

# 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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

**16TH FEBRUARY 2025**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

## FIRST READING Jeremiah 17:5-8

### A reading from the prophet of Jeremiah

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 39

### Response: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man  
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;  
nor lingers in the way of sinners  
nor sits in the company of scorners,  
but whose delight is the law of the Lord  
and who ponders his law day and night. **(R.)**
2. He is like a tree that is planted  
beside the flowing waters,  
that yields its fruit in due season  
and whose leaves shall never fade;  
and all that he does shall prosper. **(R.)**
3. Not so are the wicked, not so!  
For they like winnowed chaff  
shall be driven away by the wind.  
For the Lord guards the way of the just  
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

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

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

*The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL Luke 6:17, 20-26

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

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was

a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

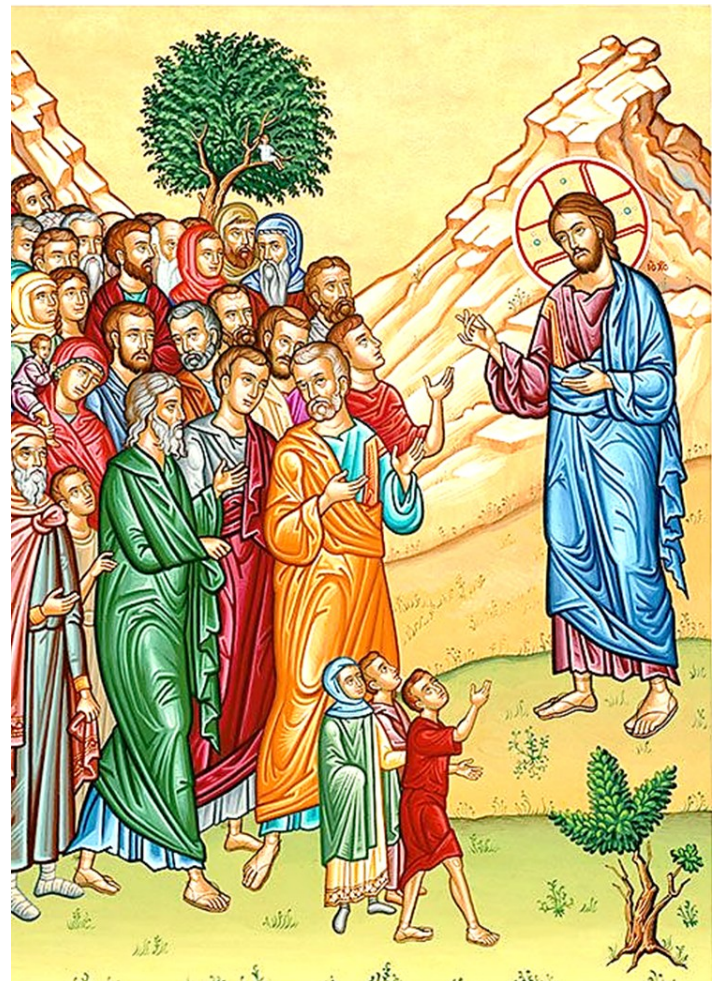
Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*



## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

# 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

### Not a Celestial Joke!

*Blessed* are the poor? – the hungry? – those who mourn? What is Jesus doing in these Beatitudes?

Jesus was not a 'pie in the sky' dreamer saying: 'You are destitute, hungry now. Don't worry, you will be okay in paradise in the long distant future.' *That* would be a cruel celestial joke.

Rather, Jesus was setting about the task of creating a new sort of society, the Kingdom of God on earth, in which the destitute, the starving, the weeping, are *blessed* in the sense that they can expect their suffering to be alleviated, companions to be found in their distress.

The Divine imperative is that His followers break out of their comfort zone of plenty of money, full stomachs, much to laugh about. They must enter into the harsh reality of other people's destitute, starving, weeping lives. Woe to them if they do not.

Can Our Lord look into the heart of each one of us living in our comfortable world, and then with confidence turn to that *other* world and recite the Beatitudes?

We might pause for a moment, recognise that Jesus' credibility is on the line, and pray that His Father's will be done on *earth* as it is in Heaven'

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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](mailto: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 22, The Chair of St Peter, apostle

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

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

## YOUTH MASS

23rd Feb

2025

Sunday

10:15am

## 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. 5:55pm-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.*

### 22nd/23rd February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Melcca S. Melcca	P. Fleming S. Jacob	M. Novak D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Woolridge K. Handcock	J. DeAraujo J. Payra	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (21st February)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Sheryl / Michelle		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Pinto Families		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 5 - Peter Handcock & Kris Handcock		

## Youth Corner

**SOAP Reflection on 16th February**

Scripture - Luke 6:17, 20-26

### Observation:

In today's gospel, Jesus preaches to his disciples and the crowd consisting of various people coming from Jerusalem, and the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon. His sermon includes a variation of the 8 beatitudes. This one depicts the blessings that those who are poor, hungry, sorrowful, and persecuted will receive good things in the kingdom of God. Jesus also speaks of warning those who are rich, well-fed, joyful, and popular, as well as of impending judgment that they may receive when they try to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus teaches the crowd that true blessing comes from trusting in God, enduring hardship, and seeking righteousness. False security is found in wealth, comfort, and human approval, which are temporary and do not give complete spiritual nourishment.

### Application:

How can we listen and adhere to Jesus' words and not take pride or comfort in gaining material goods? Instead, we should use our resources to help others. After reading this passage, we are warned to avoid taking pride in temporary items but to seek to strengthen our faith in God, something that is eternal and everlasting. In everyday life, we can stay faithful to God in our lowest moments and turn to prayer when we need guidance, asking for His strength to make it through each day. We can also practice gratitude for what we have, recognizing that true blessings come from God rather than material wealth. By showing kindness and generosity to those in need, we reflect Jesus' teachings and share God's love with others. Additionally, we should remain humble and trust in God's plan, knowing that earthly struggles are temporary but His promises are everlasting.

### Prayer:

Dear God, I seek your strength to seek Your approval rather than the praise of people. Thank you for reminding me that true blessing is found not in material goods such as riches, comfort, or approval but in your everlasting love and trust in us. When we feel that we cannot turn to anyone, give us the power to turn to you and pray.

### Youth Announcements



#### Youth Camp 2025 with Simon Carrington

This year, we have the privilege of hosting Simon Carrington as a guest speaker at our youth camp! Simon is the co-founder of Fire Up Ministries and a well-known speaker on chastity, dating, theology of the body and masculinity. He will be hosting an information session on 4<sup>th</sup> May on what we can expect at this year's camp. This is truly a unique opportunity for our youths and we invite ALL parents to come along to the information session.

#### Youth Mass (4th Sunday)

Youth mass will be held at 10:15AM on 23rd Feb 2025, Sunday. 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 are 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. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, youth group will start at 11:30 AM after youth mass.

#### 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 28<sup>th</sup> November and return on the 4<sup>th</sup> December. The estimated cost at this early stage is \$2500-\$3000 total. Please contact Cheryl on 0481 507 169 for more information.