

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"

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

26TH OCTOBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32

(R.) The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress. (R.)
3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be
condemned. (R.)

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL Luke 18:9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

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: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Standing in the Humus of Life

This parable begins 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray'. But only one of them actually prayed: 'God be merciful to me, a sinner'. The other informs God how well he is doing in the piety stakes. Notice that he strings together a whole lot of verbs, all in the first person singular! This means he is in mortal danger of staying in the first person singular after death, which is Hellish.

The other is said to be 'humble'. I like the English companion word: 'humus'. He is well-grounded, knows where he is standing, sometimes in the manure of life.

It takes courage and humility to admit to God exactly where we stand. We can do so in Confession, or less formally simply praying: 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'.

We could pause for a moment to humbly pray so that we may hope to hear Our Lord say: 'This woman, this man, this boy, this girl, went home at rights with God.'

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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

Facebook/Instagram @crfysdney
For more information
www.risenlordcommunity.com.au

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

28 Oct, St Simon & St Jude, apostles

ALL SAINTS DAY MASS

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

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



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

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!

2025 Mini Christmas Stall

(by Catholic Women's League)

selling dolls, teddies, rugs, DVDs, gifts, etc.

CASH ONLY

8th Nov (Sat) after 5pm Mass

9th Nov (Sun) after 9am Mass

16th Nov (Sun) after 11:30am Mass

All money raised will go to the Christmas Appeal of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

1st/2nd November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	E. Caruana K. Handcock	M. Falamich A. Espiritu	M. Caga Anan M. Ellis
Extraordinary Ministers	A. O'Dwyer M. Samson	M. Law J. Skulander	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (31st October)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria F/Julie		
Morning Tea	Cheung & Payra		
Counting	Group - 1 TBA		



Scripture: Luke 18:9-14

Observation: In today's gospel, we are shown the contrast between the pharisee and the tax collector. The pharisee's prayer was self-righteous and full of himself. In contrast, the tax collector humbles himself and asks God for mercy for his sins. The pharisee also makes a point to highlight that he fast twice a week and how much he gives. He even points out that he is better than this tax collector. The arrogance and humility displayed between the two is quite clear and Jesus points out how the tax collector is the one who went home justified and is exalted.

Application: It is obviously quite clear that we should be humble like the tax collector. Yes, we shouldn't boast about how great we are or how righteous we are, or how involved we are at church etc. But in reality, it's very hard to do. Sometimes we are not even boasting ourselves but our children. How often do we here a parent showing off their kids, or gloating about how smart or talented their child are. Yes, of course children bring a great source of pride to parents, there is nothing wrong with that. However, we must always remember to act humbly as in our unintentional boasting, others may feel looked down upon. This is the first step, to act humbly. Now we can go deeper with this. True humility shows vulnerability and weakness. We can say that we are humble, we can act humbly, but is this just an act or are we truly humble. In the passage, the tax collector is beating his chest asking for forgiveness wholeheartedly. Every Sunday, we recite the Confiteor at the start of the mass "in my thought, in my words, in what I have done and in what I failed to do...through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault..." whilst beating our chest in the same way the tax collector did. And then in the Lord's Prayer, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us". Are we just going through the motions, putting on a performance for the rest of the congregation to see, or do we actually mean it. True humility must come from within. I urge that we all practice self-reflection, especially during mass as we beat out chest confessing our failures, and regularly practice examination of conscience, leading to confession and the gift of reconciliation from God.

Prayer: Father, please soften our hearts so that we can tear down our pride, our barriers, to allow ourselves be vulnerable before you and humble ourselves before you. Forgive our sins, and constantly remind us what true humility looks like so we may show love freely without judgement, and extended kindness to others. Amen.

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 15th November, Saturday. Tickets are on sale. We will be selling them outside the church after Masses. 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 for a meal voucher. Please contact Raphael (0420 947 121).