

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"

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

21ST DECEMBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING

Is 7 : 10 - 14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".' *The word of the Lord*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23

Response: Let the Lord enter, he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING

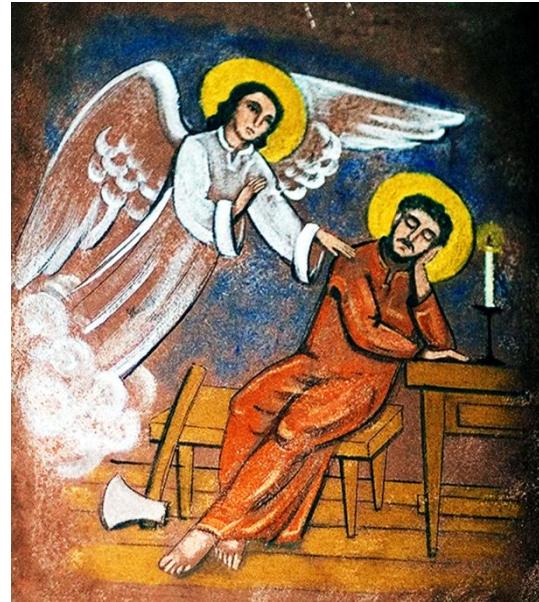
Rom 1 : 1 – 7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 1 : 18 - 24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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 or Fr Ephraim Lam 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.stmonicap.org.au	
Office hours	Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm Sunday 9am-11am	Phone: 9630-1951	Email: stmonicap@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School Principal: Ms. Fiona Bylsma Phone: 8832 4100 Email: stmonicasparr@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Just Man Dreaming

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. Those are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart

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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! Online donation using this QR code is welcome.



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 21st December 2025.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Youth Corner

Youth Corner 21st December 2026



Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am. All are welcome.



St Monica's Parish Rosary Group

Resume on 4 Feb 2026, then 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

Resume on 31 Jan 2026, then 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.



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, Marvin Ferrer

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)

1st January 2026 (Thursday)

9am (English +Chinese)

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

27th/28th December ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	J. Kandalaft S. Meleca	S. Jacob B. Hooker	N. Sindayen T. Lim
Extraordinary Ministers	B. Meleca M. Samson	J. DeAraujo M. Joseph	
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group - 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (26th December)		
Children's Liturgy	Resume in Feb 2026		
Morning Tea	Resume in Feb 2026		
Counting	Group 3		

Youth Announcements

Social Justice Month

Today we will be selling handmade body scrubs and polaroid photo frames decorated by our youth group. The proceeds will go to St Vincent de Paul's Christmas appeal. The prices are as follow:

Photo + photo frame = \$10, Photo frame = \$5

Body scrubs (coffee / green tea) = \$10

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).

Please Support our Sponsors...

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