

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"

PENTECOST SUNDAY – YEAR A

24TH MAY 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

FIRST READING

Act 2 : 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 103

R: *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.*

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches. **(R.)**

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **(R.)**

May the glory of the Lord last for ever! May the Lord rejoice in his works! May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 12 : 3-7, 12-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. *The word of the Lord*

Please sing the Sequence.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 20 : 19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven:

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord



COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, 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 & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:	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 Sunday	8.30am-2.30pm 9am-11am	Phone:9630-1951 Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma Phone: 8832 4100 Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

Sequence	Eucharistic Congress 2028 Prayer
<p>Holy Spirit, Lord of light, From the clear celestial height Thy pure beaming radiance give. Come, thou Father of the poor, Come with treasures which endure; Come, thou light of all that live! Thou, of all consolers best, Thou, the soul's delightful guest, Dost refreshing peace bestow; Thou in toil art comfort sweet; Pleasant coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe. Light immortal, light divine, Visit thou these hearts of thine, And our inmost being fill: If thou take thy grace away, Nothing pure in man will stay; All his good is turned to ill. Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour thy dew; Wash the stains of guilt away: Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray. Thou, on us who evermore Thee confess and thee adore, With thy sevenfold gifts descend: Give us comfort when we die; Give us life with thee on high; Give us joys that never end.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Mass on 25th May 2026, Monday, 9:15am The Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patron Saint of Australia ALL are welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Youth Announcements</p> <p>Youth Camp – 7th to 10th July This year our youth camp will be held from 7th 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 Brian Wong (0491 138 451) or Raphael Cheung (0420 947 121) for a registration form.</p> <p>World's Greatest Shave – 14th 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 14th 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.</p> <p>World Youth Day bake sale – 31st 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 31st 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.</p>

PARISH ACTIVITES

Month + Corner



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

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

Thanksgiving Mass

40th Anniversary of Establishment of the Diocese of Parramatta

31st May 2026, Sunday, 2pm
St. Patrick's Cathedral

ALL are welcome.

Scripture: John 20:19-23

Observation:

In this week's Gospel, the disciples are gathered in a locked room, hiding because they are afraid after everything that had happened to Jesus. But then, Jesus appears among them. Instead of questioning them or rebuking them for their fear, His first words are, "Peace be with you." Jesus meets His disciples with understanding and reassurance, bringing them peace in the middle of their anxiety and uncertainty. He then shows them His hands and side as proof of His resurrection — the wounds of His suffering now becoming signs of hope and new life.

Jesus then gives His disciples a mission, saying, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." In this moment, the disciples are strengthened and filled with the Holy Spirit, marking the beginning of the Church's mission to bring God's love, peace, and forgiveness to the world.

Application:

Many people today live behind their own version of "locked doors" — anxiety, guilt, disappointment, or fear of the future. This week's Gospel reminds us that Jesus can enter even the places where we hide ourselves away. His peace is deeper than our circumstances because it comes from His victory over sin and death. We are reminded that He loves every part of us, even the parts we struggle to accept or try to keep hidden, and He is constantly reaching out to draw us closer to Him.

As Catholics, we are called not only to receive Christ's peace, but also to share it with others through mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. Jesus sends His disciples into the world despite their fear and weakness, showing us that God works through imperfect people. Rather than relying only on ourselves, we are invited to trust in the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

Prayer:

Jesus, please come into the locked places of my heart and remove my anxiety, doubt, and fear. Breathe Your Holy Spirit upon me and renew my faith. Help me to trust in Your presence and to live as Your disciple in the world. Teach me to forgive as You forgive and to become an instrument of Your mercy and peace. Lord, send me with courage to share Your love with others. May my life reflect the joy of the resurrection and the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

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

30 th /31st May ROSTERS			
	6pm Easter Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha M. Joseph	B. Hooker J. Nguyen	T. Lim M. Caga-Anan
Extraordinary Ministers	TBA	TBA	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (29 th May)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria F / Jesuina		
Morning Tea	Cindy & Stella		
Counting	Group 1		