

# 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"*

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C**

**3RD AUGUST 2025**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me!  
You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

## FIRST READING Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

### A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 89

**(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

1. You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. **(R.)**
2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. **(R.)**
3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. **(R.)**
4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything. *The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!



## GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

<b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>	Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm		
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>	Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am		
<b>EXPOSITION:</b>	Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am		
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b>	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.30pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request		
<b>MARRIAGES:</b>	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior		
<b>BAPTISMS:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>	Fr. Ephraim Lam	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151 Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a>		
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm	Phone: 9630-1951	Email: <a href="mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com">stmonicanp@bigpond.com</a>

## St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: [stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## COMMENTARY

### Stop Talking to Yourself!

Conversation is what makes us human: we are word animals. Anyone who has been in hospital for some time knows that it is the lack of conversation which starts to tell. We need mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Did you notice in today's Gospel that the rich landowner is constantly murmuring to himself. He poses questions which he answers. He is so bound up with his possessions that there is no room in his life for real conversation with people or with God.

In muttering to himself, the rich man was becoming dehumanised and in danger that at the moment of death, he could find himself monologuing for all eternity, and that is a Hellish existence. He, and we, need to learn the language of Heaven and we begin that on earth.

There are two partners of conversation we need: With God we call it prayer. The Our Father is the conversation of the children of God with their heavenly Father. With other people, real dialogue might reveal something about them such that we need to respond wholeheartedly.

And then, draw closer to Our Lady who was the greatest conversation partner with God: 'Be it done unto me according to Thy word.' She is constantly trying to draw us into her conversation with God.

We could pause for a moment to ask Our Lady to help us to learn and practise the language of Heaven: 'now, and at the hour of our death.' Amen.

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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

Reconciliation—Year 3



← Information for parents, by scanning this QR code, or email to [stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com).

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



## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

**6 Aug, The Transfiguration of the Lord**

**8 Aug, St Mary of the Cross, religious**

**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.

### Special Masses in August 2025

**Feast of St Mary MacKillop**  
8th August (Friday) 9:15am



**Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary**  
**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**  
15th August (Friday)  
9:15am, 7:30pm

## Youth Corner

**Scripture:** Luke 12:13-21

**Observation:** In this passage Jesus is responding to someone in the crowd who wants Him to settle a dispute over inheritance. Rather than getting involved in the issue directly, Jesus uses the moment to teach everyone about greed and priorities. He tells the parable about a rich man who stores up wealth for himself but is not "rich towards God." The man focuses on securing his future by building larger barns to store his surplus grains, thinking he can relax and enjoy life for many years. God calls him a fool, as his life is demanded that very night, and all the wealth he has becomes meaningless. The core message Jesus gives here is simple but convicting. Material things are temporary and cannot save us. True, lasting life comes not from what we own but from our relationship with God.

**Application:** This parable is a powerful reminder to reflect on our own hearts and priorities. In today's world, it's easy to get caught up in the pursuit of material things, whether it's the latest phone, designer clothes, luxury cars, or simply chasing after comfort and status. Society often tells us that having more means being more. But Jesus challenges that mindset.

We need to ask ourselves honestly: Am I more focused on building up wealth, comfort, or security than I am on living a life that honours God?

Being "rich toward God" means investing in what truly lasts, such as our faith, acts of love, generosity, and trusting completely in God's provision. Instead of obsessing over what we can gain for ourselves, we are called to ask how we can use what we have, including our time, resources, and gifts, for God's glory and to serve others.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for reminding me that life is not about how much I have. Help me to guard my heart against greed and selfishness. Teach me to value what truly matters and to put my trust in You. Show me how to be generous, how to serve others, and how to live each day with eternal purpose. May my security be found in You alone. Amen.

### Youth Announcements



#### HSC blessings - 28th September

If you are sitting HSC this year and would like to receive HSC blessing, please get in touch with Cheryl on 0481 507 169 so that we can inform Fr Lam. It will be doing during the Masses.

#### St Monica's Got Talent

Yes! After last year's success, we will once again host St Monica's Got Talent to fundraise for the upkeep of our parish and church building. This year's event will be held on November 15th. If you are interested in performing, please contact Raphael on 0420 947 121. Any acts are welcome, especially non-musical acts as we only had musical acts last year!

### 9th/10th August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Maxwell K. Hancock	M. Joseph C. Cheung	T. Jones A. Cao
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	K. Hancock M. Woolridge	J. Cruz S. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Hancock	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group - 2 Vera (8th August)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Maria Fleming		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	M Falmich & J DeAraujo		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 4 - Peter Mooney & Michael Falamich		