

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"

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 112

(R.) Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore! (R.)
2. High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth? (R.)
3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dunghill he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Timothy

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to

himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

The Gospel of the Lord



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

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/ EUCARIST 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

Reversal of Fortunes

Jesus, surprisingly, found something appealing about this steward who was in the rapacious lending business. What was it? Faced with the news that he was about to lose his position, his catastrophic reversal of fortune, he cut a deal with his debtors to help secure his future. Jesus gave him full marks for being astute and shrewd.

Jesus laments the fact that many of his followers, 'children of the light,' are not as smart in the face of the Great Reversal – which He is inaugurating in which 'the hungry will be filled with good things and the rich sent empty away' (Mary's Magnificat).

We should be using our money ('mammon') to alleviate the myriad hungers of the world, not to buy our way into Heaven, but so that we become the sort of person who will be able to enjoy the heavenly companionship of those who hungered.

We could take a moment to pause and take stock of the use of our resources which are *passing*, so that we may be received into the *eternal* habitation.

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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

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

23 Sept, St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

27 Sept, St Vincent de Paul, priest

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" 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.

Youth Corner

Scripture: Luke 16:1-13

Observation: In this passage Jesus tells a parable about a shrewd (or dishonest) manager. In the parable, a manager found to be dishonest by his master fears for his future, lamenting that he is too weak to dig, and too proud to beg. In the end he secures his future by reducing the debts of his master's debtors, and is seemingly commended by the master for his shrewdness. It may seem puzzling and somewhat at odds with what Jesus has preached up till this point. However, Jesus is not praising dishonesty but rather uses the actions of the steward to highlight how worldly people often act with more urgency and practicality than the "children of light" (believers in the faith). In concluding, Jesus also emphasises how faith in small matters translates to faith in greater ones, and also - bringing it back to a central tenet of Catholicism - no one can serve God and money.

From these things, there are two points that stand out. For one, being practical and conscious of worldly matters to an extreme may be a detriment to the faith, but when used to prepare for the future, these things become useful. Secondly, and leading on from the first, how we align practical wisdom to spiritual priorities is also important: even though money and goods are temporary, how we use them (and what for) is still a reflection of our deeper loyalty and faith. In order to avoid falling completely under the thrall of worldly material, it is important to remember whom we truly serve, and in exercising this worldly practicality, we must make sure it is always in the service of God. As Jesus points out in verse 13, we cannot serve both God and wealth.

Application: This parable invites Catholics to consider how they use resources such as time, money and influence. We are all stewards of what God has given us, and therefore, we have an obligation to use our gifts with wisdom. Often people may put much of their effort and creativity into business or personal gain, rather than what they were intended for. Jesus reminds us, instead, to put these things into our faith.

In daily life, this may mean recognising what our choices reveal about our priorities - if money and status consistently outrank God in our hearts then we have fallen subservient to wealth. The only remedy to this is to direct our efforts, and shrewdness, towards God's eternal purpose. This may manifest in putting some of our finances towards the Church, or even gearing our private endeavours to supporting it - essentially, living in a way that reflects a trust in God, rather than in the power of our possessions.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for all that You have given me. For the opportunities, the gifts, and the things I have. Please give me the wisdom to use these not for selfish gain, but for Your Kingdom. Help me to be faithful even in the smallest of things, and to always place you above my worldly concerns. Guide me in living a life devoted to the future of Your Kingdom. 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 **this Sunday** 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!

27th/28th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock A. Bentley	A. Espiritu S. Younes	N. Sindayen T. Lim
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley C. Kandalaf	S. DeAraujo J. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (26th September)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	M Falmich & J DeAraujo		
Counting	Group 1 - Jacob Payra		