1st December

**Scripture:** Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

**Observation:** If you have ever read the book of Revelations - or maybe you remember hearing it read during the mass - then today's passage likely sounded somewhat familiar to you. That's because it covers, to some extent, similar ideas about the day of judgement. While the context of the books and the depth with which they explore the final judgement differ, the language is quite similar. It is vivid, dramatic and highly symbolic, portraying the sheer scale of this event as well as the intensity and disruption we would be exposed to. However, it is also hopeful and certain. We are told 'stand up and lift your heads,' a line which underscores how we will be transformed and finally able to fully experience and interact with Jesus.

The second half is also a warning. While this judgement can be terrifying (you are literally watching the world as you know it end), there is so much that can distract us from making sure we are properly prepared. Something that really stood out to me, was that Jesus mentions 'anxieties of life' as one such distraction. It isn't some big lifechanging thing, but just what we encounter through our daily lives can hinder us from properly preparing our hearts.

**Application:** What are the things within our everyday lives that tend to draw our focus away from what really matters? Even generally good things, like study or socialising can be distractions if we let them become our only focus. It can be so easy to stress about such things that we spiral downwards and further away from God and in doing so, we risk being unprepared when it really matters. While we may not necessarily see it before us all the time, there is more going on than meets the eye, and it is up to us to make sure we are ready when the time comes.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help me to always be aware of how I can best serve you. Allow me to see past the things that cloud my vision, and let your word be a light to guide me. Bless me with your love, so that one day I can truly be by your side. Amen.

### 07th/08th December ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	K. Handcock A. Bentley	M. Falamich P. Fleming	M. Ellis
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Woolridge K. Handcock	J. Cruz J. Payra	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Handcock	I. Goldthopre	R. Jospheh
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (06th December)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Maria Fleming / Michelle		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Cheung & Payra Family		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 4 - Peter Mooney & Michael Falamich		

### Youth Announcements



#### December / Christmas Fundraiser

Christmas is a time of charity and many families aren't as fortunate as ourselves in this season of joy. To give back and provide support to those who need it most, this past month, St Monica's Youth Group have been putting together origami flower bouquets and Christmas crafts/accessories. These will be sold on 8th and 15th December. All proceeds will be going towards Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

#### Christmas Carols

We will be singing Christmas Carols this year on 15th and 22nd December. On the 15th, we are looking to Carol at the Children's Hospital (details to be confirmed). And on the 22nd, we will be going to Goondee Nursing Home in Strathfield. Please contact Cheryl (0481 507 169) or Brian (0491 138 451) for more details.