

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”

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A 1ST MARCH 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING

Gen 12 : 1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

‘I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.’

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32

Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

2 Tim 1 : 8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mt 17 : 1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly

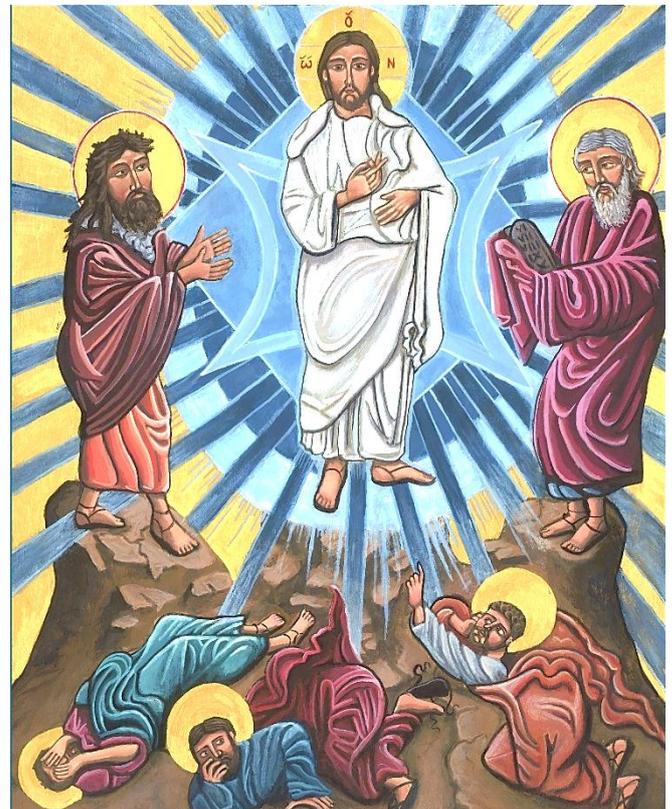
Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Lord,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.’ When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. ‘Stand up,’ he said ‘do not be afraid.’ And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. ‘Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; list to him.



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
Postal Address:	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151 Website: https://stmonicanp.org.au		
Office hours:	Tuesday-Friday Sunday	8.30am-2.30pm 9am-11am	Phone:9630-1951 Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School

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

COMMENTARY

Transfigured Body & Soul

We have to get rid of the idea that the soul is a dot of energy in some hidden core of our body. In fact, the body is in the soul. There is no part of my body which is not immersed in my soul. It is my whole person, body and soul, which needs to be saved. As Thomas Aquinas says: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.'

Today's Gospel does not portray an out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Further, this transfiguration was not a solitary experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it precisely because it told them what our Heavenly Father desired as their destiny beyond martyrdom, if only they would listen to Jesus.

Heavenly salvation will involve my whole person, body, soul, being transformed. But could a person, during their earthly existence, share in the transfiguration experience of Christ?

We could pause for a moment to 'Google' or otherwise get hold of my favourite story of a saint – St Seraphim of Sarov – and pray that we may share with his disciple the bodily experience of 'immeasurable wellbeing' – 'infinite joy in our hearts'.

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Eucharistic Congress 2028 Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ. Amen

2026 Holy Week & Easter Sunday Mass Timetable is available. Please take a leaflet at the tables near the church main entrance.

Project Compassion 2026

The boxes are available at the main entrance of the church. Please return the boxes with your donation before Good Friday. For details and donation online please use the QR code on those boxes.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All Fridays from 20 February to 27 March 2026, 7:30pm
(Confession available)

PARISH ACTIVITES

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

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

Scripture: Matthew 17: 1-9

Observation:

In this Sunday's gospel we join Peter, James and John in witnessing the Transfiguration in which Jesus' divinity is revealed to us. In this encounter, the disciples see Jesus' face shine brightly and his clothes turn a radiant white with Moses and Elijah beside him. This encounter is an affirmation for all of us of his divinity and that Jesus is indeed the Son of Man. Later, a cloud overshadows them and we hear the voice of God say, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" As they come down from the mountain, Jesus instructs the disciples, "tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." Just like that, the story of salvation has been revealed to us.

Application:

As we approach the second Sunday of Lent, let us be reminded that Lent is a call to transformation and repentance. We are called to be transformed in Christ, to be completely changed and moulded by His presence. In giving up sin, attending confession, and fasting, we are able to spend more time with the Lord and be truly transformed through His graces. Every instance in which we struggle with hunger during fasting or temptation for something we chose to give up for Lent, let us remember the true purpose of what we are doing; that we are truly detaching ourselves from the very worldly desires and sins that hinder our relationship with God.

I think that this week's Gospel is also a reminder to rely on the Lord. Recall that Jesus instructs the disciples to "tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." The Transfiguration reminds us of the coming salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus; that glory follows suffering. It reaffirms that life has overcome death through Jesus' resurrection and through Him alone we are saved. Our call to holiness and our spiritual lives isn't simply about self-improvement but rather being transformed in Christ, so let us surrender ourselves to the Lord!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for your invitation to follow you. During this Lent, and beyond, please continue to mould and transform us to become more like you. Teach us to trust you in every step, that all will be fulfilled according to your will and your time. Let us always remember the reasons for the trials and tribulations we experience and to always rely on you for your guidance and wisdom. Help us detach ourselves completely from sin and our worldly desires so that we may find a deeper relationship with you. In Jesus' name we pray. 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).

International Eucharistic Congress 2028

On 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.

For details of the Sydney 2028 International Eucharistic Congress, please go to their website:

<https://eucharist28.org/>



7 th / 8 th March ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	A. Bentley C. Meleca	A. Espiritu B. Hooker	T. Jones N. Sindaven
Extraordinary Ministers	A. O'Dwyer L. Iemma	S. DeAraujo J. Cruz	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group – 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (6 th March)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl / Michelle		
Morning Tea	Pinto Family		
Counting	Group 3		

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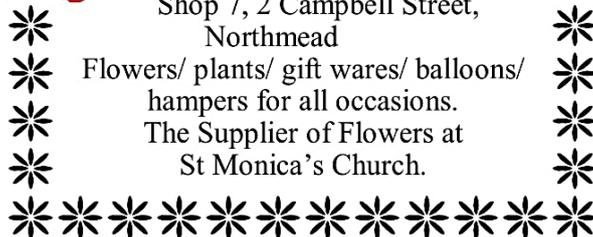
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