

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"

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A 3RD MAY 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING

Act 6 : 1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32

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

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)

For 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.)

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.)

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2 : 4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14 : 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?'

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, 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

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

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.**

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, 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 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

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, 6.30pm, 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

Scripture: John 14: 1-12

Observation:

In this passage, Jesus reaffirms two core ideas of Catholicism to us, the idea that heaven is for us all, and that to get there, all you need to do is to believe in Jesus. On the night before Jesus' crucifixion, he prepares the hearts of his disciples, understanding that one of them has already betrayed him. He quiets their hearts as he tells them that he is preparing heaven for us all and that he will return to guide us there. When he speaks of rooms that he is to prepare for us, although some versions of the bible simply bring forth the idea of a room in a mansion, other translations bring the idea of dwelling, passing a greater sense of permanence, furthering the idea that the life that we can achieve in heaven is eternal. We should find comfort in that idea. Jesus then finally tells us that even though he will no longer be with us, the ministry of his work will undoubtedly be continued through the disciples and of course, us.

Application:

In this iconic passage, we can further understand some of the core aspects of our faith. Heaven, the relationship between God and Jesus, and the promise that is made to us when we do God's will in the world. Through this passage, we are reminded that heaven is truly the end goal, that it will be ready for us. Jesus goes so far to say that he is preparing a room for us. When one prepares a room, it is not hap-hazardly done. Making a room for someone captures the idea of rest, a safe place to dwell. Although we may not be able to grasp the idea of what this space may be, the idea of it still stands, that through God's love, there will be a space carved out for us, reminding us that even though we may not fully understand God, he understands us, and is ready for us.

We are also reminded the idea of how we will get there. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," Although seen as somewhat controversial in some people's eyes, demonstrates that Christianity is also exclusive in the sense that there is full forgiveness and eternal life, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. Finally, we are reassured a unifying factor in our catholic lives in regards to the idea of the trinity, in that Jesus is within God, and God is withing Jesus. That seeing Jesus is the exact same as seeing God. Not a portrayal, not an extension, but the exact same.

Prayer:

God, be my constant reminder to live a faithful life. That I might live by the love that you show me, that I may also show it to others and myself. Help be forgiving and patient as you are so that I may live the life you have lived amongst us. Do this so that I may be worthy of the room that you make me in the hopes that we can all be with you. In God's name we pray.

9 th /10 th May ROSTERS			
	6pm Easter Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	J. Kandalajt A. Bentley	M. Falamich J. Jacob	F. Lo D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson A. Bentley	J. Skulander J. Cruz	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (8 th May)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina / Julie		
Morning Tea	Jacob & Cecilia		
Counting	Group 2		

Youth Announcements

Youth Camp – 7th to 10th July 2026

This year our youth camp will be held from 7th July to 10th 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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