

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"

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C

27TH APRIL 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117

Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)
3. O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the true God is our light. (R.)

SECOND READING Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.



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

REFLECTION

The disciples did not purge their group of 'doubting Thomas'. They remained his companions, waiting for something or Someone to be revealed to him with them.

Doubt and questioning are a normal and proper part of being human. We should allow for this within the community of the Church. A point may come where a person may no longer remain in the Church with any integrity. But a dismissive, excluding Church is not the Church of this gospel story.

Within the companionship of the Church a doubter may hear the words: 'Peace be with you.' What sort of peace? It is that inner assurance that, in the midst of all the tribulations and the turmoil and the myriad precursor deaths which we suffer on all sorts of levels, the Conqueror of Death wants to be with us.

How can the Risen Lord be with us? In Holy Communion, and in those counted as least in the world. According to Matthew 25, He is those without the necessities of life: food, shelter, medical care, comfort in distress.

We could pause for a moment to savour that Peace which comes from faith in the Conqueror of Death and in his Real Presence in Holy Communion and in those in dire need.

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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

Sacramental Programs for Baptized Children

Confirmation—Year 5, First Holy Communion—Year 4
Reconciliation—Year 3



← Information for parents, by scanning this QR code, or email to stmonicasacraments@gmail.com.

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



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

28 April, St Peter Chanel, priest & martyr

29 April, St Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor of the Church

2 May, St Athanasius, bishop & doctor of the Church

3 May, St Philip and St James, apostles

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

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.

Catholic Women's League Mothers' Day Raffle.
Tickets on sale after Mass today.
Cost is **one ticket for \$2, 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20. Cash only.**
Thank you for your generous support.



Scripture: John 20:19-31

Observation: In this passage, Jesus makes an appearance to the disciples twice with a week gap; first being on Easter and the second 8 days later. The Gospel follows with the gathering of disciples, in which have shown us the different kinds of faith, varying between mediums and intensities to each individual. Some disciples believed upon seeing the empty tomb, while others believed after the first appearance of Jesus. However, Thomas needed to touch Jesus' wounds to restore his true belief; highlighting how each and every one of us differ in needs and routes of our faith.

Application: In focus, Thomas' route in faith has shown us how he believed, got lost in path, and returned to greater faith after confirming that the risen Lord had returned personally. However, we do not get the experience to see or touch resurrected Jesus, but we do have our individual ways to connect to God's spiritual presence within our lives; whether it stems from our joys and struggles that we continue to experience every day. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." With these words, we're reminded that even when we can't see clearly, we can still trust that God is present.

Prayer: Dear Lord,
Thank You for entering our lives, no matter our circumstances. Like Thomas, we may struggle to believe without signs, but we trust that Your Spirit is always with us. Though we cannot see or touch the risen Jesus, we know You are present in both our joys and struggles. Strengthen our faith and help us to believe through trust. Amen.

Information Session for July Youth Camp
An Introduction of the
Theology of the Body of Pope St John Paul II
by Simon Carrington (Fire Up Ministry)

Date: 4th May 2025 (Sunday)
Time: 2pm—4pm
Place: Parish Hall
This is most suitable for adults, especially parents who are interested to let their children to join the July Youth Camp, in which this theology will be focused at. Please JOIN!

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.*



3rd/4th May ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell E. Caruana	S. Jacob M. Joseph	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	C. North M. Wilkinson	J. Payra S. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I Goldthorpe	R. Joseph
Cleaning	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (2nd May)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina / Michelle		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 5 - Kris & Peter Handcock		

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.