

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"

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

16TH NOVEMBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:19-20

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97

(R.) The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

1. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)
2. Let the sea and all within it, thunder; the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord. (R.)
3. For the Lord comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness. (R.)

SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 21:5-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.'



And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

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: stmonicasparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

The Sun of Righteousness

Our prayer can tell us a lot about the image of God we really have – holding a parking spot for us, or stopping rain on the second day of the Australian Open. But, if you were in Syria, your prayerful image of God would be as a Liberator from warfare, of a Saviour from Crimes against Humanity, of a Strengthened in time of torture and impending death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises his persecuted followers of every age, 'Your endurance will win your lives'. As Malachi prophesied: 'the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays'.

It is our faith that, out of the darkness of the tomb, the Son of righteousness did rise with healing in His rays, bathing the world with that light which makes the world habitable for human beings.

We could take a moment to pray for contemporary persecuted Christians that their faithful endurance will win their lives.

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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

17 Nov, St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious

21 Nov, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

22 Nov, St Cecilia, virgin and martyr

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.

Bishop Christmas Appeal 2025

A special collection will be made at all the Masses on 22nd & 23rd November 2025. It will support the **Catholic Care** of this diocese. You can take a special envelope near the main entrance of the church and bring your donation to the church next week. Donation online is also available.

DIocese of PARRAMATTA
OPEN THE DOORS OF HOPE TO GRIEVING HEARTS THIS CHRISTMAS
Bishop's Christmas Appeal [DONATE NOW](#)

Youth + Corner

Scripture: Luke 21:5-19

Observation: In this passage, we witness Jesus foretelling the destruction of the temple and his warning to the disciples not to be deceived by false prophets or fearful of turmoil in the world. He cautions them against deception, explaining that many will falsely claim divine authority and that wars, uprisings, earthquakes, famines, and other calamities will occur, though these are not yet the end. Jesus further reveals that his followers will face persecution, imprisonment, and betrayal, even from their own families, because of their allegiance to him. Amidst these hardships, Jesus assures them that he will provide the words and wisdom they need to stand firm before rulers and accusers, and that endurance through these trials will lead to preservation and life.

Application: This passage reminds us to deepen our awareness of faith's endurance amid uncertainty. Jesus' warning to us against false prophets and worldly fear illusions urges followers to anchor trust not just in empirical evidence, but in the divine truth of our faith. The destruction of the temple symbolises how worldly structures are unable to persist and reinforces our need to incorporate life upon spiritual foundation. Though, typically persecution and suffering are presented as abandonment to the broader society, we must understand these as moments which Christ himself strengthens and speaks to us, cultivating faith and courage, trusting that perseverance in God's truth leads to spiritual life beyond worldly decay.

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you for acting as a reminder that all things in the world will eventually pass, but your word will still endure, strengthening us in times of uncertainty. When trials arise and faith is tested, fill me with your wisdom and peace, that I may bear witness to your truth with courage and love. Help me to stand firm in your promise of life, trusting that no suffering is wasted when united with you. May my perseverance bring glory to your name and hope to those who follow you. Amen.

22nd/23rd November ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	O. Meleca C. Meleca	S. Jacob M. Joseph	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	C.Kandalaft M. Samson	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (21st November)		
Children's Liturgy	Julie / Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Joseph Family & Beth		
Counting	Group 4 - Peter Mooney & Michael Falamich		

Youth Announcements



St Monica's Youth Group

Youth Group will continue each week in the community room, starting at 10:30AM! If you're year 6 and up, come hang out for some games, make new friends and learn about God together! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our leaders Raphael Cheung.