

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”

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

14TH JUNE 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

FIRST READING

Ex 19 : 2-6

A reading from the book of Exodus

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, “You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.”’

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99

R: We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 5 : 6-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that

Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God’s anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation. *The word of the Lord*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!



The kingdom of God is near; repent and believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 9 : 36 – 10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.’

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

‘Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.’

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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

COMMENTARY

Guts in a Knot

When Jesus saw the crowds 'he felt sorry for them'. The Greek original actually says 'his guts were in a knot'. When Jesus saw a desperate need he found it stomach-churning stuff.

Our bodies often tell us what we should pray for. Another good signal is tears, not only of sadness but also of joy.

Body-felt impulse and prayer go together, whether celebrating good things or confronting bad things. This is what our Lord wants and, where possible, leading to effective action... labourers in the harvest.

So, when our body gives us the signal – stomach in a knot, or tremendous joy flooding into our lives – follow the body's signals. Pray for the person or the situation concerned. You can be sure that your prayer will be authentic.

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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

Youth Camp – 7th to 10th July

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 Brian Wong (0491 138 451) or Raphael Cheung (0420 947 121) for a registration form.

World's Greatest Shave – 14th Jun

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. The event will take place on 14th June in the hall where we will shave our heads together. Father Lam will also take part! For people who wants to support by shaving or cutting their hair, please contact Cheryl Wong (0481 507 169). Please donate via the QR code.



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 18th 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
Deadline for enrolment of First Eucharist: 3rd July 2026

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal 2026 on 27th & 28th June

Your donation can provide healthy meals, help with living expenses and accommodation assistance, for somebody at risk of or experiencing homelessness. And your gift can provide the lasting, long-term support that helps someone find a safe, secure and sustainable place to live.

20th /21st June ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Kandalaft K. Handcock	J. Jacob P. Fleming	M. Ellis T. Jones
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock C. North	J. Skulander J. Payra	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (19 th June)		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle / Maria F		
Morning Tea	Jacob & Cecilia		
Counting	Group 3		

Scripture: Matthew 9:36-10:8

Observation:

This week's Gospel begins with the description of Jesus' compassion for the lost and that whilst many need to hear the good news, there are not enough spreaders of the news, or "labourers" in this metaphor. As such, Jesus summons his twelve disciples, naming each and every one of them, appointing them with a special task of proclaiming the good news. He sends the disciples out, giving them authority and power over unclean spirits, and thus the ability to cast them out and cure the sick. Specifically, he instructs the disciples to start proclaiming the good news that the kingdom of heaven is near to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" and to cure and cleanse without payment.

Application:

There is a plethora of things we can learn from this week's Gospel, the first being Jesus' mercy. He is full of compassion for the lost, the sick and the suffering. In times of distress or lack of direction, He calls all of us to look at him and He answers with guidance and love, just like the righteous and good shepherd He is. The next thing I'd like to focus on is vocation. Just as Jesus calls the disciples to spread the good news, giving them the authority to heal and cleanse, we are all called to our own vocations to spread the good news of God's kingdom; to be instruments of God in spreading this message and His gifts to others. We are all blessed with unique vocations, yet vocations are not things we earn without our independent efforts, they are gifts from God to which humans must respond, particularly with persistent prayer. Before sending the disciples out on their missions, Jesus first instructs them to "therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Let this be a reminder to continue including vocations in our prayer intentions. It is also important to remember that God did not send us into these missions alone, God gifts us the sacraments to help us in spreading the good news. Particularly, through the blessed sacrament of the Eucharist, we are provided both the physical memorial of His Passion and allowed to be in complete communion with Christ. We are assured that His bodily presence continues to accompany us in our vocations and pilgrimages and that, truly, the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life". Finally, Jesus not only calls us to spread the good news, but to start with those around us, especially those around us that we know are lost, and to do so with humility. Just as Jesus has freely sacrificed Himself for our salvation, we too should respond by freely offering our lives to Him and to those around us; with the sacraments, fervent prayer and genuine love.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your invitation to spread your good news through our vocations and the gifts of the sacraments to help us in doing so. Thank you for sending your only Son and through whom we are saved. Fill us with love, humility and obedience so that we may be in perfect communion with you. We pray for vocations, so that we may spread your good news in steadfast love. By the power of the Holy Spirit and your true presence in the Holy Eucharist, strengthen us with your grace so that we may live according to your will and be led to the fullness of salvation In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.