

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”

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD 5TH APRIL 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

FIRST READING

Is 10 : 34, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.’ *The word of the Lord*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117

Response: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: ‘His love has no end.’ **(R.)**

The Lord’s right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **(R.)**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 5 : 6-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, then, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The word of the Lord

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life’s own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ’s glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Chris has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 20 : 1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb’ she said ‘and we don’t know where they have put him.’

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead. *The Gospel of the Lord*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.



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: shingmanlam@gmail.com
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

**Dawn has Broken –
The Son is Risen**

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!

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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

Project Compassion 2026

Please return the boxes with your donation as soon as possible.

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

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

<https://eucharist28.org/>



PARISH ACTIVITES



Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am.
Every 3rd 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 15th 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
Deadline for enrolment of Confirmation: 20th April 2026

Scripture: John 20: 1-9

Observation:

Today's Gospel recounts a story that many of us may already be familiar with. For those of us who grew up going to Sunday school we may have been told the story of how the Apostles raced to find the empty tomb every year on Easter. What I would like to do in this reflection is to rethink this story, placing us in the shoes of the disciples. To do that we should go back to Good Friday, the disciples are in a state of despair. Imagine being in their shoes, of course with the benefit of hindsight we know that Jesus rose from the dead but from their point of view their all-powerful leader and teacher was dead. Not just dead but killed in the most painful and humiliating way possible; hung up on the cross after having his dignity stripped away from him. I can only imagine how hard it would be to get up in the morning, the ministry that they had devoted three years to, the man who they followed and listened to was gone. This brings us to Easter, they hear from Mary Magdalene that the stone that blocked the entrance was moved and the tomb was empty. The disciples would've been filled with either panic or excitement, either the tomb of their leader and teacher had been robbed or he had risen from the dead. We might forget the significance of Peter and John running to the tomb, but when you imagine the excitement of the possibility that Jesus had returned it becomes evident that is not a small detail, it is a representation of their anticipation of hope, hope that Jesus' work had not ended with his death, but had only begun.

Application:

How often in our lives do we feel like the disciples felt after Good Friday. They all loved Jesus with all their hearts and yet now they felt lost and abandoned, like God had forsaken them. When times are tough on us, when we are struggling in the pain of the world we may feel that God is dead, that the unjust cruel world has led to God forsaking us and leaving us. What the resurrection shows to us is that Jesus will never abandon us, not even death can keep his overwhelming love from us. When we fall into the darkness of hardship and sin we must never think that God is far away. We should always have hope that he is there for us. I mentioned in the observation that it must have been hard for the disciples to get up in the morning after Jesus' death. But they still did, not only that, they still got together to pray because although their teacher was dead their hope remained strong. And when a small chance that Jesus had returned made itself visible they raced to find him. The next time that we feel the despair of the Apostles we should be like John and Peter praying even when all seems impossible and when the opportunity to find God comes, even if it is a faint sign or a small chance we should seize it and race to find and embrace him.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, I graciously ask that you grant me the fortitude to keep hope in the anticipation of your second coming. I pray that I will be able to run towards your love and understand that you will always come for us to deliver us from sin and evil. In your name I pray, Amen.

11 th / 12 th April ROSTERS			
	6pm Easter Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	B. Meleca M. Joseph	A. Espiritu P. Fleming	M. Ellis T. Jones
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge M. Wilkinson	J. Payra J. Cruz	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group – 2 Vera's Cleaning Crew (10 th April)		
Children's Liturgy	Resume on 26th April 2026		
Morning Tea	Payra & Cheung		
Counting	Group 3		

Youth Announcements

Life Skills Workshop – 11/4/2026

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. There are also printed flyers with all the details you can pick up at the back of church.

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