

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"

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

2ND NOVEMBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will give life also to your mortal bodies, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his peoples shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 26

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

- 1 The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
- 2 There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. (R.)
- 3 O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face. (R.)
- 4 I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, to make sure that you do not grieve for them, as others do who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that we who are still alive for the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have fallen asleep. At the signal given by the voice of the Archangel and the trumpet of God, the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and only after that shall we who remain alive be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. This is the way we shall be with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these, then, you should encourage one another. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to His disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many places to live in; otherwise I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you to myself, so that you may be with me where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: I am the Way; I am Truth and Life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with his glorified body.

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

'Indeed, I promise you: today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Today, many of us will visit the grave or plinth of a beloved member of the family or a friend. If you are like me, you will first tidy the area, prune any dead heads off the rose bush, place some fresh flowers and then pray.

The beautiful Catholic custom is that on this day especially – All Souls' Day – we pray for those who have died. We prayed for them when they were with us on earth. Death is no barrier to continuing that prayer. We pray for them and for ourselves that one day, when every tear is wiped away, we may join them in heavenly bliss.

What grounds our hope? Nothing more, nothing less, than the victory of Jesus Christ over death. We pray that those we love even now are sharing in the benefits of that triumph.

For most, as I expect for me, that may involve a purging of those traits of personality which prevent the fullest participation in the bliss of Heaven. But that bliss is what God desires for each one of them and for me.

God prays for the fulfilment of that desire whilst souls are being purged (whatever that may involve). Our praying for the dead is simply our participation in this prayer of God, our privilege which we intentionally share in. Even those not intentionally sharing our faith often say R.I.P., rest in peace, and that is a prayer!

And so we pray with confident Christian hope: 'Endless light shine on those we love, O Lord. May their souls and the souls of all those who have died, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.'

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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

4 Nov, St Charles Borromeo, bishop

MASS for the deceased clergies who had served St. Monica's Parish in the past

**12th November 2025
Wednesday
9:15am**

Rosary will be prayed after the Mass

Pray for the Sick 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



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.

8th/9th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha A. Bentley	S. Younes P. Fleming	T. Jones A. Cao
Extraordinary Ministers	C. North M. Wilkinson	P. Hourigan J. Cruz	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (7th November)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina / Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Pinto Families		
Counting	Group 2 - Bernadette Fraser & Brigid McGettigan		

Youth + Corner

Scripture: John 14:1-6

Observation: In this week's gospel, Jesus comforts his disciples before his passion. His disciples are confused by Jesus' words but Jesus tells them that He is not leaving them in abandonment but in preparation to ready a place for them in heaven. He promises his disciples that one day, they will share in eternal life with Him. His promise reveals His deep love and care, ensuring that His followers will one day share eternal communion with Him. Jesus' answer to Thomas' question is profound: *He Himself* is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus is not merely a guide to God — He is the only path to God the Father, to divine truth, and the source of eternal life.

Application: When we face uncertainty, fear, or loss, Jesus' words "Do not let your hearts be troubled" invite us to trust Him more deeply. Faith in God means surrendering our troubles and worries and allowing the peace of God to come into our hearts.

This week's gospel reminds us that Jesus is the only way to God and to heaven and that we must walk in the way of Jesus's teachings if we are to lead a holy life. As Catholics, we also encounter walk along this path sacramentally--through the Eucharist, reconciliation, Mass and prayer, where Jesus continually leads us closer to the Father.

The gospel reminds us that heaven is not a "future thing" but the road to heaven begins now, in our relationship with Jesus. He has already prepared a place for us there, are we ready and willing to make our way to Him?

Prayer: Jesus, You are the way, the truth and the life. Help me to remember every day that I can put my trust in you. When my heart is troubled and my path uncertain, help me to find peace in you knowing that you have a plan for me that is bigger and better than anything I can imagine. Strengthen my faith, Lord, so that I can follow Your way, wherever that may lead. Fill my heart with your love and let that love overflow into all aspects of my life so that I may live out my Catholic calling. 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 November 15th. Tickets are on sale starting this week! We will be selling them outside after mass. Prices are as follow: \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids. We will also have a sausage sizzle beforehand for those that wants dinner, which you will need to purchase a \$5 meal voucher.