

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"

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C

18TH MAY 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 144

Response: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. **(R.)**
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. **(R.)**

SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

A New Commandment



JOHN 13:34-35

GOSPEL John 13:31-35

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John
When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

My little children, I shall not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment: love one another;

just as I have loved you, you also must love one another.

By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, 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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

City Life for True Lovers

'Love one another as I have loved you.' You may think that Our Lord's extravagant extreme of love in voluntarily undergoing death for us, is something no human being could ever measure up to.

But actually, something like this happens whenever a mother or father sits by the bedside of a child suffering the terrible pain of a chronic illness or traumatic accident and, perhaps, even facing the prospect of death. Such a parent will invariably say 'I would rather suffer and die than see my child suffer and die.' It is the same with a person seeing their much loved life partner in a similar situation.

Each of us, usually to a lesser degree and in less fraught circumstances, has the opportunity to absorb, to some extent, the sufferings of others. We are thus given the possibility of fulfilling the command: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

The effect of this sort of loving will be realised at the end of history, not in a garden of Paradise, but as in a wonderful City where all tears will be wiped from our eyes.

We could pause for a moment on our way to that future City, resolving to be alert to opportunities to fulfil our Lord's command: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

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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

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

24 May, Our Lady Help of Christians

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 ACTIVITIES



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

2025 Mother's day Raffle Winning Tickets:

Apricot U72 Apricot U59

Purple F14 Apricot U4

Congratulations to the winners and thanks for supporting the CWL.

No weekday Mass will be held at St. Monica's Church on 21st & 22nd May 2025 (Wed & Thu), as Fr Ephraim will join the Diocesan Clergy Conference.

Weekday Mass will be available at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 12:30pm on the above days.

Mass schedule will be back to normal on 23rd May 2025 (Fri).

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24th May 2025 (Sat) 9:15am

24th/25th May ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock A. Bentley	M. Falamich P. Fleming	N. Sindayen T. Lim
Extraordinary Ministers	A. O'Dwyer M. Samson	J. DeAraujo S. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	I Goldthorpe	R. Joseph
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (23rd May)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuna / Maria Fleming		
Morning Tea	M Falamich & J De Araujo		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

Youth + Corner

Scripture: John 13:31-35

Observation: Soon after Judas left the night of the Last Supper, Jesus declares that in his glorification of the Lord, he will suffer death and be resurrected. Then, Jesus says to his disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you..." The instruction of loving one another seems simple enough; I can surely say that I love my friends and family, in my words and in my actions. Yet, why does this commandment seem to leave our minds the moment we are faced with people we feel have wronged us. It seems logical enough that we don't love everyone the same way; and it seems self-explanatory that one would love their family much more intensely than a stranger, let alone someone who has hurt us. It is difficult to do so, yet Jesus reminds us that to love those around us, regardless of our opinion on them, is to truly carry out our own discipleships.

Application: It can often feel difficult to love those who we feel have hurt us, or feel that we have the capacity to love absolutely everyone. But, I think it is important to remember that love can take action in many ways; whether it is service, sacrifice or forgiveness. Rather than how we love or who we love, it is important to remember why we love; and that is to simply live out our faith, that our mission is to love. We reflect God not only in what we believe, but in how we treat others; faith without works, stemming in love, is ingenuine. When we feel that we are losing the ability to love because we feel deceived or betrayed, God's instruction is simple and He is reason enough to love those around us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your endless love for us, that You sent Your only son Jesus to die for us in the ultimate act of love. Please guide us to emulate your love in our daily lives, no matter how difficult it may feel. Give us the strength to overcome the selfish thoughts which may be preventing us from loving those around us and may we continue to live out Your will through acts of love. Amen.

***YOUTH MASS 25th May 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. 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.