

# 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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

**16TH MARCH 2025**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

## FIRST READING Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

### A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 26

### Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life  
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.  
Of you my heart has spoken:  
'Seek his face.' (R.)
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,  
hide not your face.  
Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help. (R.)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord!. (R.)

## SECOND READING Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much,

dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

*The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



## GOSPEL Luke 9:28-36

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

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

# 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/ EUCARIST 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, temporarily serving Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill		
<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

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## COMMENTARY

### Transfigured Bodysouls

After One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person?

What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief.

Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' *body* was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' *body* was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory.

That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, *bodysoul*. That is our *ultimate destiny*, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dazzling bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.

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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

17 March, St Patrick, bishop

19 March, St Joseph, husband of Mary

**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](mailto: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 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 is 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.



17th March (Monday) **St. Patrick's Day Mass**  
9:15am

19th March (Wednesday) **St. Joseph's Day Mass**  
9:15am, 7:30pm

### 2025 Holy Week & Easter Mass Timetable

Please take a leaflet at the tables near the main entrance of the church.

**NEW Roster** for Readers, Acolytes and Special Eucharistic Ministers is available on the tables near the main doors of the church.

### 22nd/23rd March ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	S. Meleca C. Meleca	M. Joseph P. Fleming	M. Novak D. Llevado
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma M. Woolridge	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	R. Joseph
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group - 2 Vera (21st March)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Jesuiina / Sheryl		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Pinto Families		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 4 - Peter Mooney & Michael Falamich		

# Youth + Corner

**Scripture:** Luke 9: 28-36

**Observation:** In today's gospel, the Transfiguration of Jesus takes place. The word transfiguration means a change of form or appearance, and this is what Peter, John and James witness on the mountain; Jesus' appearance changes and his clothes become dazzling white. There are several messages coming from this passage.

First, Moses and Elijah are present, who speak about Jesus' departure - in other words, His Passion and Resurrection. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament respectively, and the two men stand beside Jesus to illustrate that the Law and the Prophets of the old point towards the new, the Messiah.

Second, Jesus reveals his divinity to the disciples. During this event, his appearance undergoes physical changes. Furthermore, when a cloud appears over the disciples and speaks to them, it is then revealed that only Jesus is present, further emphasising his divine identity.

One interesting thing to note is that Peter makes a suggestion to set up three tents, to which it is followed by the statement that Peter did not truly understand what he was saying and the aim of the event. While Peter does not have ill intentions, it suggests a desire to prolong the moment of glory. However, this event is only temporary, designed to emphasise the suffering Jesus is about to experience and strengthen the disciples' faith in preparation.

**Application:** On this mountain, the disciples were granted the privilege to witness the glory and divinity of Jesus. It was in this moment that the disciples were granted a greater understanding of Jesus' identity and mission, and thereby strengthened their faith in anticipation for the challenges to come. In a similar way, God reveals Himself directly (and indirectly) to the faithful in special ways to strengthen our faith. At times we can find ourselves caught up in worldly affairs and fail to see the signs of God's love and grace for us. During this period of Lent, let us recentre ourselves in prayer and embrace every experience of God's grace. When we are challenged and experiencing hardship, let us remember the words of Jesus; to take up our cross daily and follow him.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, Please strengthen us against the temptations of the devil and give us the courage to take up our cross daily to follow you. Guide and teach us to do your will and become an instrument of your peace and love for others. During this time of Lent, may our Lenten sacrifices lead us to deepen our faith and relationship with You. In your name we pray, Amen.

**YOUTH MASS 23rd March 2025, Sunday, 10:15am**  
All are welcome

### 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.