

# 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"*

## 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A 19TH APRIL 2026

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

### FIRST READING

Act 2 : 14, 22-33

#### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

*The word of the Lord*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 117

*Response: Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

### SECOND READING

1 Pet 1 : 17-21

#### A reading from the first letter of St Peter

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

*The word of the Lord*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Lk 24 : 13-35

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

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread *The Gospel of the Lord*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, 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: <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**

**Companionable  
Breaking of Bread**

This story is the story of each one of us at Mass. Each Mass is structured on the Road to Emmaus travelogue.

Two men set off on a journey of their own making. At the beginning of Mass we confess that we have gone off course.

The traveller helps the men on the road to Emmaus understand what had happened to Jesus of Nazareth by showing God's plan revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Scriptures expounded, revealing more fully the true identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Every so often you will experience the burning sensation in your heart as something that is said hits home.

The traveller takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them to eat. In that moment of bread-sharing, the two men recognised their travelling companion as the Risen Lord. Eat the bread consecrated at Mass, and we receive into our very being the Divine Companion for our journey through life.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the privilege at every Mass of having our eyes opened so that we recognise Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Alleluia!

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtat@bigpond.com](mailto:mtat@bigpond.com)

**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

**Mothers' Day Raffle**

Please support the Catholic Women's League with their annual raffle. Tickets sold after each Mass. SIX great prizes this year. \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5. **Cash only.**

**Adult Half Day Retreat on**

**"Our Lady Help of Christians"**

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026, Saturday

9am to 12pm

Holy Innocent Chapel, Kellyville

To enrol please scan this QR code or call the parish office.



## 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

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 - Luke 24: 13-35

**Observation** - Luke recounts the story of two men walking from a village named Emmaus to Jerusalem; about seven miles. And while they were talking, a stranger (who we know is Jesus) appears and walks beside them. Jesus asks what they were discussing, and one man, Cleopas answers (and rather bewilderedly). The men then go on to demonstrate their knowledge of Jesus and their hope in him to be the messiah. But they also show signs of doubt and hesitance to believe. It is only when the journey draws close to the end, and Jesus stays and breaks bread do they realise who was before them. And they were filled with hope and believed in the resurrection of Christ. They then got up and returned to Jerusalem at once to share the good news with the Apostles.

**Application** - The two men of this story can be a representation of us, the Church and the human experience of the Divine reality. As we journey in our Christian faith, we may encounter periods of uncertainty and doubt. We may even wander away from the Church. But Jesus, knowing fully our concerns, stays with us, walking beside. In the story, the importance of relationships and dialogue as the key thread binding relationships is highlighted. We need to actively share and be in dialogue with God to build a relationship. It says that as they approached the village, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther, but the men felt strangely comforted by his presence. With hearts burning, they invited Jesus to stay the night. And Jesus does so. In a similar manner, we too are full of desire to hear Jesus Christ speak to us and be with us. As we continue to build our relationships with God, we may also experience the similar desire and peace the men felt.

When Jesus breaks bread, the men finally recognise the stranger is Jesus himself, alive and resurrected, fulfilling Scripture. In our own experience, the Eucharist allows us to be in the presence of Christ. When we feel lost in our faith, it's moments like these - coming to mass each week, where we allow ourselves to invite Christ back into our lives again and again, that renews and strengthens our faith. Jesus knows our uncertainties and our concerns, he walks with us and knows exactly what we need. In breaking the bread, their eyes were opened. May we also be opened and recognise the living Christ in the Eucharist.

**Prayer** -Dear Jesus, You showed us the ultimate form of love: unconditional and sacrificial. Please guide us in times of uncertainty and despair. Open our eyes and hearts to the path you want us to take. Fill us with wisdom to make wise choices that lead us closer to you, so we too can be a reflection of the ultimate love you have shown to us. May we also share the love you have shown to us with others, and grant us the fortitude to persevere and return to you even in times of darkness. We ask this in your name, Amen.

25 <sup>th</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup> April ROSTERS			
	6pm Easter Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	A. Kanalaft A. Bentley	J. Nguyen M. Joseph	T. Lim M. Caga-Anan
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	B. Meleca A. Bentley	P. Hourigan C. Cheung	TBA
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (24 <sup>th</sup> April)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Maria F / Jesuina		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Julie & Jason		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 5		

### Youth Announcements

#### Youth Camp – 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026

This year our youth camp will be held from 7<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> July. It will be a 4 day camp in Katoomba. This year, our theme will be Pokemon! We will explore all the fruits of the holy spirit and learn how to catch them all! Come along for fun, laughs, growth, friendship, fellowship and memories. Please contact Brain Wong (0491 138 451) or Raphael Cheung (0420 947 121) for a registration form.

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