

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"

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

22ND DECEMBER 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79

Response: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made

holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 1:30-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.



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

Life in the Womb

This little gospel story tells us that 'the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped' and not merely leaped, but leaped 'for joy'. Is this just poetic hyperbole?

We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations.

From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing.

There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord's presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven.

We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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English Christmas Mass Time

24th Dec 2024 (Tue)

6pm

25th Dec 2024 (Wed)

12am (Midnight)

9am

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

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Dec 25, The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Dec 26, St Stephen, first martyr

Dec 27, St John, apostle and evangelist

Dec 28, The Holy Innocents, martyrs

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
Resume on 5th Feb 2025, then every Wednesday
from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre.
Enquiries : Lynn McBride : 0423 696 961



Christian Meditation Resume on 13th Feb 2025,
then on every Thursday, at the Parish Centre.
5:25pm-6:25pm Tai Chi,
6:30pm-7:30pm Christian Meditation.
Participation via zoom is available. Enquiries:
Patricia Brown, email:pabrown02@bigpond.com



Catholic Women's League St Monica's Branch
Resume on 17th Feb 2025, then every 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 Resume on 25th Jan 2025,
then every Saturday, 6pm-8pm, at the Parish
Centre. New workshops are available each week.
Please contact Vera (WhatsApp 0402936947) for
details. .



Bible Brekkie Resume on 2nd March 2025, then
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.



Bible Supper Resume on 6th February 2025, then
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.



Remember the Deceased There is a new open
diary and pens next to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
statue and you are welcome to write down the
names of your deceased loved ones or family
members on the day of their anniversaries and we
will pray for them.

Our **Special Religious Education Teachers**, also known as Catechists, are entrusted with the religious education of Catholic students in our local Government Primary and Secondary Schools. Sharing our Catholic faith with our children and young people is a rewarding experience. Volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in becoming a SRE teacher (catechist) or a helper, please contact our SRE Co-Ordinator, Thomas, on 0413 304 285 or email: tmt889900@gmail.com.

28th/29th December ROSTERS

	6pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell K. Handcock	A. Espiritu C. Cheung	T. Jones M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	J. Knight L. Iemma	S. Joseph J. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	R. Joseph
Cleaning	Group 1 - Chinese Chaplaincy (27th Dec)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea			
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth Corner

SOAP Reflection 22nd December

Scripture: Luke 1:30-45 a Gospel about faith without sight

Observation: In this Gospel, often also known as the visitation, Mary, carrying the unborn Christ, meets up with Elizabeth, who is also pregnant with an unborn child, John. As I'm sure we understand, when a child is yet to be born, they're not privy to the world and what is happening outside the womb, yet in this, John, the son of Elizabeth, feels the presence of Jesus in Mary's womb and "leaps for joy", implying that even an unborn child understands and can identify the presence of Jesus, enough.

Application: This passage is very much about faith whilst not necessarily "seeing" God, and the appreciation that we should share about our faith. If an unborn child, not privy to the world around him, can sense the importance of the unborn Christ and have a visceral reaction to it, how should we react to the world and the life that Christ has given us to live? We are adults who see and interact with the world, with the opportunity to experience small miracles each day, but how often do we remember that Jesus is with us within those moments and that he is the reason for those moments of joy? This passage should be a reminder to celebrate who is always with us.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the unseen work you do for us and all that has been done for us. We thank you even though we may not recognise it. May you help us be wary of the things you do for us in the future so that we may be truly grateful for your acts and the life you've given us.

Youth Announcements



Christmas Party – 22/12/24

We will be having our annual Youth Christmas Party after carolling from 5-9pm. Tickets will be \$15 per person. Please contact Brian (0491 138 451) or Cheryl (0481 507 169) if you wish to attend.

Lunar New Year 2025:

Next year's Lunar New Year dinner will be held on 31/01/25, starting at 7pm. It will be held at Tingha Palace Paramatta Leagues Club. Tickets are \$100 for adults, \$75 for youths aged 18 and under, and \$50 for children aged 12 and under. Seats on the youth tables are filling up fast so if you wish to attend, please contact Cheryl (0481 507 169) ASAP so she can reserve a spot for you.

There will also be a Lunar New Year lunch will be held on 02/02/25 in the parish hall. More details to come.