

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"

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING

Sir 15 : 15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 118

Response: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R.)
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R.)
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2 : 6-10

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

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5 : 17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and

teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.' *The Gospel of the Lord.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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

Truth-Telling

We have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, 'Do not swear at all ... instead let your "yes" mean yes and your "no" mean *no*. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.'

This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this?

In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God's name: 'Our Father'. It is our privilege as adopted children of God to use God's name in that way. The use of God's name for oath-swearing is an *abuse*.

Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two-tiered way of speaking the truth.

Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person – the truthful person truths.

We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. As a Church, we need to heed this passage and listen to the epistle of St James recalling this passage almost verbatim. (James 5:12-13)

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church herself heeds the Great Commission: 'Teach them to keep *all* that I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:20)

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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.

We had an **urgent renovation work done** at the Parish Hall during the holiday. Thus we need to raise around \$30,000 to cover the cost. Please kindly donate using the envelopes (cash or credit cards) or the tapping machine at the St. Joseph statue in the church. Thank you.

Holy Spirit Mission 2026

By Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Parramatta Diocese

Date: 21st 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.



2026 Liturgies in Lent

ASH Wednesday Masses (Fasting & Abstinence)

Date: 18 February 2026

Time: 9:15am (English),
7:30pm (English + Chinese)

Stations of the Cross (Confession available)

All Fridays from 20 February to 27 March 2026, 7:30pm

PARISH ACTIVITES



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

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

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

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

International Eucharistic Congress 2028

Beginning from 1st March 2026, SUNDAY, the whole Australia Catholic Church will formally start preparation of this solemn event. At our parish we shall have **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with Benediction, from 10am to 11am on that day.** Please come and pray.

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-37

Observation:

Jesus clarifies that He has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them, showing that everything in the Old Testament points to Him. He emphasises the enduring authority of God's Law, stating that even the smallest detail will remain until everything is accomplished. Jesus warns that neglecting even the least commandment or leading others astray has serious consequences, highlighting the importance of every part of God's teaching. He deepens the commandment against murder by showing that anger and contempt are the real roots of violence. Sin begins in the heart before it shows outwardly, and hatred harms our relationship with God as much as physical harm. Reconciliation with others is so important that it must come before worship, because love of neighbour is inseparable from love of God. Jesus urges believers to resolve conflicts quickly, showing that forgiveness and peace are vital to true righteousness.

He also expands the understanding of adultery, teaching that lustful thoughts are as sinful as physical acts. Looking at someone with lust reduces them to an object, dishonouring their dignity as God's image-bearers. The imagery of tearing out an eye or cutting off a hand highlights the seriousness of avoiding temptation and maintaining inner purity.

Regarding divorce, Jesus points back to God's original plan for marriage as a lifelong covenant. While the law permitted divorce, Jesus emphasises that breaking the marriage bond leads to adultery, highlighting its sacred and permanent nature.

Finally, Jesus teaches that honest speech should be honest and trustworthy. Instead of swearing oaths, we should simply speak truthfully, recognising that integrity reflects a heart aligned with God, the ultimate source of truth.

Application

This passage teaches us that true faith isn't just about following rules, it's about what is in our hearts. Anger, resentment, and harsh words can harm relationships just as much as physical actions, so making peace with others is just as important as coming to church or praying. Lustful thoughts and dishonesty also show that living God's way is about integrity and respect for others, for oneself, and for God. Marriage and commitments are meant to be taken seriously, and words should be trustworthy, "yes" really means yes, and "no" really means no. This means focusing on kindness, honesty, respect, and self-control in everyday life, in friendships, family, and relationships, relying on God's guidance to live with integrity and love.

Prayer

Dear God,
Help us to live with hearts full of love and respect. Teach us to manage our anger, forgive quickly, and make peace with others. Give us the strength to keep our thoughts pure, our words honest, and our commitments faithful. Guide us in our friendships, family, and relationships so that we can reflect Your love and truth in everything we do. Amen.

21st / 22nd February ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	O. Meleca C. Meleca	M. Falamich S. Joseph	N. Sindayen T. Lim
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge B. Meleca	C. Cheung J. Payra	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group – 2 Vera's Cleaning Crew (20 th February)		
Children's Liturgy	Julie / Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Falamich & DeAraujo		
Counting	Group 1		

Youth Announcements

World Youth Day 2027 expressions of interest

World Youth Day 2027 will be held in Seoul, South Korea, from 3rd to 8th 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).

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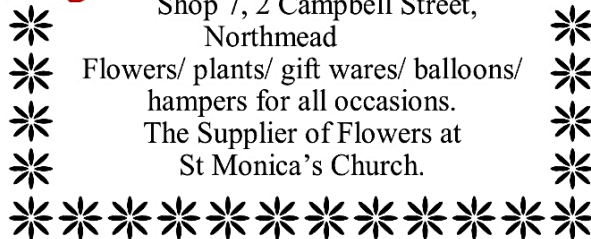
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