

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 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

9TH MARCH 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 90

Response: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R.)
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Luke 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



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

Temptations

After his baptism Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where the devil put him to the test. Jesus was offered three shortcuts to his living in harmony with the will of his Heavenly Father.

First, when he was hungry there would be bread out of stones.

Second, when he wanted to change the world he could have absolute political power.

Third, when he needed to take risks, angels would keep him safe.

Our baptism does not insulate us from the same threefold pattern of temptation. Do you find yourself saying:

I want the whole world to change to satisfy me, or

I want to exercise power over others, or

I want to take stupid risks and come out unharmed, or all three!

What must we do when such temptations assail us?

Realise that such temptations are much less powerful than they seem – the last gasp of the vanquished devil. Imitate Jesus in going to the Scriptures, preferably the Gospels, in order to have the words to hurl back at the devil as you are tested.

We could pause to make a Lenten resolution to read a Gospel, and to do so confident of our Baptismal identity as beloved daughters and sons of God.

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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

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 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 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2025
Every Friday during Lent, 7pm (Confession available).

Project Compassion 2025

The boxes are available at the main entrance of the church. Please return the boxes with your donation before Good Friday.
For details and donation online please use this QR code.



2025 Holy Week & Easter Mass Timetable
Please take a leaflet at the tables near the main entrance of the church.

From the Vinnies:

A big thank you to all our parishioners, Women's Group and Youth Group, for their generous donations and gifts towards the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. We were able to share the Christmas joy by giving Christmas Gift hampers to 33 families. Thank you once again!
St Vincent de Paul Society - St Monica's North Parramatta Conference

15th/16th March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	A. Bentley S. Meleca	S. Joseph C. Cheung	O. Holsinger D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock A. Bentley	J. Skulander M. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (14th March)		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle / Maria Corera		
Morning Tea	M Falmich & J DeAraujo		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		



Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Observation: : This gospel passage is probably one of the most well-known. It follows Jesus as he, filled with the Holy Spirit and fresh from Baptism, encounters the devil while in the wilderness. The devil proceeds to try and tempt Jesus, but three times the devil fails. There are several things to take note of in this passage.

For one, there is the obvious takeaway about resisting temptation. Jesus refused to give in to his hunger, refused to desire anything more than God, and finally refused to test God's love for him. How often have we wished for something we do not have, or have questioned if God truly cares? And yet, Jesus shows us that we, as humans, have the capacity to resist even the strongest temptations.

Another key part of this passage is that it takes place straight after Jesus' baptism. For all of us, baptism is a high point in our lives. We promise ourselves to God, and in turn are filled with the Holy Spirit. However, that does not mean we can stop trying – temptation and sin are still very powerful detractors. Just like Jesus was led into the wilderness, we too can find ourselves lost in things that cloud our faith.

Application: It can be easy to just say 'don't give in to temptation, be like Jesus,' but unfortunately, we are all imperfect in our own ways. We fall to sin and to temptation and often find ourselves straying from our faith. However, what Jesus shows us is that we can resist temptation, and by doing so, we open a path for salvation. Just like anything else, what matters is that we try our best and hold true to our belief that God will provide what really matters.

As we head into lent, we can all try to abstain from one thing that we know we should not indulge in. It could be a food or a pastime. On the other hand, it could even be a positive action, like making sure you pray before meals. Even if we struggle at first, just like with exercise or any positive habit, it gets easier the more you do it.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to be confident in your love, and to see that all we need is provided by you. As we head into this Lenten period, help us emulate your son. Like him, give us the strength to turn away from temptation even in our weakest moments. Please continue to guide us in faith and in love. Amen.

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.