

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 DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

9TH NOVEMBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar. He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side. The man went to the east holding his measuring line and measured off a thousand cubits; he then made me wade across the stream; the water reached my ankles. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across the stream again; the water reached my knees. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across again; the water reached my waist. He measured off another thousand; it was now a river which I could not cross; the stream had swollen and was now deep water, a river impossible to cross. He then said, 'Do you see, son of man?' He took me further, then brought me back to the bank of the river. When I got back, there were many trees on each bank of the river. He said, 'This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome. Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows. Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 45

(R.) The waters of the river gladden the city of God.

1. God is for us a refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand, in time of distress:
so we shall not fear though the earth should
rock, though the mountains fall into the depths
of the sea. (R.)
2. The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;
God will help it at the dawning of the day. (R.)
3. The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come, consider the works of the Lord,
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the
earth. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Corinthians

You are God's building. By the grace God gave me, I succeeded as an architect and laid the foundations, on which someone else is doing the building. Everyone doing the building must work

carefully. For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord, that my name may remain in it for all time. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 2:13-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Be built up like living stones, into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.



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

Tents of God's Presence

The tabernacle in our churches should look like a tent with a cloth covering and 'tent flaps' at the front.

Why a tent? Because when the Jewish people escaped slavery in Egypt, they wandered through the wilderness for forty years carrying a tent where God's presence was especially strongly experienced. It was where they went for guidance and to pray for protection – to the travelling dwelling place of God.

At the beginning of St John's Gospel, we usually translate it to read that the Word of God 'became flesh and dwelt amongst us'. (John 1:14) The Greek word translated 'dwelt' could be better translated 'pitched his tent among us'! The Divine Presence is once again travelling around, this time embodied in Jesus of Nazareth. He personally is the true tent of God's Presence.

Death temporarily dismantled this tent but, as our Lord foresaw, the tent would be raised again in three days.

There is another way in which God's Presence is especially focused in the world, namely in you and me! St Paul calls the Christian community at Corinth: 'A holy building or temple in which God's Spirit dwells.'

Does our parish, does our Church, rise to the challenge and act in ways which reveal to the world who we are: Tabernacles of God's Presence in the world, Tents in whom God has chosen to dwell.

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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

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.

FEAST DAYS & COMMEMORATIONS

10 Nov, St Leo the Great, pope and doctor of the Church

11 Nov, St Martin of Tours, bishop

12 Nov, St Josaphat, bishop and martyr

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

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.

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.



Scripture: John 2:13-22

Observation: Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the Jewish Passover, a sacred time of worship and remembrance. Upon arriving at the temple, He found that the place meant for prayer and sacrifice had been turned into a marketplace corrupted by greed. In righteous anger, Jesus drove out the animals, overturned the money changer's tables and called the people to respect His Father's house. This act was not a moment of impulsive anger but a demonstration of His deep passion for God's holiness. His disciples recognised this as the fulfillment of scripture "Zeal for your house will consume me." When the Jewish leaders demanded a sign of His authority, Jesus foretold His death and resurrection, declaring Himself to be the true temple of God.

Application: This passage reminds us that our hearts are God's dwelling place and must remain pure, free from distractions, sin or self-centered motives that push Him aside. Just as Jesus cleansed the temple, we too must continually cleanse our lives of worldly influences that draw our focus away from true worship. "Zeal for your house will consume me." Like Jesus, we should be deeply passionate about honouring God's presence, allowing that devotion to completely drive us. This passage challenges us to reflect on whether we have allowed sin, complacency, or routine to creep into the sacred spaces of our lives. True devotion is marked by sincerity, reverence and a heart fully turned toward God. Even when our lives feel broken or in need of cleansing we can hold onto hope, knowing that through Jesus' resurrection, He restores and renews us.

Prayer: Jesus, cleanse the temple of my heart. Remove anything that distracts me from truly worshipping You. Fill me with the same zeal You showed for Your Father's house. Help me honor Your presence within me and to live each day with integrity, reverence, and renewed devotion. Amen.

15th/16th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Kandalaft C. Maxwell	B. Hooker J. Jacob	T. Lim D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock A. Bentley	J. Payra C. Cheung	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (14th November)		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle / Maria F		
Morning Tea	Julie & Jason Dalmeida		
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. Tickets are on sale now! 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. Sausage sizzle will be from 5:30 to 6:45pm, and the show will start at 7pm.