

# 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 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

**23RD FEBRUARY 2025**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**FIRST READING 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23**

### A reading from the first book of Samuel

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

*The word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102**

### Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:45-49**

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

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

*The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38**

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.'

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

*do good, lend, and  
expect nothing in return  
and your reward will be great*

**Luke 6:35**



## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

# 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

### Learning the Language of Heaven

Jesus challenges us to unlearn the language of the world and to learn a language which is counter-cultural, paradoxical, perplexing, such as: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' etc, etc. Are such attitudes and actions possible?

Our Lord is the best model. Jesus is the Word of God in human history. Jesus is the language of Heaven spoken in a human life. We have to read the Gospels and then imitate His dialect. Otherwise we might merely mutter to ourselves which would end up being eternally Hellish.

When we become aware of our language malpractice, i.e., sinning, and if we become really tongue-tied, i.e., seriously sinning, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and emerge articulate and conversant with Christ again. We can talk with Our Lord again. We are singing the same tune.

Then at the moment of death we can gracefully pass over to our intended destiny which is not *incomunicado*, but *comunicado*, holy *comunicado*, holy conversation with God and with every creature.

We might pause for a moment and resolve to practise the language of Heaven and to 'walk the talk' every day.

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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*

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

**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*

## ASH WEDNESDAY 2025

5th March. Masses at 9:15am & 7:30pm.  
Day of Fasting and Abstinence.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2025

Every Friday from 7th March to 11th April, 7pm.

## 2025 Lent Timetable

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

# 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**  
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.

# Youth + Corner

**Scripture:** Luke 6:27-38

**Observation:** In today's gospel, Jesus teaches us that acts of charity such as being merciful and not seeking revenge against people who have wronged you, helping others and sharing your material resources with others need to be performed with the right intentions. Our intentions that motivate our actions reveal our character. For example, if a person shares his or her resources with someone in the expectation that they will receive something in return, then they show charity to someone because it is in their self interest to do so, and not because they are acting out of love for their neighbour. Jesus says that our love and kindness for fellow humans should not be conditional on what they can do for us, but should be unconditional, and this unconditional love enables people to love their enemies, who are people who have mistreated them.

**Application:** Today's gospel reading encourages us to adhere to a moral standard that many people find challenging, which is to love, be kind and charitable to other people who are unable or unwilling to reciprocate the kindness and charity that is shown to them. In order to do this, we must abandon the idea that some people are more deserving of our charity than other people because they have earned our charity, because they are particularly kind to us or have been helpful to us in the past or are likely to be willing and able to help us. We need to reflect on the instances we chose to kind or helpful to other people and reflect on why we made that choice. Are we only willing to help other people who have something in return to offer to us or whose resources and abilities may be useful to us? Are you willing to move past grudges, forgive wrongdoing that other people have committed against you and express this forgiveness through your kindness and charity to your enemies? If you are unwilling to forgive our enemies and show kindness to them, reflect on what makes you unwilling to show this mercy to your enemies.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to always remember your call to be kind and charitable to all people, including to those who cannot or are unwilling to be kind and charitable to us. Help us to continually reflect on our intentions for our actions so that we are always motivated by love for our neighbour and not motivated by our sense of self interest. May you give us the moral courage to show unconditional love and kindness to all people, and to encourage others to do the same.

## 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.*

## 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 now be held at 10:15 AM 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 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 11:30AM 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.

## 1st/2nd March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Maxwell E. Caruana	B. Hooker S. Younes	T. Jones M. Novak
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma J. Knight	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	R. Joseph
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group - 2 Vera (28th February)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Jesuina / Maria Fleming		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Julie & Maris		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 1 - Jacob Payra		