

# 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"*

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – YEAR C**

**23RD NOVEMBER 2025**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING

**2 Samuel 5:1-3**

**A reading from the second book of Samuel**

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 121**

**(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'  
And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**
2. Jerusalem is built as a city  
strongly compact.  
It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord. **(R.)**
3. For Israel's law it is,  
there to praise the Lord's name.  
There were set the thrones of judgement  
of the house of David. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

**Colossians 1:12-20**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians**

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross. *The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**Luke 23:35-43**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.' *The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.



# St. Monica's Catholic Parish

**Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta**

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>SUNDAY MASSES:</b>                               | Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 11.30am (Cantonese/Chinese Mass) and 6pm              |  |   |
| <b>WEEKDAY MASSES:</b>                              | Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am   |  |   |
| <b>EXPOSITION:</b>                                  | Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am  |  |   |
| <b>RECONCILIATION:</b>                              | Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.30pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request   |  |   |
| <b>MARRIAGES:</b>                                   | Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior                                 |  |   |
| <b>BAPTISMS:</b>                                    | Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951 |  |   |
| <b>ANointing OF THE SICK/<br/>EUCHARIST AT HOME</b> | Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951                       |  |   |
| <b>PARISH PRIEST/<br/>CHINESE CHAPLAIN:</b>         | Fr. Ephraim Lam   | Phone: 9630 -1951  | Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com  |
| <b>ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST</b>                      | Fr. Ambrose Owusu-Ansah Phone: 9630 -1951   |  |   |
| <b>POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>                              | 8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151   | Website: <a href="http://www.stmonicanp.org.au">http://www.stmonicanp.org.au</a> |   |
| <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>                                | Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm  | Phone: 9630-1951   | Email: <a href="mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com">stmonicanp@bigpond.com</a> |

## St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Fax: 8832-4199

Email: [stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## COMMENTARY

### The Power of Remembering

If you memorise a tune or your 'times tables', you are said to 'know it by heart'. The sort of person who will always remember me is someone who 'knows me by heart'.

Here, a tortured criminal starts his plea: 'Jesus . . .'. This is one of only two instances where Jesus is addressed by his name which means 'The Lord saves'. The good thief went on: 'remember me when you come into Your Kingdom'. Jesus 'knows him by heart' and promises that He will re-member him in Paradise.

This is an exercise of sovereignty which befits 'Christ the King'. This is all the Kingly power which you or I will ever need, but to confidently invoke it we need to position ourselves alongside Jesus, like the 'good thief'. We do this by our practical concern for the poor and by coming to Mass which re-members the Body of Christ.

We could pause for a moment to pray: 'Jesus, remember me, know me by heart, for when you do I will be in Paradise.'

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

## 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](mailto: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

24 Nov, St Andrew Dung-Lac, priest, and companions, martyrs

## For Sale

Christmas Cards  
(pack of 10) \$10

2026  
St Columban Calendars  
\$10

Please put the money in the **Poor Box** which is located at the entrance of the church.

## Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8th December 2025  
(Monday)

Mass 7:30pm



## 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.



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



**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

## Bishop Christmas Appeal 2025

A special collection is made at all the Masses today. It will support the **Catholic Care** of this diocese. You can use the special envelopes or make a donation online using this QR code..



**DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA**

**OPEN THE DOORS OF HOPE TO GRIEVING HEARTS THIS CHRISTMAS**

Bishop's Christmas Appeal **DONATE NOW**

## Youth Corner

**Youth Corner 23/11/2025**

**Scripture:** Luke 23:35-43

### Observation:

In today's gospel we see people in the crowd challenging Jesus' divinity, even at his crucifixion, asking if He is truly our Lord and Savior, why he could not save Himself. Jesus endures constant mocking and torture throughout His crucifixion, focused on His mission of salvation. Our attention is subsequently drawn to the two criminals, which perhaps represents a dichotomy of the faithful and faithless (or the repentant and bad thief), where one joins in the beratement, whilst the other humbly acknowledges his wrongs and expresses his fear of God. He asks for Jesus' remembrance and is promptly promised unity in Paradise immediately. I remember when I first read this as a young child, I was surprised at the Lord's mercy. I wondered how a thief who had committed sinful crimes was forgiven so easily. I failed to recognise the heavier significance of repentance, God's forgiveness and most importantly, simply believing.

### Application:

There are two main takeaways from today's gospel. The first is that faith can certainly be difficult in the face of constant questioning and mockery. Just as Jesus is questioned of his divinity, we may be questioned for our beliefs in this increasingly secular society, where the church's teachings are often denied or condemned. I'm sure many of us have experienced instances where people may give some strange looks as we say grace before our meals or you may have debated with non-Catholic acquaintances regarding contentious topics such as abortion or euthanasia. I know that, in my fear of being isolated or condemned, I have avoided engaging in such conversations at times, or have been insufficiently prepared to defend my faith in such situations. As such, it is crucial that we are ready to defend our faiths; that we continue to strive to learn more about our faiths in order to be witnesses of God.

The second main takeaway is the importance of repentance and the Lord's mercy. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7) - rather than materialistic goods or successes, let us continue to ask for God's guidance and mercy, for we are sinners - and God will answer as we've seen today. Jesus loves us so immensely that He died on the cross for our salvation, and in His life Jesus teaches us to love and to be free from fear. Through this, it is reinforced that Jesus' kinship is far from control, power and luxury but rather His desire for compassion and communion in the Kingdom of God. And I think that is reason enough that we should continue to celebrate Christ in our lives and imitate him and his love in our daily lives.

### Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for always remembering us and for your great mercy. In periods of darkness and adversities please guide us in remembering Your love just as you remember each and everyone one of our needs. I pray that we continue to strive towards imitating Jesus' love in our lives and may the Holy Spirit strengthen us, and provide us with wisdom and a helmet of faith so that we may defend our faith in the face of doubt and condemnation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

## 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 (0420 947 121).



## 29th/30th November ROSTERS

|                                | 5pm Vigil                                    | 9am                    | 6pm                   |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Readers</b>                 | B. Meleca<br>M. Joseph                       | TBA                    | N. Sindayen<br>A. Cao |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers</b> | B. Meleca<br>L. Iemma                        | S. Joseph<br>M. Joseph |                       |
| <b>Acolytes</b>                | P. Handcock                                  | I. Goldthorpe          | J. Hilton             |
| <b>Cleaning</b>                | Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (28th November) |                        |                       |
| <b>Children's Liturgy</b>      | Sheryl / Jesuina                             |                        |                       |
| <b>Morning Tea</b>             | Gonzales & Meleca Families                   |                        |                       |
| <b>Counting</b>                | -  |                        |                       |

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