

# 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"*

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2ND FEBRUARY 2025

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

### FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

#### A reading from the prophet of Malachi

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

*The word of the Lord.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 33

#### Response: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

1. O gates, lift up your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
2. Who is the king of glory?  
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,  
the Lord, the valiant in war. (R.)
3. O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
4. Who is he, the king of glory?  
He, the Lord of armies,  
he is the king of glory. (R.)

### SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-18

#### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

*The word of the Lord.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

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

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or

two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

My eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.



# 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 Word of God for young and old

In a time (in the Western world at least) when there seems to be a growing gap between the old and the young, it is good to reflect on this Gospel incident.

A young woman, still in her teens, a newly-wed cradling her newborn son in her arms, places that baby in the arms of a very old stranger who embraces her child with all the fervour of a now fulfilled hope.

Is this the model for overcoming the distance between young and old in our culture? Can the young, like Mary, listen to the wisdom of tradition from an elder? Can the old like Simeon still be open to a moment of serendipity mediated by the young?

The answer is: 'Yes, when young and old come together around Jesus.' As Pope Francis remarks of this encounter: 'Jesus is at the centre.' (Homily 2 Feb 2018)

At whatever age we find ourselves, Mary is only too willing to place Jesus in our arms to fulfil our hopes and our yearnings.

Perhaps we could pause for a moment to accept the gift of Jesus placed in our arms and hearts so that we can say with Simeon:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace...'

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## 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*

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](mailto:tmt889900@gmail.com).

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Feb 5, St Agatha, virgin and martyr

Feb 6, St Paul Miki & companions, 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, 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

## OLD PALMS

Please bring the blessed palms of last year to the collection boxes at the church in preparation for Ash Wednesday 2025.

# 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** 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 - 6.15 pm  
Sunday 8.40 - 10.15 am  
Contact : Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361



**St Monica's Art Group** 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 school covered playground.  
Fr. Ephraim will talk about interesting topics from the Bible. All are welcome.



**Bible Supper** Beginning on 6th Feb, 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.



**Children's LITURGY** Beginning on 9th February 2025, then every Sunday at 9am Mass (during School Terms)  
Young children haven't received Holy Communion are welcome to join.

## Half Day Retreat for Adults

(hosted by Fr Ephraim Lam)

Topic: **The spirit of the LENT season.**

Date & Time: **1st March 2025, Saturday, 9am-12pm**

Place: **Holy Innocent Chapel  
8 Greyfriar Pl, Kellyville, NSW 2155**  
(Official pilgrimage site of the Jubilee Year)

To register please call the parish office **9630 1951** or using the QR code.



*Inspirational talks,  
silent prayer time,  
Mass.*



## SOAP Reflection on 2nd February

**Scripture - Luke 2:22-40**

### Observation:

Today's gospel begins with Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple to present him to God (to fulfil the obligations detailed in Leviticus 12:3-8). During this time, Jesus is greeted by two notable individuals, Simeon and Anna. We are first introduced to Simeon, a devout and righteous man, who has been waiting patiently for the "consolation of Israel". He had been promised by the Holy Ghost that he would see Christ before he died; this promise was finally fulfilled when he met Jesus. Similarly, Anna is a prophetess and widow who fasts and prays day and night for the redemption of Jerusalem. Both individuals are devout and patient; having waited years for the joy they finally receive. Particularly Simeon, says this prayer to God: "Because my eyes have seen thy salvation... A light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." His patience was rewarded with God's salvation.

### Application:

When we experience doubt, or feel that our prayers are left unanswered, this passage brings hope and an important reminder that joy comes through the waiting. Both Simeon and Anna have waited patiently for many years until their prayers were answered, but the joy they experienced in having Christ as the light of their lives is simply unmatched, especially the greatest sacrifice of all, Jesus' death on the cross for our salvation. Despite our doubts, we experience the joy brought upon by Jesus, and it is a joy well worth the wait. Particularly in moments of uncertainty or waiting, we shall continue to practice patience and trust that we too will live out God's will according to his plans. Let us continue to pray for the grace to remain steadfast in our faith, afterall, God's answers to our prayers often come in unexpected ways.

### Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for sending Your only Son Jesus to be the light of our lives. Thank you for saving us from the evils of sins through Your sacrifice. Lord, we pray for the grace to remain steadfast in our faith and patience, so that we may continue to trust in Your perfect timing, even during periods of uncertainty. May we always recognise Your love and presence in our lives, and find joy and comfort in knowing that Your plans for us are good. Lord, may Your light always shine brightly on us, guiding us and others closer to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Youth Announcements



### Youth Mass (4th Sunday)

Youth mass will now be held at 10:15am on the 4th Sunday of each month. It will be held entirely in English.

### St Monica's Youth Group (SMYG)

Youth Group will continue each week 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. Note with the new youth mass times, youth group will be at 11:30AM instead on the 4th Sunday of each month.

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) will take place in Melbourne this year from 30/11 - 2/12. We're looking to take a group of St Monica's youths down to Melbourne and are now taking expressions of interest for youths aged 15 and over. We will be aiming to travel to depart Sydney on 28th November and return on the 4th December. The estimated cost at this early stage is \$2500-\$3000 total. Please contact Cheryl on 0481 507 169 for more information.

## 8th/9th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	K. Handcock A. Bentley	M. Falamich S. Joseph	T. Jones D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	A. Bentley M. Samson	J. Cruz S. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	R. Joseph
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (7th February)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Sheryl / Maria Corera		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	M Falamich & J De Araujo		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		