

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"

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A 10TH MAY 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING Act 8 : 5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32

Response: *Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!. (R.)

Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. (R.)

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Pet 3 : 15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14 : 15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.' *The Gospel of the Lord*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, 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

Parallel Truths

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: '*paraclete*'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you *another Paraclete* to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a *Paraclete*, and he would send *another*.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, parallel. They run alongside each other. A *paraclete* is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another *Paraclete* dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This *Paraclete* particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two *Paracletes*, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

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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

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 14:15-21 – “Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit”

Observation

Jesus addresses his disciples in today's narration, but his message isn't just for them. He's also speaking directly to you, since you are also a follower of Jesus. And just like the disciples, you're probably still figuring out what it means to be fully united with him. That's what the church is for. Jesus promises us that on some particular day, we'd be “in him”, and he'd be “in us”. Part of the “day” Jesus is referring to is Pentecost – the date that our church was born, uniting all of us Catholics into one interconnected body with Jesus as our head. Jesus also promises that he'd somehow reveal himself to us after his ascension into heaven, and this has come true as well - through the church's sacraments, in all of which he is present - as well as through his spirit, the Holy Spirit, which the disciples received during Pentecost. This is what Jesus means when he says that he'd send “the spirit of truth” to live not just among us, but inside each of us, and this has already happened - the moment you were baptised and became a member of his church.

Application

Today's gospel also teaches us that it is impossible to love Jesus without keeping God's commandments. It's actually one of the most important principles of living a Christian life, so much so that Jesus actually says it twice in the passage. There are too many people today who claim to be Christian, but don't do what God wants us to do. In fact, out of the 5,000,000 Catholics in Australia, less than 10% attend mass every Sunday. This is also why evangelisation is important. When Jesus says that we need to keep his commands, he doesn't just mean the “don'ts” of the Ten Commandments, but to also follow his other teachings, like to spread his word. Today, Jesus emphasises that even though the Holy Spirit dwells inside of us as Christians, this is not the case for the rest of the world, as there are still many people who know little about who Jesus really is. The best first step in evangelisation is to show such people what it really means to keep God's commandments - through love, kindness, charity, and all the other fruits of the Holy Spirit we received when we were baptised. And by setting them a good example they can imitate, we pave the way for them to truly love Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit, just as we and the disciples have.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, I thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit and the fact that it lives within me and unites me to you and your father. Help me also, to continue keeping your commandments and encourage others to do the same. Amen.

16 th /17 th May ROSTERS			
	6pm Easter Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Kandalajt S. Meleca	P. Fleming S. Younes	M. Ellis T. Jones
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Woolridge L. Iemma	J. Payra S. Joseph	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (15 th May)		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle / Maria F		
Morning Tea	Pinto Family		
Counting	Group 3		

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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