

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

5TH OCTOBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

A reading from the prophet Habakkuk

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, 'Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts!

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' **(R.)**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The word of the Lord.

**And the apostles said to
the Lord, Increase our
faith.**

—Luke 17:5

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever; it is the word given to you, the Good News.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 17:5-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.'

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Breast Feeding into Heaven

The loving gaze of a mother towards her newborn simply gives rise to the obligation to feed the baby. There is no special reward for doing her motherly duty. This is how Jesus sees 'good works'. If we perceive our relationships with people correctly, then so-called 'good works' are no more than our duty and don't deserve special congratulatory access to Heaven.

If we saw human beings as 'formed from the dust of the earth, . . . a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory' (St John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* 34.2), then that perception leads to certain ways of relating which are obliging. Like the servant in the story, we will have done no more than our duty.

Nevertheless, doing that sort of duty you and I are becoming the sort of creature who can love unreservedly. We are being readied to receive the free gift of heavenly life.

We might take a moment to pause to get our perception of human beings correct so that our response may prepare us for the free gift of heavenly life.

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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

7 Oct, Our Lady of the Rosary

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR PARISH FAMILY WHO ARE SICK.

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.



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.

Origami Fundraising Sale

The Chinese Origami Group will have a fundraising sale for our parish maintenance fund on Sunday, 12th October 2025, from 10am to 1:30pm, at the church main door. 3-dimensional origami of flowers, bouquet, toys, ornaments, animals, etc, will be sold. *Your support will be highly appreciated!*

Closure of North Rocks Road

Due to road works, North Rock Roads will be closed from 8pm 10th October 2025 (Fri) to 5am 13th October 2025 (Mon). On that weekend please drive into our church car park from Daking Street, and leave via Church Street.



Scripture: Luke 17:5-10

Observation: At first glance, this passage might seem like two unrelated teachings jammed together: a lesson on faith and a parable about a servant doing his duty. But when we look more closely, Jesus is giving a unified and powerful message about what true faith looks like—not in theory, but in practice. The disciples begin with an honest and relatable request: "Increase our faith!" They're aware of their own limitations, perhaps overwhelmed by Jesus' teachings earlier in the chapter about forgiveness and radical obedience. But instead of giving them a pep talk or spiritual formula, Jesus tells them that even faith the size of a mustard seed can do the impossible. The implication is not that they need more faith, but that they need *genuine* faith—faith that is alive and active.

Then comes the parable of the servant. It's a bit jarring at first. The servant works hard all day, comes in tired, and still doesn't get a break until he's finished serving his master. The point isn't that God is harsh or ungrateful—it's that faith isn't about earning praise. It's about understanding our position in relation to God: we are His servants, not the other way around. Obedience is not optional or extraordinary; it's simply part of being in relationship with Him.

Application: This passage hits home for anyone trying to live out their faith in the real world—especially during the young adult years when life is full of transitions, questions, and pressure to "figure it all out." We often want God to give us *more*—more clarity, more strength, more visible results. But Jesus reminds us that faith isn't about having more—it's about trusting with what we already have, however small it seems.

Mustard-seed faith means praying even when we're unsure God is listening. It means choosing integrity when no one else notices. It means forgiving when it's hard, or staying faithful in small commitments when it's easier to walk away. This kind of faith isn't glamorous, and it won't always feel "spiritual." But it's the kind of faith Jesus celebrates—one that quietly trusts, obeys, and serves without demanding applause.

In a world that rewards recognition, Jesus invites us to find joy and purpose in being faithful servants. We don't have to perform for God. We just need to follow Him. And that posture—humble, obedient, and steady—is exactly what faith looks like in action.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to trust You with the little faith I have. Help me to serve You not for recognition, but because I love You. Let my faith be real—not loud or showy, but rooted in quiet obedience. Remind me that even small steps matter in Your kingdom. Amen.

11th/12th October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	O. Meleca S. Meleca	J. Jacob S. Jacob	N. Sindayen A. Cao
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma C. North	J. Cruz J. Skulander	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (10th October)		
Children's Liturgy	School Holidays		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 3 - Maria David & Tibu Corera		

Youth Announcements



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!