

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C (MISSION SUNDAY)

19TH OCTOBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

FIRST READING Exodus 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 120

(R.) Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. (R.)
2. May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. (R.)
3. The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. (R.)
4. The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. (R.)

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.



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

The Urgent Widow

The judge in this story only gives in to the distraught widow when she threatens 'to give him a black eye' (in the Greek)! Jesus *is not* saying God is like the judge who needs to be battered into submission. Jesus *is* saying we need to pray like that widow.

Think of what widows in Ukraine or Gaza are praying for tonight. Then think of one's own prayer. God is not the slightest bit interested in my usual trivial, self-promoting prayers. But He is interested in my being such a woeful pray-er and wants to change me.

Recall an incident of really urgent, intense prayer. Most likely, it was to do with a traumatic accident or fatal disease of a baby, of a spouse, of a parent too young. Apply that intense urgency to those in the world crying out: 'give us this day our daily bread'. In short, pray The Lord's Prayer with meaning.

We could pause for a moment to pray to live out the consequences of the 'Our Father' lest we are threatened with a black eye!

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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

RISEN LORD COMMUNITY SYDNEY PRESENTS

Discover **HOPE HEALING & His Presence**

EXPERIENCE POWERFUL TALKS, HEALING NIGHTS & WORSHIP LED BY BRO LALITH PERERA

30 OCT 2025 "Learn true discipleship from the Blessed Mother" Starting with Holy Mass at 7.30 PM St Monica's Parish - North Parramatta NSW

31 OCT 2025 **HEALING NIGHT** 7.30 PM St Luke's Marsden Park- Performance Hub

01 NOV 2025 "Discover Christ in you, the hope of glory" St Luke's Marsden Park - Performance Hub Day Retreat includes:

- Light Refreshments & lunch
- Childminding
- Kids Retreat (6-12 yrs)

 10 AM - 4 PM

SCAN TO REGISTER

Facebook/Instagram @rlcsydney

For more information www.risenlordcommunity.com.au

**ALL
SAINTS
DAY
MASS**

**1st
November
2025
Saturday
9:15am**

PARISH ACTIVITIES



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



Children's LITURGY Every Sunday at 9am Mass (during School Terms) Young children haven't received Holy Communion are welcome to join.

You can support the missionaries in Africa by donating to Catholic Mission.



Freecall: 1800 257 296

catholicmission.org.au/mission



Melbourne Cup Luncheon (by Catholic Women's League)

4th November 2025 (Tue)

12pm-4pm

St. Monica's Meeting Room

\$40 per person (cash only)

Must wear a HAT!



Scripture: Luke 18: 1-8

Observation: The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel can be described as very thought-provoking underdog story. Back in Jesus's time, widows were usually found at lower end Jewish society, with very little influence or privilege. Judges, on the other hand, could be as corrupt as they wanted to be and rarely worried about the consequences. This is especially true of the judge depicted in today's Gospel, who is so uncaring and unjust that you'll wonder how he even ended up as a judge in the first place. Even though the parable is short, we can still infer a lot about his character; he is selfish, unsympathetic, and the complete opposite of the perfect and infinitely loving judge that God is. In the end though, the judge still ends up changing his mind to help the seemingly powerless widow with her appeal, not because he felt sorry for her, but because she was so persistent that he feared he'd be physically attacked.

Application: Today's Gospel warns us about the end times, when most people will be so consumed by Earthly concerns that they abandon God. This isn't sometime in the far future – it's actually happening now. As Catholics in this era of growing distrust in God and his plans, we will undoubtedly face many trials and sufferings, but we mustn't lose our faith. Just like the widow in today's Gospel, we may sometimes feel powerless, but remember: Jesus will never forget about you, and he hears every single one of your concerns. This is why it's important to pray, not just when you feel like you need something from God, but constantly, even when those around you fall away from him. Jesus's question at the end of today's Gospel, "will he find faith on Earth?" is to get you to think: when all hope is lost, will you give up or will you keep clinging to God? Because if even a selfish and unfair judge agrees to help such a persistent widow, God will most definitely help you if you just keep persisting.

Prayer: Heavenly father, help me to be as faithful and persevering as the widow in today's Gospel. Help me to continue trusting in your perfect sense of justice, even when the world around me grows cold. Let this draw me closer to you and strengthen my hope in your promise that we will one day be forever united with you. In your son's name, we pray. Amen.

YOUTH MASS

26TH OCTOBER 2025 (SUNDAY) 11:30AM

Youth Announcements

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 15th November, Saturday. Tickets are on sale. We will be selling them outside the church after Mass. Prices are: \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids (12 years and under). We will also have a sausage sizzle that night before the event, which you will need to purchase a \$5 meal voucher for.

If you are interested in performing, please contact Raphael on 0420 947 121. Any acts are welcome, especially non-musical acts.

25th/26th October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock C. Meleca	S. Joseph C. Cheung	A. Cao T. Lim
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock B. Meleca	J. DeJesuina S. DeJesuina	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (24th October)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl/Michelle		
Morning Tea	M Falmich & J DeAraujo		
Counting	Group 5 - Kris & Peter Handcock		