

# 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"*

## 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

### FIRST READING

Act 2 : 14, 36-41

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

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number. *The word of the Lord*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22

**Response:** *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit (R.)

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

### SECOND READING

1 Pet 2 : 20-25

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

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. *The word of the Lord*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

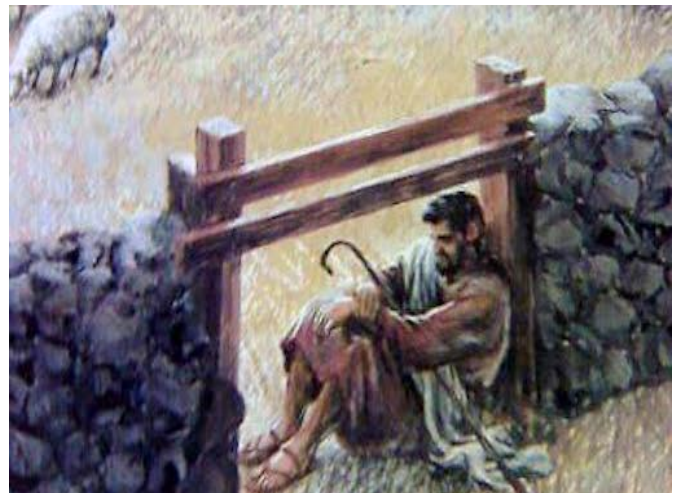
Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



### NO Weekday Mass

As Fr Ephraim will be in a retreat. The 9:15am Weekday Mass on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April (Tue to Thu) will be cancelled.

**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**

**The Shepherd's Voice**

In Jesus' time, the shepherd lead from the front: the sheep followed the sound of his voice to reach good pasture. Jesus describes other voices who might try to mislead the sheep as 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, Judas, the *thief* from the common purse of the disciples, led a group of temple guards and Roman soldiers to take Jesus by force.

Barabbas was a *brigand*, a leader of an insurrection. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem.

So, Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Popes of the modern era seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

We could pause for a moment to attune our ears to the sound of the Shepherd's voice and follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where we can have life, abundantly.

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

**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.



**Safeguarding in our Parish**

Due to an upgraded system for WWCC and Safeguarding within the Parramatta Diocesan Office, **ALL Children Liturgy Volunteers, Acolytes, Altar Servers' Leaders, Youth Group Leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Sacramental Program Teachers, Children's Choir Leaders, SRE Volunteers**, to please contact the Parish Office via email or you can come in on a Sunday between the hours of 9-11am, so we can get you all to fill out a new form that needs to be sent to the Diocesan Office. We also need to get a copy of your WWCC email that you receive from Service NSW.

We are happy to email the form to you for you to fill out at home and then return it to the office that would be very helpful.

Also **ANY** Parish volunteers that have done at least 3 units of the Safeguarding courses online can you please also contact the office on 9630 1951 or emailing us at [stmonicanp@bigpond.com](mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com), so we can also send you a form that needs to be filled out for the Diocesan Office.

If any volunteers are interested in the online training courses you can find them at <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/>

## 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)

### Scripture: John 10: 1-10

**Observation:** This week's scripture, Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd, as well as the door for the sheep which is the way to life. He also compared the ones who come before him thieves and robbers. This is in relation to the previous chapters where Jesus had just performed many signs and miracles such as restoring the sight of a blind man. The priests and the pharisees seek to arrest Jesus and tried to keep hold of power. Thieves and robbers seeks only to steal, kill and destroy, alluding to the selfish nature of the priests and pharisees who were supposed to be the shepherd of the sheep. The door to green pasture aka. life does not open for them but for Jesus only. The sheep who know the shepherd's voice will follow him, but they will not follow if he is a stranger to them. Jesus highlights the importance of listening and getting to know His voice amongst all the other noise in life, but also the importance of evangelization, for if we don't introduce people to Him, He is just a stranger and will not listen or follow. Lastly, he continues to proclaim his identity and that only through him will we have life.

**Application:** It is easy to forget God in our day to day life with all the hustle and bustle of school, work, social life, social media, and endless list of things to do. This passage reminds us that only those who know the shepherd will be able to follow him. The only way to know someone is to spend time with them, and that is the same with Jesus. We must remember to set aside time every day to pray and spend time with Him, and learn to listen to the voice of God. Many of us fall into the trap of just talking and asking God for things when we pray. Try to start a prayer with just pure silence for 30-60 seconds, and end it the same way, and try to be intentional in listening for God's voice in the silence. It is hard, as Jesus pointed out, even the pharisees don't know Him or the Father because they're so caught up in their worldly authority. You will find your mind wandering in silence but with perseverance, it will become easier. And what about those who don't know Jesus yet. Well Jesus makes it very clear in the coming verses that He is for everyone and the goal is to make one people of Christ, it is not exclusive to Jews or current Christians. Therefore we must spread the gospel through our action and love for the world.

### Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the good shepherd going after every lost sheep and bringing them to green pastures. Thank you for fighting the fight we cannot win, and sacrificing yourself for us who are not worthy. Please continue to guide us in our day to day lives through the Holy Spirit and your words so we may live a life that reflects your light to the world. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

**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.

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

2 <sup>nd</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> May ROSTERS			
	6pm Easter Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	E. Caruana K. Handcock	S. Joseph C. Cheung	M. Novak D. Llevado
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	K. Handcock M. Wilkinson	S. Joseph M. Joseph	TBA
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (1 <sup>st</sup> May)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Sheryl / Michelle		
<b>Morning Tea</b>			
<b>Counting</b>	Group 1		

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