

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"

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 4TH JANUARY 2026



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING

Is 60 : 1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127

Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

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 earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him! **(R.)**
4. 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.)**

SECOND READING

Eph 3 : 2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was

by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 2 : 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

St. Monica's Catholic Parish
Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

Sunday Masses	English: Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 6pm Cantonese: Sunday 11.30am
Weekday Masses	English: 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: https://stmonicanp.org.au
Office hours	Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm Phone: 9630-1951 Sunday 9am-11am Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma Phone: 8832 4100 Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him


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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



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A Call to Prayer, Service and Generosity





Your support helps our parish grow and flourish, ensuring our faith community remains strong for years to come. Every gift is a blessing. **Thank you!**



To donate, update your giving details, or volunteer: Please contact our Parish Office on 9630 1951, or email stmonicanp@bigpond.com each envelope is a prayer. Stewardship envelopes.



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

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 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: Marvin Ferrer, Peter Handcock

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.

10th/11th January ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	B. Meleca K. Handcock	M. Joseph C. Cheung	N. Sindayen E. Saleh
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson B. Meleca	M. Law J. Cruz	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group - 2 Vera (9 th January)		
Children's Liturgy	Resume in Feb 2026		
Morning Tea	Resume in Feb 2026		
Counting	Group 5 (11 th January)		



Youth Corner 4th January 2026

Scripture- Matthew 2:1-12

Observation: The Feast of the Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on the 6th of January - the 12th day after Christmas but is now celebrated on the Sunday between the 2nd and 8th of January. An 'epiphany' means a revelation or manifestation, and in today's gospel from Matthew the identity of Jesus is revealed to the Wise Men.

The Wise Men came from the East seeking for the one "born king of the Jews". King Herod, the ruler of Judea at the time, was so deeply troubled upon hearing of this threat that he sought out the Wise Men to find and locate Jesus. When the Wise Men followed the star they had seen and found Jesus with his mother, they paid him homage and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These were symbolic of Jesus' royalty, His priesthood and His burial. Paying homage was a form of worship, involving one prostrating themselves and placing one's forehead to the ground, and is a sign of submission and humility. A sign that they believed Jesus was a true King. These Wise Men were Gentiles, assumed to be non-believers of God, and yet they sought out the truth and believed in it. This signifies that even those who are not part of the Jewish tradition can recognise Jesus as the Messiah and true King.

Application: As Christians, we are like the Wise Men, we are truth seekers and are challenged to bear witness to this truth. Like the Wise Men, we should be committed to seeking the truth and believing in it. In today's gospel, the Wise Men were led to find the baby Jesus, revealing God's desire for everyone to be a part of His family and so with the Holy Spirit, we are called also to openly share our belief to those around us to guide them towards this. During this time, we are encouraged to share joy with others as Jesus' birth and sacrifice was for all sin in the world, and through God's plan of salvation, we can receive eternal life with Him.

Finally, just as the Wise Men chose to worship the one who is the Messiah and obey God's message, we too are called to listen to the Word of God to guide our actions and choose faith and righteousness over comfort and security.

Prayer: Loving and ever-merciful Father, you sent your only Son to save us from our sin so that we could enjoy the rewards of heaven. Give us the fortitude to seek the truth especially in the face of social pressures and, like the Wise Men, follow the signs You give us to fulfill our purpose. With the Holy Spirit, help us to guide others towards Your love and share in the joy of Jesus' birth. 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).

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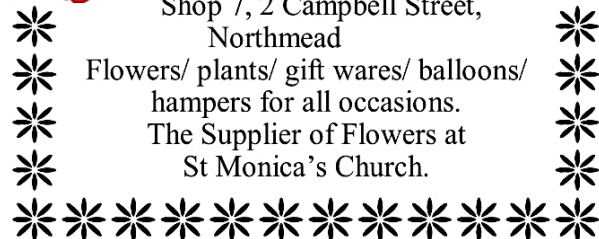
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