

# 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"*

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A 25TH JANUARY 2026

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

### FIRST READING

Is 8 : 23-9:3

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. *The word of the Lord*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 26

**Response:** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Before whom shall I shrink?. (R.)
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. (R.)
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! (R.)

### SECOND READING

1 Cor 1 : 10-13, 17

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

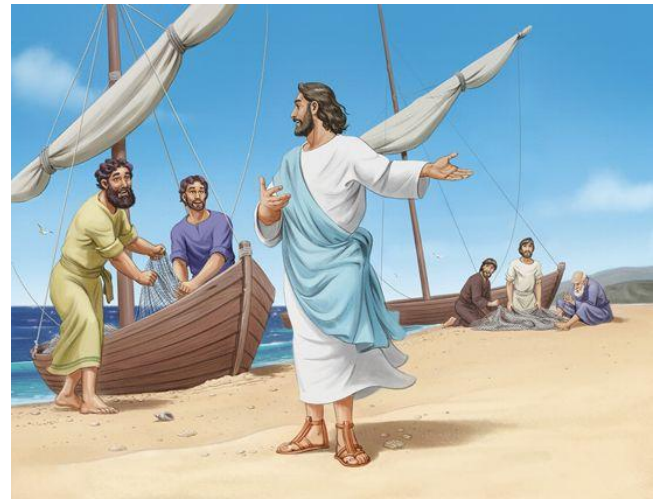
I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed. *The word of the Lord*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!



### GOSPEL

Mt 4 : 12-23

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

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness  
has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow  
of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

**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://stmonicanp.org.au">https://stmonicanp.org.au</a>		
Office hours:	Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm Sunday 9am-11am	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 Email: [stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**COMMENTARY**

**The Voice of Jesus**

Two sets of two brothers were running successful family businesses. But once Jesus passed by and called them, the Gospel says, at once they left their boats and followed him. I think because, hearing his voice, they realised that Jesus was the true vocalist of God.

Irish author and mystic, John O'Donohue, once wrote, 'Something in us senses and knows how perfectly the contours of the soul fit the divine embrace.'

Maybe Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John sensed that, in this Jesus, there was a Soul whose contours perfectly fitted the divine embrace. They were prepared to risk everything for the chance to have their souls contoured along the same lines.

The call: 'Follow me ...', was not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.

We could pause for a moment to hear the brothers beckoning us to follow the call of that voice sounded by Our 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 Handcock**



**Holy Spirit Mission 2026**

*By Catholic Charismatic Renewal of  
Parramatta Diocese*

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026 (Saturday)

Time: 12pm –5pm

Venue: Our Lady Queen of Peace Church  
(School Camilleri Hall)  
198 Old Prospect Road,  
Greystanes, NSW 2145

Please use the QR code for registration and details.

**OLD PALMS**

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

## PARISH ACTIVITES



**Scripture: Matthew 4: 12-23**



### 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, 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

## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026, Monday

Mass: 9:15am (English).

### Observation:

During Jesus's lifetime, Galilee was a region that was often looked down upon by the Jews. To them, it wasn't a particularly holy place because it was heavily shaped by Greek and Roman culture, meaning the people who lived there, including the local Jewish population, knew less about God. It also didn't help that the vast majority of Jewish temples, priests, and scholars were based in Jerusalem, which inevitably left Galilee overshadowed and overlooked.

However, as we discover in today's Gospel, Jesus deliberately chose to start his Earthly ministry there. Not only that, but he also chose to start during a particular hard time in his life – right after his beloved cousin, John the Baptist, was unlawfully arrested and sentenced to death. Jesus began by giving the people of Galilee some much-needed encouragement to repent and follow God, before then calling on his very first disciples – four insignificant, working-class, Galilean fishermen. Thus, a great light had truly begun to appear for the Galileans, the same light that has now spread all across the world and will one day replace all of its darkness.

### Application:

Jesus sets the perfect example for us today, in terms of what to do when we are facing dark and difficult times. He doesn't sit and wait, but instead, gets going with what God intended – and that was for him to work on his Earthly ministry. As for what God intends for us when we ourselves are struggling, particularly with things like confusion, doubt, or loneliness; Jesus teaches us what to do in today's Gospel as well – to repent and realign ourselves towards God. Some ways we can do this include coming to Youth Group even when we don't feel spiritual, or taking that first, brave step to go to confession for the first time in a while. You see, God doesn't wait for us to "perfect ourselves" first before calling on us to follow him, and nothing emphasises this more than today's Gospel, where Jesus extends this invitation to four burnt-out, struggling fishermen. God calls on all people, including the spiritually weak, and does so more than willingly.

### Prayer:

Heavenly Father. In a world rife with darkness and faithlessness, I thank you for shining your never-ending light onto me and all my Earthy brothers and sisters and showing me that no one is unworthy of your love and discipleship. Let me also extend my gratitude towards you for sending your beloved son down to us, so that I could be free from sin, and have a perfect example to follow. In his name, I pray. Amen.

### 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).

### 31st January / 1st February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	E. Caruana K. Handcock	B. Hooker S. Jacob	M. Novak D. Llevado
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	A. O'Dwyer C. North	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	TBA
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group – 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (30 <sup>th</sup> January)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Resume in Feb 2026		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Resume in Feb 2026		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 3		



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