

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"

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

17TH AUGUST 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 39

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. **(R.)**
2. He drew me from the deadly pit, from the miry clay. He set my feet upon a rock and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**
3. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. Many shall see and fear and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**
4. As for me, wretched and poor, the Lord thinks of me. You are my rescuer, my help, O God, do not delay! **(R.)**

SECOND READING Hebrews 12: 1- 4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy

which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me . Alleluia!



GOSPEL Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

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

I have come to bring fire

A fierce fire in a eucalyptus forest bursts open the seed pods, cleanses the soil of smothering undergrowth, and returns nutrients to the soil to germinate the seeds. It is that sort of fire which Jesus brings to the earth.

So, at Pentecost, He sent His Holy Spirit '... like tongues of fire', bursting the early disciples out of the protective shell of the 'Upper Room', allowing them to be germinated as seeds of the early Church. It is the same in every generation which has to ask: What personal, family or social situations provide a hard casing which must be cracked open? What is the smothering undergrowth which prevents our germination as fearless disciples?

Jesus himself felt smothered by the small-minded people of Nazareth to which He never returned. He warns that families and good friends can try to smother the spark He wishes to ignite.

We might pause for a moment to pray that the fiery Holy Spirit might enable us to become a stand of tall trees reaching for the Risen Son in all His glory.

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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

20 Aug, St Bernard, abbot & doctor of the Church

21 Aug, St Pius X, pope

22 Aug, The Queenship 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 Pieti 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 + Corner

Scripture: Luke 12:49-53

Observation: Today's Gospel recounts the revelation of Jesus' deepest yearnings as he draws near to Jerusalem to suffer the Passion – a declaration of His purpose; that He came to bring peace and not division. At first read, this may sound like an absolute contradiction to the words we have been presented with, especially when Jesus clearly asks "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division" – I couldn't help but wonder how it was possible that this was a message of peace?

Jesus first expresses his desire to cast fire on the earth. This fire is not one of violence and destruction but rather one that is purifying and transforming. In the Old Testament, fire has often been used as a symbol of God's powerful presence. As such, it becomes clear that the fire which Jesus wishes to cast is intended not to destroy and divide but to enkindle in each of our hearts, the Lord's love so that we may spread God's love like wildfire.

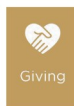
How, then, can we explain Jesus' statement of bringing division and particularly within households? It is easy to misconstrue the meaning of this statement as one that expresses desire for or directs us to division. However, the truth is that just as fire can cause division, it is not that Jesus wishes to split people up but rather Jesus wishes to remind us that carrying His fire and embracing the Gospel way of life will cause, at times, tensions and divisions.

Application: God's love is never meant to divide. However, we may find that in following Jesus and His way of life, in giving up evil and selfishness, sacrifices are often required for us to choose good, truth and faith; and that indeed may lead to division even within families. When we are called to follow God, we simply have to follow God and when it comes to the truths of our faith, there is no room for compromise. In the reality where those around us may not be accepting of our faith, we are called to continue to strive in living out our faiths authentically. However, we should not stay complacent in this division, we are taught to humbly discuss and teach our faith with patience and works of charity. After all, the Lord's love is one that unites and as Pope Francis said "Jesus is our peace, He is our reconciliation." Truly, following God brings us peace.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for inviting us to follow your truth and for enkindling within us the fire of your love. When we encounter conflicts and divisions, let us remember that your love brings peace, and that we can trust that in living out a life of faith, we may find reconciliation with those around us. Please guide us to live our lives with humility and to spread the faith with charity and patience. Thank you for the assurance that no matter what challenges come our way, your way is the only truth. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

JOIN OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
A Call to Prayer, Service and Generosity

Your support helps our parish grow and flourish, ensuring our faith community remains strong for years to come.
Every gift is a blessing.
Thank you!



To donate, update your giving details, or volunteer: Please contact our Parish Office on 02 9630 1951 or complete and submit a Parish Stewardship envelope.



23rd/24th August ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	M. Joseph G. Basha	S. Younes A. Espiritu	TBA A. Almeida
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma M. Wilkinson	J. Payra M. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (22nd August)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina / Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Julie & Beth		
Counting	Group 1 - Jacob Payra		

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!