

# 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"*

**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A**

**7TH DECEMBER 2025**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

## FIRST READING

**Is 11 : 1 - 10**

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious. *The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 71**

**Response:** Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**
4. May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

**Rom 15 : 4 – 9**

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in

one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name. *The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!



## GOSPEL

**Mt 3 : 1 - 12**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

# 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/ EUCHARIST AT HOME</b>	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951		
<b>PARISH PRIEST/ 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

### Inaugurating a New Humanity

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like

John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

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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*



### SALE

**\$10** for Christmas Cards in pack of ten

**\$10** for 2026 St Columban Calendar

Please put the cash into the POOR BOX at the main entrance of the church to support the Vinnies.

### VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Please support the Vinnies Christmas Appeal to help families who are doing it tough this Christmas. Your donation will be a big difference and help them have a better Christmas!

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal special collections will be done at the Masses on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

### VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPERS AND GIFTS COLLECTION

A Christmas tree near the St. Joseph statue has been set up where you could place any items which could be donated as part of the Christmas hampers to families in our parish area. Another Christmas tree will have tags of children for whom you could donate relevant gifts.

**Please place your items and gifts by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025.**



## 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** Resume on 12 Feb 2026, then 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 16 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** Resume on 5th Feb 2026, then 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

Pray for the Sick: **Joshua North**

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
8th December 2025 (Monday) Mass 7:30pm  
No morning Mass on that day.

## 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.

### 6th/7th December ROSTERS

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



**Youth Corner 7th December 2025**

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1-12

**Observation:** In this gospel, John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of Jesus by calling them to repent because God's kingdom is near. He fulfills the prophecy as a voice in the wilderness, urging genuine heart change, not just religious identity. John baptises people as a sign of repentance and warns religious leaders against hypocrisy. He also announces that someone greater will come to bring both the Holy Spirit and judgment, separating the faithful from the unfaithful.

**Application:** We notice that John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. In a literal sense, we can't learn anything from this sentence, it just doesn't make sense, however, John is actually wearing a very similar outfit to the prophet Elijah which we can find in 2 Kings 1:8. John in the preparation to Jesus' coming baptised the Jews and Elijah sought out corrupt Kings and Israel itself at the time for idolatry, in some form both prophets were asking the people for repentance to the Lord. Both of these important figures of the church bearing similar outfits and missions symbolises that we should learn and be inspired by the actions from the past, especially in today's world, a world where the social media ban is almost upon the younger generation it could mean that we should take a moment away from our screens, be silent and reflect on God's guidance/will in our lives in a world that is approaching silence.

**Prayer:** God, we thank you for providing us with many inspirational figures that guide the actions of everyone around us even to this day. Give us the courage to seek out for your forgiveness. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so we may walk faithfully with You each day. Help us open our hearts to You and invite You into every part of our lives with readiness and joy for being able to live out your will.

## Youth Announcements

### Social justice month

This month is our social justice month where we will be selling some handmade body scrubs and polaroid photo frames decorated by our youth group. The proceeds will go to St Vincent de Paul's Christmas appeal. Come help us support those in need in this time of advent, Christmas and thanks giving.

### 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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