

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"

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

10TH AUGUST 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

FIRST READING **Wisdom 18:6-9** **A reading from the book of Wisdom**

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Ps 32**

(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. They are happy, whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his own. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

SECOND READING **Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19** **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test,

offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: You know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Luke 12:32-48**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know,



but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

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
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	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

The Gospel and the Commonwealth

Jesus lived in a remote part of the Roman Empire where the majority eked out an existence. One of the few ways in which redistribution of wealth could occur was by voluntarily giving to the poor. So Jesus instructs his followers: 'Sell your possessions and give generously to those in need.'

We live in a very different society: 'The Commonwealth of Australia.' 'Common-wealth' indicates that the wealth of this nation, its people and resources, are meant to be directed to the common good.

So, we must respond to Our Lord's command in ways very different to what was possible in his day.

We have a compulsory taxation system which forces us to give up some of our possessions, some of our wealth to the common-wealth. Taxation and social justice policies help fulfil Our Lord's command to create a society more humane than anything remotely possible under the Roman Empire. And that would please Our Lord. Why?

In part because those in need are helped. But, perhaps in greater part, because it makes us larger hearted people. We have to arrive at the moment of death with a heart so capacious that it can include the billions of people we hope inhabit heavenly existence.

We might pause for a moment to pray for our hearts to be expanded by our contribution to the common-wealth of all peoples throughout the world.

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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.

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



FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

11 Aug, St Clare, virgin

14 Aug, St Maximilian Kolbe, priest & martyr

15 Aug, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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.

Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
15th August 2025 (Friday)
9:15am, 7:30pm



A BIG THANK YOU!!

We would like to thank our parish and school communities for their generous support for the Vinnies Winter Appeal!! We really appreciate that. Your contributions will make a big difference to the lives of many of our brethren! Thank you!!

St Vincent de Paul Society

CLOSURE OF NORTH ROCKS ROAD

From **15th August 2025** (Fri, 8pm) to **18th August 2025** (Mon, 5am), the junction of Church Street and North Rocks Road will be **completely blocked** because of road works. Please be aware of the changed traffic conditions.

Youth Corner

Scripture: Luke 12:32-48

Observation: In this week's gospel, Jesus reassures his disciples not to be afraid as God delights in giving them the kingdom. He then calls them to live with spiritual vigilance, detach themselves from material possessions, and live in readiness for His return. Like faithful servants awaiting their master, Jesus teaches them to remain alert and be responsible stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to them with.

The gospel reminds us that the more we have received, the more will be required of us. Jesus warns against complacency, urging us to act with fidelity even when His coming seems delayed. This week's gospel challenges us to align our hearts with the rewards of heaven, knowing that our true joy lies not in this world, but in serving the God who first came to serve us.

Application: The gospel reading this week invites us to examine how we live each day. Are we living in a way that is faithful to God's teachings? The gospel tells us that the earth possessions are not important and that it is the heavenly treasures that are precious. So are we performing acts of love, mercy and generosity in our everyday lives or do we cling to worldly comforts?

Jesus calls us to live as faithful stewards, that means using our time, talents, and resources for the good of others and the glory of God. We are being called to be generous with what we have, remain vigilant in prayer, and serve others with humility and compassion every day. It also challenges us to avoid spiritual laziness or delay in doing what we know is right and to live each day like we're offering it up to God. Whether we are entrusted with a lot or a little, we are all called to be faithful where we are. Living this way not only prepares us for Jesus's return but also brings purpose and peace to our daily lives.

Prayer: Lord, help me to let go of the worldly things that don't matter and to focus on what really matters, you. Teach me to stay awake spiritually and to leave each day with purpose and love. Show me how to be generous, kind and always ready to serve. Help me to refocus my life towards you every day and guide me to use the time, gifts and faith you've given me in a way that will give glory to you. 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!

16th/17th August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	B. Hooker S. Joseph	O. Meleca S. Meleca	D. Cruz O. Holsinger
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson B. Meleca	M. Law J. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (15th August)		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle / Maria Fleming		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 5 - Kris & Peter Handcock		