

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"

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

30TH NOVEMBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING

Is 2 : 1 - 5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. *The word of the Lord*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 121

Response: 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. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
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.)**
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' **(R.)**
4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Rom 13 : 11 – 14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ. *The word of the Lord*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Mt 24 : 37 - 44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

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
ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST	Fr. Ambrose Owusu-Ansah Phone: 9630 -1951
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

Wake up to the Poetry

Our Lord loved to unfurl the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah in his local synagogue. The poetic image of swords being hammered into ploughshares reverberated into his renouncing violence against the Roman occupying army in his own time. When will this picture come true for all human beings for all time?

Only God knows! We don't know any more than we know when a burglar might target our home. But our ignorance of God's timetable is no excuse for being fatalistic and sleepy. We have our own span of life providing the timetable for our own contribution to the hammering of swords into ploughshares.

Recent Popes, especially St John Paul II, have taken up this theme for our times, teaching more restrictive criteria for using armed force, even dropping the term 'just war' to very small print in the Catechism.

We could pause for a moment to pray to be awake to our opportunities to shape society in the light of the vision of Isaiah and the practice of Jesus the Prince of Peace.

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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

3 Dec, St Francis Xavier, priest

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: Lynette Iwachiw 0423 696 961



Christian Meditation Every Thursday, at the Parish Centre. 6pm-6:25pm Gentle Exercises, 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
Resume on 16th Feb 2026, then 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

Christmas Mass Timetable

24th December 2025 (Wednesday)

6pm (English)
9pm (Chinese)

25th December 2025 (Thursday)

12am Midnight Mass (English, candlelight)
9am (English)
11:30am (Chinese)

Full timetable leaflets can be found near the main entrance of the church.



SOAP Reflection 30th November 2025

Scripture - Matthew 24:37-44

Observation - Today's gospel parallels Jesus' second coming to the 'days of Noah' from the Old Testament, where people spent their time eating, drinking and marrying, choosing complacency and ignorance, rather than considering the possibility of a sudden, final judgement from God which cannot be altered. Although everyone was washed away by the catastrophic flood in the account of Noah's Ark, Matthew makes it clear that up until Christ returns, people have a choice - either to repent and seek reconciliation with God for their sins, or continue to live a life disregarding Jesus, his teachings and acknowledging one's wrongdoings - 'one is taken, one left'. It will create a clear divide between who was prepared and who was not. Matthew emphasises the importance of being wary and cautious of one's own actions, because they do not know when Jesus will come back.

Application - The gospel serves as a reminder to be mindful of our lazy and complacent behaviour. It can be easy to forgo or neglect prayer, adoration, confession, or even Mass when our lives are busy and we become caught up in our day to day. However, it is this kind of attitude, conduct and lack of self-reflection which Matthew warns us against. Thus, we must be able to first recognise faith is an important part of our life - much like our families and friends, we need to spend quality time developing and nurturing our relationship with God too. Consider blocking out time in your schedule, even if it is only 10 minutes, to sit down in prayer. Set small, actionable goals for each month - perhaps it's to go to confession, or attend adoration. It may be difficult to implement this new 'habit' into your routine initially, especially when you are so used to living a certain way, but over time it will have a compounding effect and as the gospel advises, helps you to become more prepared and ready for when Jesus really does return - otherwise it may be too late. God is giving us ample opportunities in our lives to grow as Catholics - we should seize them as they come.

Prayer - Dear God, thank you for creating and loving me. I am grateful for the life you have given me, and the ways in which we can get to know you better - whether that's through Mass, adoration, prayer (like right now), or even volunteering, where we may be able to see the face of God in others, give me the strength and discipline to choose these actions. Help me to build a dedicated and chaste life, and give me guidance for times where I lack self-control. I pray that I may strive to grow my relationship with you, and continue to put aside time for you in the same way I do for others. Amen.

6th/7th December ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Maxwell E. Caruana	C. Cheung S. Joseph	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley M. Woolridge	J. Skulander P. Hourigan	
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (5th December)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria F / Michelle		
Morning Tea	M Falamich & De Araujo Families		
Counting	Group 5		

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).



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