

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"

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C

11TH MAY 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 29

Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R.)**
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Revelation 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at

the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 10:27-30

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said, 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

The Gospel of the Lord



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, 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/ 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

Voice Followers

You and I are Gentiles – part of the non-Jewish world. We are the sort of Christians we are, because of St Paul. He became the strongest advocate of the grace that the early Christian community should be inclusive of all nations and tribes and ethnic groups on the face of the earth. We have not yet realised this potential.

What riches of intellectual traditions, cultural expressions, and organisational structure are we still to receive from the Chinese, the Korean, the Indonesians, the Africans, the Indian Catholics who are part of our 'Church without Borders'?

How do we maintain unity and identity amongst such diversity? By listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

But it takes a good teacher to help us to hear The Voice in the clamour of life.

Some of those teachers may be found amongst the Bishops who carry a shepherd's staff. But at least in my experience the best assistant-shepherds have been my parents, and some others. They have helped me hear The Voice assuring me that I will never perish, that I will receive eternal life.

That is a Voice worth following! We could pause for a moment to get on the same wavelength as the Good Shepherd so as to echo His Voice in our lives.

© 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

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

14 May, St Matthias, apostle

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.

YOUTH MASS 25th May 2025, Sunday, 10:15am, All are welcome

Prayer for Vocations

O God, hear our prayer
and let our cry come to You.
Bless the Diocese of Grand Rapids
with many vocations to the
priesthood, diaconate,
and religious life.
Give Your sons and daughters
the confidence to accept Your call,
and the love to follow always
in the footsteps of Your beloved Son
with courage and dedication
to Your will.

Amen.

17th/18th May ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	B. Meleca K. Handcock	S. Joseph S. Younes	S. Almeida C. Almeida
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma C. North	J. Skulander M. Law	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (16th May)		
Children's Liturgy	Tresa / Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Julie & Grazyna		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth + Corner

Scripture: John 10:27-30

Observation: This week is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, otherwise known as Good Shepherd Sunday. This week's Gospel is a continuation of Jesus' parable earlier in John, chapter 10, where Jesus says "I am the good shepherd". During this Good Shepherd Sunday, we acknowledge Jesus as that Good Shepherd who knows each and every one of His sheep (the Church) and gives His life for them. The Gospel this week reminds us of the eternal life that is awaiting us if we follow Jesus as He says that his sheep will be given eternal life if they follow him.

Moreover, Jesus highlights the glory of God the Father in this Gospel in saying that the Father is "greater than all" and alludes to the Trinitarian God in this passage.

Application: The Gospel for this week aims to remind of our salvation through the risen Christ and it is through this that we have been brought into His flock- the Church. Through the Catholic Church and through Mass, we are invited to partake in our Good Shepherd's Eucharistic Sacrifice as He pours His life into our souls and give us eternal life.

As we attend Mass every Sunday, we are reminded of this passage, through not only the Eucharist but also our priests and clergy. Just as Jesus appointed Peter to lead His flock as the first Pope, our priests and clergy are the shepherd of their parishes and communities.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you being the Good Shepherd in my life and giving Your life so I may have eternal life with you. May I always be reminded to listen to your voice and follow your commandments.

I pray also for the vocation of the Holy Orders. May those You have chosen answer Your call to a life of leadership and may you guide them through their journey to become good shepherds of the Church. 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. Please contact Cheryl (0481 507 169) or Brian (0491 138 451) for more details and application forms.

• 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.

