

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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

9TH FEBRUARY 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the prophet of Isaiah

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out to one another in this way,

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,

for I am a man of unclean lips

and I live among a people of unclean lips,

and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of

hosts.

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,

your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 137

Response: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways;
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' (R.)
4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though

some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,

and I will make you fishers of my people. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.



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	
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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Fish in the Sea of Divine Life

Peter was a fisherman. Jesus had been brought up in a carpenter's household. Jesus tells Peter when and how to fish. This gets under Peter's skin. He tells Jesus a few facts of life about night fishing on the Lake of Gennesaret. But, he gives in to this landlubber's directive and casts out the nets and hauls in a very good catch.

Jesus wants to come into the rhythm of our ordinary workaday lives. Surprising things may then happen. You may be commissioned by Our Lord Jesus Christ to become 'fishers of men', fishers of human beings. But don't fishermen fish the fish out of the sea and kill them?

Is being caught up in the net of Christianity to be a deadening experience? Having this in mind, St Luke used a word for netting fish for an aquarium. We who have been caught up in the net of Christianity are meant to be more alive than ever, 'fully alive'. The best analogy I can think of is the stranding of pods of whales, thrashing around in the shallows, barely existing, doomed unless saved. People go down and put slings under them and haul them into deeper water.

We could pause a moment to thank God that we have been guided into the life-giving waters of baptism, and for the strength to help others swim into the Oceanic depths of Divine Love.

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New Mass Readers and Special Eucharistic Ministers

If you are interested to be a Reader at Masses or being a Special Eucharistic Minister, please contact Fr Ephraim Lam by calling the parish (9630 1951) or send him an email (shingmanlam@gmail.com).

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

OLD PALMS

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

2025 Lent Timetable

Leaflets of the timetable for Masses and Liturgies in the Lent Season 2025 is available at the main entrance of the church.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

Feb 10, St Scholastica, virgin

Feb 14, St Cyril, monk, and St Methodius, bishop

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK, ESPECIALLY

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

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, 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 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 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 9th February

Scripture - Luke 5:1-11

Observation: In this passage, we observe Jesus calling upon Peter, James, and John to become his disciples after performing an astounding miracle which leaves the young men awestruck. Despite working laboriously all night (without success), Jesus instructs Simon and his companions to once again set sail and cast out their nets. We can only imagine the scepticism, confusion, and despondency Simon must have felt, though in testament to his faith, he obliged and once again set off obediently.

There are many times we may empathise with Simon's feelings of dejection, pessimism, or exhaustion (physical, mental, or spiritual). Whether it be at school, work, or even in our relationships, these feelings of defeat and hopelessness can often lead us to shy away or withdraw from these endeavours out of fear that we are wasting our time or energy. However, this passage highlights the importance and value of trusting in the Lord and persisting in the pursuit of our vocation – that is, what Jesus has called us to do. Whilst we may not be rewarded with a large quantity of seafood, our daily choice to trust in the Lord and follow in His ways comes with the hope of a reward far greater – eternal salvation.

Application: In the coming week, let us recentre our hearts and renew our efforts to live according to God's Word. As we continue into the second month of 2025, now is a good opportunity to consider what pursuits or vocations we have put aside out of mental, physical, or spiritual fatigue, and pray for the courage and love to listen to the calling of Christ who guides us to holiness.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for opportunities to pray for others. I ask that you bring people to my attention who are hurting and are in need. Give me the courage to pray boldly and the words that will resonate in their heart. I pray against fear and insecurity that would cause me to stay silent. Help me to move and speak by your Spirit. I thank you that there is power in prayer and I am believing in you for blessings on behalf of those I pray for. Show up in mighty ways, as you always do. In Jesus' name. 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.

15th/16th February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell G. Basha	J. Jacob M. Joseph	M. Ellis O.Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma K. Handcock	J. Skulander S. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (14th February)		
Children's Liturgy	Tresa / Maria Fleming		
Morning Tea	Jacob Payra Family & Cheung		
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney & Michael Falamich		