

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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

06TH APRIL 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 125

Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

SECOND READING Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

GOSPEL John 8:1-11

A reading from the Gospel according to John

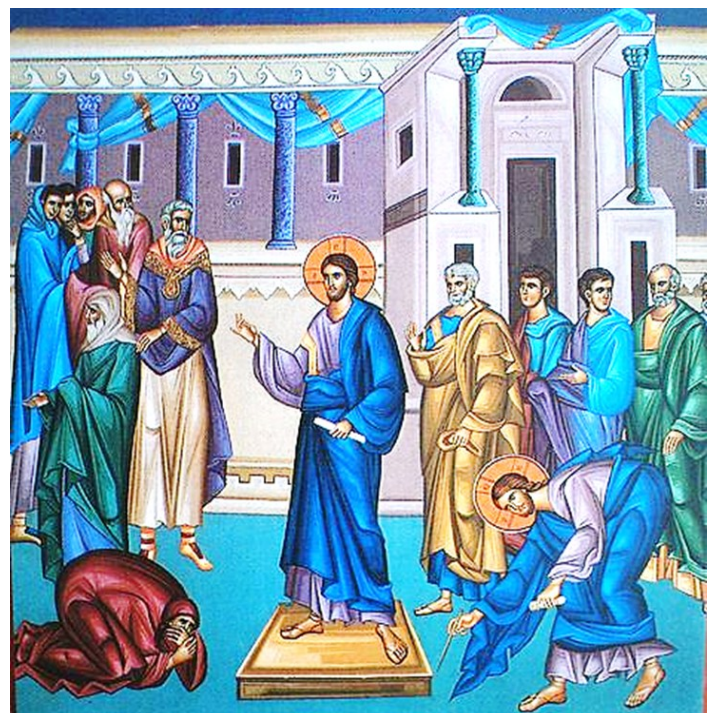
Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.



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

The Gaze of Jesus

The accusers of this woman make her 'stand there in full view of everybody.' She is surrounded by the hostile glare of eyes filled with blood lust.

It is only when the accusers have left in embarrassment that Jesus, who has been bent to the ground, looks up at her. He adopts the posture of a slave, seeing her as she could be if she gives up her current pattern of behaviour.

Up till now, *no-one* has spoken to this woman. Now Jesus treats her as a human being worth speaking to. And what does she hear? That he does not condemn her but points her to a new sort of life in the future.

We could pause for a moment to allow Jesus the time to look at us, talk to us, in that way. Do you have the courage to 'lock eyes' with Jesus and live out the consequences?

'The eyes have it.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.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

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.


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

Project Compassion 2025
Please return the boxes with your cash donations before Good Friday, 17th April 2025.

2025 Holy Week & Easter Mass Timetable
Please take a leaflet, or download it by scanning this QR code.



Half Day Retreat for Adults
(hosted by Fr Ephraim Lam)
Topic: **The Via Lucis, celebration of Jesus' Resurrection & Ascension.**
Date & Time: **3rd May 2025, Saturday, 9am-12pm**
Place: **Holy Innocent Chapel 8 Greyfriar Pl, Kellyville, NSW 2155**
To register please call the parish office **9630 1951** or using the QR code.
Inspirational talks, silent prayer time, Mass.



12th/13th April ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Meleca A. Bentley	S. Younes S. Joseph	N. Sindayen T. Lim
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock B. Meleca	S. DeAraujo J. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (11th April)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	Raj & Innu Kakamanu & Beth		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth + Corner

Scripture: John 8:1-11

Observation: In this week's gospel, we again see the awesome grace of Jesus but also the importance of self-awareness, examination of conscience and confession. We see that the scribes and Pharisees attempted to catch Jesus in a trap so they can lay some charges against Jesus. They brought a woman who was accused of adultery to Jesus. Now it does not actually say whether this was factual or just all accusations in the scripture but nonetheless, Jesus "reverse-UNO'ed" them and asked whoever is without sin to throw the first stone. One-by-one, they all left, and in the end, Jesus is the last one left standing. The obvious message here is that none of us are without sin and thus we are not to start condemning others for their sins as this is God's power. However, the other significant detail here is that Jesus is the only one left standing at the end, he is the only one without sin, the one true judge, yet he sets her free and tells her to not sin again. This is Jesus defeating sin and death for us.

Application: We often try to find faults in others, after all, humans love some dramas and gossip. In doing so, we are blinded to our own unfaithfulness to our faith and to God. We are not God, not Jesus, it is not our role to condemn each other of their sins. We must love everyone, and treat them fairly, no matter what they have done. This is easier said than done. Can you treat a proven criminal, a drug addict, a bully the same way you would treat your friends? And can you recognize your own sins and seek forgiveness. During the rest of the lent season, I would like to challenge you to contemplate on this, go through the examination of conscience and then go to confession.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for your goodness and righteousness. You are the one true Judge and I pray that we always remember this so we can humble ourselves before you, and have the strength and courage to own up to our sins so that we can start seeking for your help in turning away from these sins and temptations. 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.