

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 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

2ND MARCH 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me

FIRST READING Sirach 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of
a man is in his conversation.

The orchard where the tree grows is
judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a
man's words betray what he feels. Do not
praise a man before he has spoken, since this is
the test of men.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 91

Response: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

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

When this perishable nature has put on
imperishability, and when this mortal nature
has put on immortality, then the words of
scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up
in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death,
where is your sting? Now the sting of death is
sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let
us thank God for giving us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers,
never admit defeat; keep on working at the
Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord,
you cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told a parable to his disciples,



'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me,
sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

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, temporarily serving Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill		
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

Disciples or Mask-Wearers?

In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus.

He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality.

For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts our vision. We should not rush to judgment.

The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, Who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22)

This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God.

Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'

We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.

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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

Sacramental Programs for Baptized Children

Confirmation—Year 5, First Holy Communion—Year 4

Reconciliation—Year 3



← Information for parents can be obtained by scanning this QR code, or send an enquiring email to stmonicasacraments@gmail.com.



For enrolment please come to the office at our working hours or using this QR code →

PARISH ACTIVITIES



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 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.

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.

5pm Masses on Saturdays need NEW READERS

If you are interested please contact Fr Ephraim by sending him an email (shingmanlam@gmail.com).

8th/9th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha K. Handcock	M. Falamich A. Espiritu	M. Ellis O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge M. Samson	S. Joseph J. Cruz	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (7th March)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina / Tresa		
Morning Tea	Raj & Innu Kakamanu & Beth		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth + Corner

Scripture: Luke 6:39-45

Observation:

One of the main takeaways from this month's gospel is to self-reflect. Jesus tells us through the parable that we should not judge others, as we ourselves are sinners. He teaches us that we need to self-reflect and understand where we fall short before we begin to think about how others fall short. If we do not understand our faults and try to guide someone else, we will lead them astray. *"Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the pit?"* Jesus then tells a parable about a tree and what fruit it bears. It's a clear reminder that what we hold in our hearts, is reflected in the actions which we take. It goes along with the general theme of self-reflection of the first half as we must self-reflect on our own thoughts, desires and attitudes and discern how those affect how we act. We cannot think one thing and do the opposite, our mind and our actions are one.

Application:

One of the best ways to apply this Gospel is to conduct an examination of conscience. An examination of conscience is a silent meditation on the past, where you can reflect on how you may have sinned. After conducting one, you may also wish to visit confession. Here are a few to start with:

- Do I give time every day to God in prayer?*
- Do I make Sunday a day of prayer or rest?*
- Have I used foul or ugly language?*
- Have I wished evil on another?*
- Do I say cruel things, or make fun of others to hurt their feelings?*
- Do I treat my body and other people's bodies with purity and respect?*
- Do I tell lies to make myself look good?*

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 4th 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 4th 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 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.