

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"

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YEAR C

13TH APRIL 2025

ENTRANCE GOSPEL Luke 19: 28-40

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany at the place called the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village opposite, whereon entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you shall say this, "The Lord has need of it"'. So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' And they said, 'The Lord has need of it'.

And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it. And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples'. He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125

Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Luke 22:14 – 23:56

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Please refer to the Power Point on the screen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he



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/ EUCARIST 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

Lowly Prince of Peace

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to non-violent revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, Luke's Gospel recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some weeping women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.

© 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

Project Compassion 2025

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

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 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.

2025 Holy Week Timetable

- **17th April THURSDAY**
7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
- **18th April GOOD FRIDAY**
10am Stations of the Cross
3pm The Passion of the Lord
- **19th April SATURDAY**
6pm Mass of the Easter Vigil
- **20th April EASTER SUNDAY**
9am & 6pm Easter Mass (English)



For details please download the full timetable using the 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.

Youth + Corner

Scripture: Luke 22:14 – 23:56

Observation: It is that time of the year again when we reflect on the many important events throughout Jesus' Passion, and this year, we hear them from Luke's perspective. Today's Gospel opens with Jesus' Last Supper with his apostles, during which he shares bread and wine with them and identifies these as his own body and blood. After this, Jesus reminds them what it truly means to be among the greatest of all humans—to serve others with love, just as he did throughout his life. However, the disciples quickly fall short of this by sleeping through his agony in the garden, with one of them even denying any association with Jesus, despite swearing he would never abandon him. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, Pilate sentences him to death at the discretion of a large crowd who would rather have Barabbas—a murderer—released instead. Jesus is then forced to carry a large, heavy cross, on which he is eventually nailed, all while being mocked and abused. Even in his darkest hour, Jesus continues to show mercy to those around him, including the soldiers who carried out his agonising crucifixion. It was only after Jesus' death that all those watching—those who had mocked and hurt him—realised the truth: that he was innocent, and that he was God.

Application: One event in Jesus' Passion that always stands out to me is when Barabbas, a man who committed the worst of all crimes, was released instead of Jesus, who never did any wrong. It seemed absolutely unfair and nonsensical. However, it turns out that, in a way, we are all like Barabbas. You may think, "Hang on, I'm not a murderer or a rebel!" But through our sins, we have all rebelled against what God wants from us and have also harmed our fellow human beings. Every time we raged, lied, cheated, envied, or refused to do our work, we damaged our relationship with God and deserved to be cut off from him forever. Another sin we may find ourselves committing is hiding our Christianity, or even pretending that we aren't religious, in order to conform to modern society. This is much like what Peter did, as well as the crowd who demanded Jesus be crucified—even though they had joyfully welcomed him into the city just a few days earlier. But Jesus loved us all so much that he willingly gave up his own life in the most painful way possible to give us the opportunity to spend eternity in heaven with him. Genuine love requires sacrifice, and so it only makes sense that the greatest act of love of all time required the greatest sacrifice of all time, as we witnessed in today's Gospel. And it is that same sacrifice that we become part of today at Mass. When Jesus called the bread and wine that he shared with his disciples his "body" and "blood," he really meant it—because what he was doing was instituting the sacrament of the Eucharist. This allowed his disciples to spread the practice, so that all people, in every country on Earth, could access Jesus' incredible sacrifice that we read about today and be united with God forever. Therefore, even though this part of today's Gospel is commonly referred to as The Last Supper, you could also say that it was the first ever Catholic Mass. And so today, when we all get down on our knees and Father holds up the body and blood of Jesus for us all to see, I encourage you to reflect on the unimaginable pain and suffering he endured because of how deeply he loves you—and how much he desires for you to be forever united with him.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I have constantly sinned against others and against you, and I know I do not deserve to be forgiven. But through your endless love and grace, you sacrificed your own life so that I don't have to be eternally punished, and I am forever thankful for what you did for me. For all my sins, I am truly sorry, and from now on, I will try my best to live the holy life you intended for me and to serve others just as you did. 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.

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.

Goondee Nursing Home visits (27/04/25)

This month, we are going back to Goondee Nursing Home again to sing for the residents at the aged care home as part of our ongoing community service. You don't need to be a singer, all you need to do is come along with a serving heart! If you want to come along, please contact Brain Wong (0491 138 451) by 19th April as we need to confirm the numbers.

19th/20th April ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C. Meleca	M. Falamich C. Cheung	M. Caga Anan D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma J. Knight	M. Law S. Joseph	
Acolytes	J. Hilton	N. Joseph	R. Joseph
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (18th April)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea			
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		