

# 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"*

## THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

14TH SEPTEMBER 2025

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

### FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

#### A reading from the book of Numbers

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

*The word of the Lord.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 77

#### (R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. (R.)
2. When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. (R.)
3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. (R.)
4. Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. (R.)

### SECOND READING

Philippians 9-10,12-17

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

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every

tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The word of the Lord.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!



### GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.



# 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/ EUCARIST 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: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

## St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

## COMMENTARY

### The Triumph of the Cross

What other religion would have as its central symbol two rough hewn planks of wood fashioned into an instrument of torture on which our Founder, Jesus of Nazareth, was cruelly done to death?

And yet, today, we speak of 'The Triumph of the Cross'. Where is the triumph?

Let us rid ourselves of one terrible answer: that our heavenly Father willed that Jesus Christ should suffer that tortured death. What sort of cruel despot would I be called on to worship if that were the case?

What his Heavenly Father willed was that Jesus Christ should remain steadfast in the face of adversity, should remain true to his mission to teach and embody the mercy, the forgiveness, the all-inclusive love of God for every human being.

When Jesus persevered (not my will but thine be done), the Cross was the inevitable result. Death appeared to have won the battle to ensure a death dominated world.

But three days later, our Lord appeared to St Thomas bearing the marks of the wounds of the Cross but now indelibly imprinted on his resurrection body.

That is victory, that is triumph. A victory and a triumph in which we are all called to share.

© 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*

## FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

**15 Sept, Our Lady of Sorrows**

**16 Sept, Sts Cornelius, pope, & Cyprian, bishop, martyrs**

**20 Sept, Sts Andrew Kim Taegŏn, priest, Paul Chŏng Hasang & companions, martyrs**

**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

**Pray for the Sick** From October 2025 onwards, the list of prayer intentions for the sick in our parish will be renewed more regularly. Each name submitted to us will only be published on the bulletin for **four weeks**. The names can be repeatedly published on request. Please either call the office, or email to "[stmonicanp@bigpond.com](mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com)" to notify us to put the names of our ill-health brothers and sisters on the bulletin.

**Remember the Deceased** There is an open diary and pens next to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue, and you are welcome to write down the names of your deceased loved ones or family members on the day of their anniversaries and we will pray for them.

## 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.



### St. Vincent de Paul Society needs NEW Members

Please come to their monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of the month, 7pm, at the Parish Centre, or contact Jacob Payra 0431 881 697

## HELP WANTED

We are in need of more volunteers for the morning tea roster at the Sunday 9am Mass. Please contact Julie 0411 988 361.

## Sacramental Programs for Baptized Children



← Information for parents, by scanning this QR code, or email to

[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com).



**Scripture:** John 3:13-17

**Observation:** In today's Gospel reading we are invited by Jesus to reflect upon the purpose of his incarnation on Earth. The Gospel reminds us that God did not have to send his only son down to Earth to die. He did so because he loved us so much that we wished for us to be saved so that we may enjoy heaven in Communion with him. The Gospel alludes to a story in Exodus where the Israelites are punished by God for their disobedience, and God tells Moses that if any Israelite wishes to be saved they must look upon his staff with a snake on top. There are clear parallels with this Old Testament story and Jesus, we are condemned as the Israelites were because of our sin, and the only way out of that is through Jesus. In a similar way to how the Israelites could not simply kill the snakes, for us to be delivered from sin we must look to the radical love of Jesus, who died on the cross for us.

**Application:** A common objection to the belief in Catholicism by many atheists is the notion that - why can't we just be "good people", why do we need God and why do we need to worship Jesus at mass. This Gospel answers this for us, it reveals that it is impossible for us to truly be good and sinless as Jesus has been. It sounds harsh but the truth is that because of original sin we don't deserve to go to heaven, because heaven is perfect, but we are so clearly not. But it is the radical loving sacrifice of Jesus which allows us to enter the kingdom of God, it is through him and only him that we can attain salvation. That is why we must pray, that is why we must have faith because it is through prayer and faith that we can form a relationship with God. That is not to say that we should reject good works as Catholics, part of a true faith in Jesus is good works. But we cannot remove Jesus and his sacrifice if we want to obtain eternal life, if we want to build a relationship with God so that we can spend eternity with him.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I thank you for even though I am a sinner, you sent your only son down to Earth for us so that we may be exalted and enter into your love. May we work tirelessly to love you as you love us, and I pray that should I fall, your love would carry me into the light of your mercy and forgiveness. Amen.

## BAKE SALE on 21st September 2025

7 members of our Youth Group will join the Australian Catholic Youth Festival at Melbourne in November. The Youth Group will hold a **BAKE SALE** on 21st September after the 9am & 11:30am Masses, to raise funds to support the youths on this pilgrimage. Please come and show your kind support!



## 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 during the Mass on September 28th.

### St Monica's Got Talent - 15th November 2025

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!

## 20th/21st September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	G. Basha J. Kandalafi	B. Hooker C. Cheung	T. Jones A. Cao
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	L. Iemma C. North	C. Cheung J. Payra	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group - 2 Vera (19th September)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Michelle / Maria F		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Julie & Beth		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 5 - Kris & Peter Handcock		