

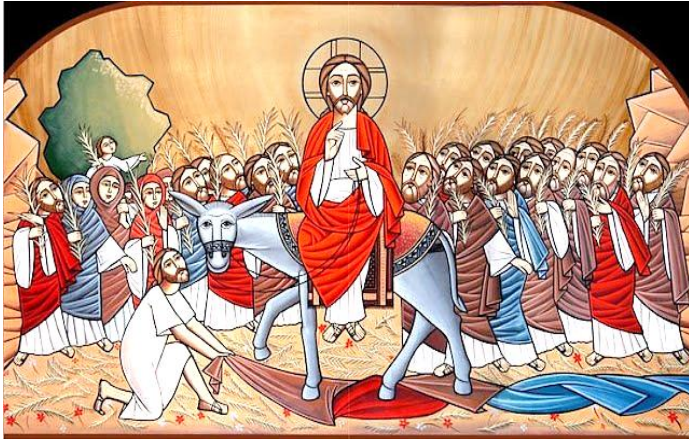
# St. Monica's Parish

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"*

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A**  
29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026



insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21

*Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; All sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

## SECOND READING

Phil 2 : 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

## GOSPEL

Mt 26:14-27:66

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

*Please refer to the PowerPoint on the screen.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

## ✠ BLESSING OF THE PALM Mt 21: 1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'.

This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'

And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee." *The Gospel of the Lord.*

## FIRST READING

Is 50 : 4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the

**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 Every 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am
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>
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 Phone:9630-1951 Sunday 9am-11am 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**

**Lowly Prince of Peace**

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to non-violent revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace

**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

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

Holy Thursday Mass 7:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 10am

Good Friday Passion Liturgy 3pm

4<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Easter Vigil Mass \*6pm

5<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Easter Sunday English Mass 9am, 6pm

**Project Compassion 2026**

Please return the boxes with your donation on or before Good Friday. For details and donation online please use the QR code on those boxes.

**Karaoke Night**

We're excited to invite you to our Karaoke Night, where you can enjoy a simple dinner and sing your heart out to your favourite songs. Whether you're a shower-singer, stage superstar, or just here for the vibes, this night is all about good company, warm laughs, and amazing melodies.

Please mark **11th April 2026** (Saturday), 6pm to 9pm, in your diary — you won't want to miss it!

**Dinner ticket is on sale, \$15 each. Inquiry hotline: 0411 192 278**

## PARISH ACTIVITES



### Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am.  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday following 9am Mass until 11am.  
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

Resume on 15<sup>th</sup> April 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 or send an email to Fr Ephraim.



### 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



### Sacramental Program for Baptized Children 2026

Please send an email to our coordinator for details:  
[stmonicasacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)  
Deadline for enrolment of Confirmation: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### Scripture: Matthew 26:14-27:66

**Observation:** In Matthew's account of the passion of Jesus Christ, Jesus makes it clear that His impending death on the cross is a fulfilment of God's will for the salvation of humanity. Jesus' death is part of God's plan for the atonement of the sins of humanity. Jesus hints at God's plan for salvation during the Last Supper, when He lifts up a cup of wine, saying, 'drink from it, all of you, for this is the blood of my covenant which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.' Although Jesus knows that His death on the cross is God's will, He, being fully human as well as fully divine, is still afraid and apprehensive. This is shown when Jesus prays at Gethsemane, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet, not as I will, but as you will.' Despite His fears, Jesus still chooses to follow His Father's will and lets the events of Good Friday take its course. During the passion, Jesus is also subjected to humiliation, doubt and ridicule from people who encountered Him. For example, the Roman soldiers mockingly call Jesus king of the Jews. The people, including the chief priest and scribes, who see Jesus on the cross taunt Him, saying let God save Him and help Him come down from the cross. Yet, despite all this humiliation, Jesus does not retaliate or try to defend Himself, and does not call for revenge on the people who humiliated Him.

**Application:** Even when we are trying to do what is morally right, we may face social ostracization, humiliation, taunting from people who do not believe, understand or value the aims we are trying to achieve and the values that we express through our actions. People may taunt and humiliate us due to our social identity. People chose to taunt Jesus because they did not believe that He was the Son of God, as He truly was and claimed to be, and they did not understand that His death on the cross was part of God's plan to offer eternal life to humanity. In situations where we face social humiliation from others, it is important that we imitate Jesus' example in maintaining our dignity and grace by not seeking to retaliate, due to a sense of grievance. Sometimes, spending copious time and energy trying to justify ourselves to other people can be counterproductive. For example, Jesus is given the opportunity to justify His claim that He is a king to Pontius Pilate, which is a claim that the Pharisees criticise Him for, and Jesus does not try to justify His claim, as Pontius Pilate, did not fully understand Jesus' mission and His identity as God and King of the kingdom of heaven. That is not to say we should never explain our actions or Catholic values to other people, but we need to be prudent judges of whether it is necessary, important or likely to result in a positive outcome. It is often sufficient for us to be confident and assured that we are doing what is morally right and is willed by God, regardless of whether other people recognise this or not. When we have that confidence, then it may be easier for us to let go of our desire for retaliation against people who mistreat us or humiliate us for doing what is right.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to stay firm in following your will even when people hurt us and humiliate us for following your will. Help us to let go of our self-centred desires for revenge and let go of our anger in those moments. Instead, give us the strength and moral courage to rise above these desires, and maintain our focus on always following your righteous path, irrespective of people's judgements.

4 <sup>th</sup> / 5 <sup>th</sup> April ROSTERS			
	6pm Easter Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	S. Meleca E. Caruana	J. Jacob S. Younes	F. Lo D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	M. Samson C. North	J. Skulander M. Law	TBA
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Hancock	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group – 1 Chinese Chaplaincy (3 <sup>rd</sup> April)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Resume on 26th April 2026		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Falamich & DeAraujo		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 2		

### Youth Announcements

#### Good Friday Night Walk – 3/4/26

Every year on Good Friday, hundreds of young Catholics in the diocese of Parramatta come together for a 20km pilgrimage walk across Western Sydney, where pilgrims journey together in prayer and reflection of Christ and our faith. The pilgrimage will start from St Patrick's Catholic Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish in Blacktown late on Good Friday night, and end at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta in the early hours of Holy Saturday. Our youth group had been asked to host 2 of the stations this year so we will need a good number of youths and leaders to participate. If you would like to participate, please contact Raphael on 0420 947 121 for details.

#### Life Skills Workshop – 11/4/26

Have you ever sat through classes and thought "when am I ever going to use this in real life? Our leaders from St Monica's Youth Group have kindly volunteered their time to run a series of holiday workshops focusing on important life skills that they don't teach you in school! The first workshop will be on how to write a killer resume and ace a job interview! It is open to youths aged 15 years and above. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Cheryl on 0481 507 169 for more details.

Please support our sponsors...

### TOLAR PHARMACY

Shop 13 Northmead Plaza  
Northmead NSW 2152  
Phone (02) 9630 7717  
Free Deliveries



### LEOPARD LAWNMOWING

Call Chris  
0419629666

Leopardlawnmowing@gmail.com



EST 1968

FOR ALL YOUR MECHANICAL NEEDS  
EFI SPECIALIST

9630 1352  
Unit 1, 27, Daking Street  
North Parramatta NSW 2151 Proprietor & Workshop Manager

David Zaiter

### POWER SOURCE ELECTRICS

For all of your electrical needs  
contact Michael on 0433 363 675  
Or email  
sparky@powersourceelectrics.com



ON BUDGET AND ON TIME

MS QS

Own an Investment property?

### SAVE THOUSANDS ON TAX

with a MSQS Tax Depreciation Schedule

Contact Matthew today to find out how

msqs.com.au 0406 660 427



### Floral Expressions Ph: 02 9683 1116

Shop 7, 2 Campbell Street,  
Northmead

Flowers/ plants/ gift wares/ balloons/  
hampers for all occasions.

The Supplier of Flowers at  
St Monica's Church.



\*Affordable HOME RENOVATION &  
HOUSE CONSTRUCTION  
making your home beautiful and  
transforming your space with care and excellence.\*

\*\*Home care and NDIS welcome.\*\*

\*\*Contact: 0415 887 838 (Jordan)\*\*

\*\*Sanitise Housing Service\*\*

[www.sanitisehomeservice.com.au](http://www.sanitisehomeservice.com.au)



### CREED PTY LTD

For All Your Painting Needs!  
Contact: Boris on 0400 663 602  
Free Quotes All Areas  
Email: [info@creedpl.com](mailto:info@creedpl.com)

### SELLING OR LEASING YOUR PROPERTY?

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AGENT FOR A  
COMPLIMENTARY MARKET APPRAISAL!



SCAN ME!

Arianne Fontanilla  
LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT



0410 202 550

[arianne.fontanilla@agiuspropertygroup.com.au](mailto:arianne.fontanilla@agiuspropertygroup.com.au)