

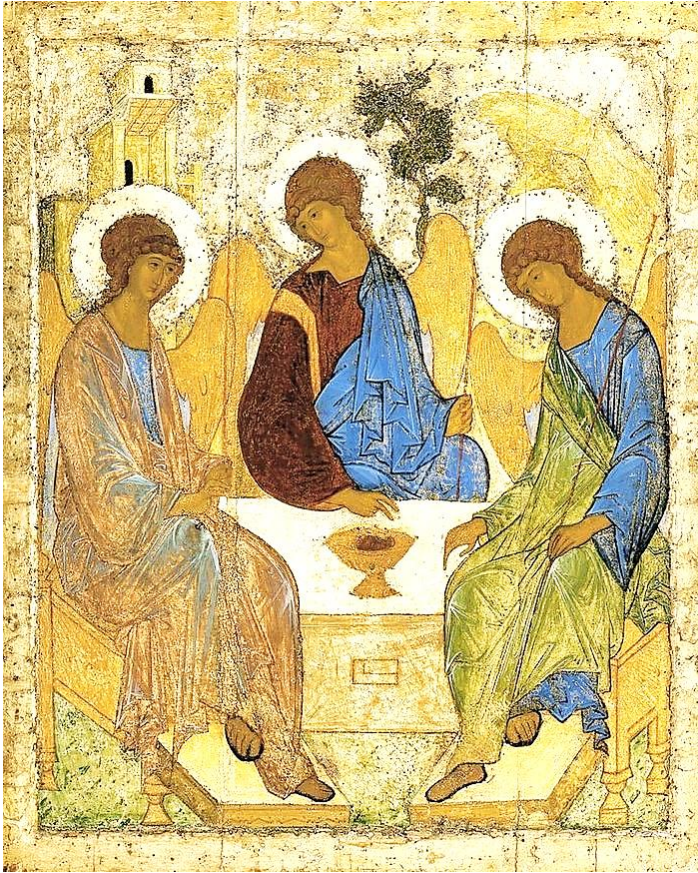
# St. Monica's Parish

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"*

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY – YEAR A**  
**31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026**



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.

## FIRST READING

Ex 34 : 4-6, 8-9

### A reading from the book of Exodus

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said, 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.' *The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Dan 3

**R: Glory and praise for ever!**

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers. (R.)  
Blest your glorious holy name. (R.)  
You are blest in the temple of your glory. (R.)  
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. (R.)  
You are blest who gaze into the depths. (R.)  
You are blest in the firmament of heaven. (R.)

## SECOND READING

2 Cor 13 : 11-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *The word of the Lord*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Jn 3 : 16-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St John

Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

**St. Monica's Catholic Parish**  
**Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta**

|  |  |                           |  |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| Sunday Masses:                                   | English: Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 6pm<br>Cantonese: Sunday 11.30am                                      |                           |  |
| Weekday Masses:                                  | English: Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am   |                           |  |
| Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: | Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am<br>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.<br>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<br>Sunday   | 8.30am-2.30pm<br>9am-11am | Phone:9630-1951<br>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**

**Painting the Picture of God**

When he was crucified Jesus uttered: 'It is finished.' What had finished? His earthly ministry during which he painted a picture of the most intimate communion between Himself, the Father, and the Holy Spirit, so intimate that the Church needed a new word: 'Tri-Unity' or 'Trinity' for short.

God is pulsating, shimmering light, dancing in threefold exchange of love, each being simultaneously poured into the other. God is 'Being-In-Love' and love is always relational.

You are made in the image and likeness of God. Because of the ministry of Jesus Christ, we know what that really means. We are made to live in relationship – not in solitary.

If we think that the ultimate good is to be self-sufficient or autonomous, that leads to a hellish existence. When we live with as much self-giving as is possible, we are on the way to a heavenly existence.

We could pause for a moment to give thanks for the revelation of the nature of God, and consequently of the true nature of human beings.

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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

**Youth Announcements**

**World Youth Day bake sale – 31<sup>st</sup> May**

World Youth Day 2027 will be held in Seoul, South Korea and 7 of our youths will be going on this pilgrimage. On the 31<sup>st</sup> May, we will be hosting our first fundraiser event which will be to help sponsor and provide financial aid to the youths go onto their pilgrimage and encounter God.

**World's Greatest Shave – 14<sup>th</sup> June**

For those who don't know, World's Greatest Shave is an initiative by The Leukaemia Foundation with the aim of raising money to support blood cancer research, help subsidize expensive treatment costs, and improve accessibility to treatment for people with blood cancers. We invite EVERYONE in the congregation to take part and join our effort to give back to those in need. For people who wants to support by shaving or cutting their hair, there will be a registration link/QR code on our poster at the entrance of church. The event will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> June in the hall where we will shave our heads together. Father Lam will also take part! We will also have a QR code for donation. Please refer to the poster for details.

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

This year our youth camp will be held from 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Brian Wong (0491 138 451) or Raphael Cheung (0420 947 121) for a registration form.

## PARISH ACTIVITES



### 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** via ZOOM. Resumed on 18<sup>th</sup> June, then every FIRST & THIRD Thursday of the month, 8pm-9pm, 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](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)

**Scripture:** John 3: 16-18

### Observation

The three verses in today's Gospel are probably the most well-known in the entire Bible. Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, a respected religious leader who knew the Scriptures inside and out. Despite this, he finds himself seeking Jesus out in the middle of the night. In this moment, Jesus doesn't give him any rules or requirements. He simply tells him the truth about God. That God loves the world so much that he gave his only Son, not to judge but to save. And that the only thing standing between any person and eternal life is whether they believe.

### Application

Like Nicodemus, we can sometimes find ourselves approaching God at a distance. We might know our faith well, attend mass, saying our prayers, yet we still carry doubts and questions. But what is beautiful about this passage is that Nicodemus came with more questions than answers, and Jesus did not turn him away. He simply met him there. He does the same for us.

As Catholics, we believe that the love God has given us is not just a memory or doctrine. It is made real and present at every Mass. In the Eucharist, we celebrate the same self-giving love that moved God to send his only Son, made tangible to us at the altar each week. We don't just remember his gift, we receive it.

Verse 17 might be the hardest verse to truly believe. Because if we're honest, most of us carry a quiet feeling that God must be at least a little disappointed in us. We know our sins and inconsistencies better than anyone. We know the gap between who we are and who we feel we should be. But Jesus is clear. He did not come to condemn. He came to save. And that promise is not just for the world in a general sense. It is for you, exactly as you are right now. We are not invited into a faith of fear. We are invited into a relationship with a God who sees us fully and chooses to love us anyway.

### Prayer

Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for loving us in a way we don't always feel we deserve. For sending your only Son not to condemn but to reach out and save. Help us to receive your love not just as something we know in our heads but something we carry in our hearts. That when we come to mass each week and receive you in the Eucharist, we would be reminded again that your gift to us is real. Help us to walk forward knowing that you are not here to condemn us but to save us through your greatest sacrifice.  
Amen

## Thanksgiving Mass

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishment of the Diocese of Parramatta**

31<sup>st</sup> May 2026, Sunday, 2pm

St. Patrick's Cathedral

**ALL are welcome.**

### 6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> June ROSTERS

|                                | 5pm Vigil   | 9am                    | 6pm                    |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Readers</b>                 | M. Joseph<br>E. Caruana                             | M. Joseph<br>S. Joseph | M. Novak<br>D. Llevado |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers</b> | A. O'Dwyer<br>L. Iemma                              | C. Cheung<br>M. Joseph | TBA                    |
| <b>Acolytes</b>                | P. Handcock   | N. Joseph              | A. Cheung              |
| <b>Cleaning</b>                | Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (5 <sup>th</sup> June) |                        |                        |
| <b>Children's Liturgy</b>      | Sheryl / Michelle                                   |                        |                        |
| <b>Morning Tea</b>             | Shankar & Mehaara                                   |                        |                        |
| <b>Counting</b>                | Group 5   |                        |                        |

COME JOIN OUR

## CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

**THURSDAY 4 JUNE | 6PM**

**6PM MASS AT OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO-CATHEDRAL, HARRIS PARK**

**7PM PROCESSION TO ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA**

**8PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT THE CATHEDRAL FORECOURT**