

# 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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C**

**28TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

## FIRST READING

**Amos 6:1. 4-7**

### A reading from the prophet Amos

The almighty Lord says this: Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over. *The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 145**

### (R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. He upholds the widow and orphan  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

## SECOND READING

**1 Timothy 6:11-16**

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

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen. *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 16:19-31**

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores,



who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

# 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

### Insects, Heaven and Hell

The rich man ('Dives') is so totally self-absorbed in the self-indulgence of his wealth that he does not even notice poor Lazarus at his gate. He created such a huge chasm between himself and the poor that not one crumb of food or companionship could cross over to Lazarus.

This chasm, created by Dives, was fixed at the moment of his death so that not one part of the life of Paradise could cross over to him – not even a drop of water. Hell is not a punishment sent by God. It is simply the continuation of the Divide which some have chosen as that which defines who they are. Hell is of our own making.

We could pause for a moment to check that we are making such choices that we become amongst those 'carried gently by the angels into Paradise'.

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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

29 Sept, Sts Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, archangels

30 Sept, St Jerome, priest & doctor of the Church

1 Oct, St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin & doctor of the Church

2 Oct, The Holy Guardian Angels

4 Oct, St Francis of Assisi, 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

**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.



**St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
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

## Sacramental Programs for Baptized Children



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

### 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!**

Praying

Giving

Serving

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.

JOIN HERE

## Youth Corner

**Scripture:** Luke 16:19-31

**Observation:** Today's Gospel passage serves to remind us of the dangers of materialism and the irreversible consequences after death. Materialism refers to all the earthly matters that draw us away from God. We see how the rich man lives his life in comfort, while Lazarus, a beggar, lays at the rich man's gate and suffers for the scraps of his table. Eventually, both reach the afterlife and Lazarus is carried up to heaven while the rich man is tormented in hell. The message seems clear; those who are indulgent and selfish, and choose to live in blissful ignorance to the poverty around them will face the consequences in the afterlife.

The passage also reveals to us the irreversible consequences of our actions after death. In the passage, God rejects the rich man's plea for mercy. But isn't our God meant to be merciful and all-loving? God only replies with the truth. The reality is that our actions have consequences. It is evident that the "great chasm" separating the rich man and Lazarus is not because of God's judgement or punishment, but because of the rich man's selfish desires and self-indulgent lifestyle. His rejection towards scripture has allowed a "chasm" to form, separating him from God.

**Application:** In the passage, Lazarus lays at the rich man's gate, which is representative of the condition of our hearts. We may be like the rich man, not in terms of monetary wealth, but in our closed heart and ignorance towards those who are in need of compassion. Our actions reflect who we are and not choosing to open ourselves to giving, sharing, loving others affects our relationship with God.

Are we, like the rich man, finding ourselves complacent and self-righteous? Attending mass, saying prayer and reading Scripture does not certify us an afterlife in heaven. As Catholics, we must also be heeding the Commandments and be active witnesses to the Gospel. This parable challenges us to reflect on where we are placing our priorities and how we are spending our time, money and abilities to serve others. If we are not using our 'riches' to serve others, then we are not serving God. Our time on Earth is finite, and this parable reminds us that one day we will be faced with the inevitable outcomes of our actions.

So, I'd like you to take a moment during your day today to reflect on what are the closed gates or doors separating you from sharing, forgiving, loving those around you. What would help alleviate these barriers? Perhaps going to confession, attending adoration or bible study, or listening to a podcast this week can help open your heart and redirect you to those in need.

**Prayer:** Dear God, In a world of turmoil, hate and selfishness, may we be a reflection of Your ever loving compassion and love and be a messenger of peace and love to others. Please open our ears to the needs of the poor and our hearts to care for those most vulnerable. With the gifts You have granted us, may we be active witnesses to the Gospel and fulfill the plan You have laid before us. In Your Son's name we pray, Amen.

## Youth Announcements

### Sleep out - 4th October

Whilst we are lucky enough to have beds to sleep in and roof over our heads, more than 100,000 people across Australia experiences homelessness. As we head into the last term-break of the year, we will once again have our annual sleep out event on the 4th of October. We will start at 3pm with trivia night, then Fr Lam will lead our youths in adoration before we all camp out in the hall for the night. Come join us for a fun and faith filled night with friends and help raise money to support those in need. All proceeds will go towards St Vincent de Paul. Please contact Brian 0491 138 451 or Cheryl 0432 205 327 for more information .

### 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!

## 4th/5th October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	A. Bentley E. Caruana	M. Falamich P. Fleming	M. Novak D. Llevado
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Woolridge M. Wilkinson	P. Hourigan S. Joseph	
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (3rd October)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	School Holidays		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Payra Family & Cheung		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		