

# 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"*

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A**  
**18TH JANUARY 2026**

#### ENTRANCE ANTIphon

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

#### FIRST READING

Is 49 : 3. 5-6

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

*The word of the Lord*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 39

**Response:** Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. (R.)

#### SECOND READING

1 Cor 1 : 1-3

#### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace

*The word of the Lord*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!



#### GOSPEL

Jn 1 : 29-34

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

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

#### COMMUNION ANTIphon

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

**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: <a href="mailto:shingmanlam@gmail.com">shingmanlam@gmail.com</a>		
Assistant Parish priest	Fr. Ambrose Owusu-Ansah Phone: 9630 -1951		
Postal Address:	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151 Website: <a href="https://stmonicancp.org.au">https://stmonicancp.org.au</a>		
Office hours:	Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm Sunday 9am-11am Phone:9630-1951 Email: <a href="mailto:stmonicancp@bigpond.com">stmonicancp@bigpond.com</a>		

*St. Monica's School*

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma Phone: 8832 4100 Email: [stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**COMMENTARY**

**The Perfume of Holiness**

What does it mean to be 'holiness'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of people: 'Holier than thou'! It means being so close to God that God's holiness rubs off.

We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off.

Each one of us has heard at our baptism 'You are my beloved son/daughter'. We have been adopted into God's family and that brings us into close proximity to God.

So, if St Paul were writing to us today, as he did to the Corinthians, this is how it would run: '... to the church of God that is in [your town], made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'

But, we are not alone. In a multitude of places there are people who have also been baptised and therefore share a certain family resemblance. How is the 'togetherness' held together? By being in communion with the Bishop of Rome, the official role of the Pope.

We might pause for a moment to thank God that we are amongst the baptised who can receive St Paul's greeting: 'Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

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**Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel**

*St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

**Pray for the Sick: Peter Hancock**

**Youth Announcements**

**World Youth Day 2027 expressions of interest**

World Youth Day 2027 will be held in Seoul, South Korea, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2027. For those who have been to ACYF (Australian Catholic Youth Festival), think that but on a world scale! As it is such a big event, we are taking expressions of interest NOW so we can start the preparation for this pilgrimage ASAP. If you are over 16 and is interested, please contact Cheryl Wong (0481 507 169).

**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).

**OLD PALMS**

Please bring the blessed palms of last year to the collection boxes at the church in preparation for Ash Wednesday 2026.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

## *Youth Corner*



### **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](mailto: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, 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

**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.

### Scripture

John 1:29-34

### Observation

In this passage, John sees Jesus, declaring to us all that he, the one who has been foretold about, will be the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world. In this one sentence, John the Baptist summarized the greatest work of Jesus: to deal with the sin problem afflicting humans. Also, John then also points out the ever-presence of Jesus, stating that although Jesus was born after him, connotating the eternal nature of Jesus, thus God also. Through this, John declares to us all that Jesus is the true God and saviour.

### Application

“Takes away the sins of the world,” says John. Not just the church, but of the world. The wording here is sleight, in that it is not only Catholics, Christians etc, that are saved, but all on this earth. With this, we can ask ourselves, why all of us? Why does he save everyone? Even those who may not be followers, may not worship him, or even recognize him. In the same book, John 12: “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself”, it encapsulates who and where he is from. Although he is of the church, he is also of the earth, and as a result, of all people on this earth. We are reminded the scope of Jesus’ love for us. We are made in the image of God, and through that there is a belief that we are all inherently good and worth to be saved, despite where you lay.

### Prayer

Lord, pray for us for when we may stray from your path. Give me the courage and strength to do you will to live a faithful life, and to be reminded of your forgiveness and love that you bless us with.

24th/25th January ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	C. Kandalaft E. Caruana	P. Fleming A. Espiritu	M. Ellis T. Lim
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Woolridge A. Bentley	J. Payra S. Joseph	TBA
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group – 2 Vera (23 <sup>rd</sup> January)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Resume in Feb 2026		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Resume in Feb 2026		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 2		

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