

# 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”*

## TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2026

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

### FIRST READING

Jer 20 : 10-13

#### A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah said: ‘I hear so many disparaging me, “Terror from every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, “Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!” But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.’ *The word of the Lord*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99

*R: Lord, in your great love, answer me.*

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)

The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

### SECOND READING

Rom 5 : 12-15

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

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of ‘law-breaking’, yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

*The word of the Lord*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Mt 10 : 26-33

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

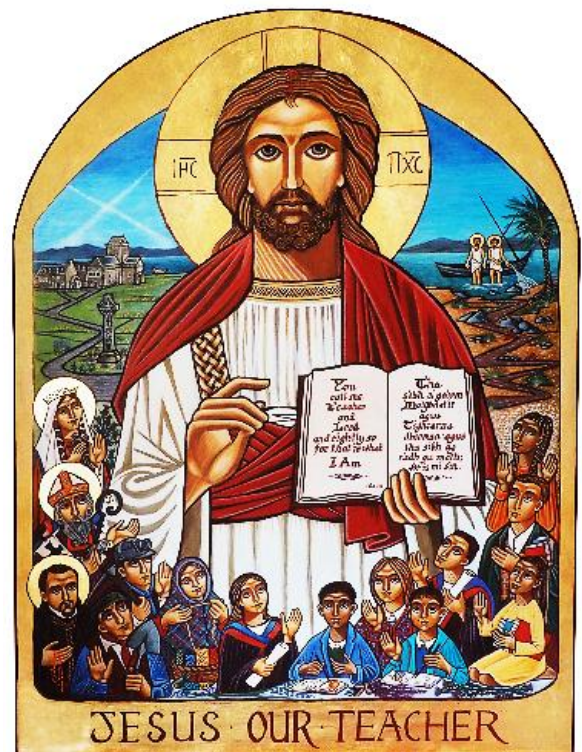
Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

‘So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.’ *The Gospel of the Lord*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.



**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: <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 8.30am-2.30pm Phone:9630-1951 Sunday 9am-11am 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**

**House-tops and Sparrows**

Our Gospel reads: '... not one [sparrow] falls to the ground without your Father knowing.'

But that is a bad translation. The Greek simply says 'not one [sparrow] will fall to the ground without your Father.' Full stop! Our Heavenly Father accompanies a dying sparrow as it dies! That is the measure of the Creator's love for all creatures. God wants to – does – enter into the moment of death, *our* moment of death.

Now, that *would* be consoling if I were facing what Jesus was foreseeing for his disciples in the first century.

One of the first Christian groups to hear this Gospel was that set around the Tigris River running through Baghdad in modern day Iraq. During the warfare that raged there, that Christian community faced terrible persecution from fanatical Muslims. We can barely imagine hearing today's Gospel amongst the remnant, left in Baghdad today. How does 'Do not be afraid' really sound to them?

So, we could pause for a moment to pray for those for whom today's Gospel is a challenge beyond our imagining.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtat@bigpond.com](mailto:mtat@bigpond.com)

**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

**Peter's Pence**

Please support the ministries of our Pope. Special donations will be collected on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**Adult Half Day Retreat on**

***"Jesus' Precious Blood"***

***4<sup>th</sup> July 2026, Saturday | 9am to 12pm***

***Holy Innocent Chapel, Kellyville***

***To enrol please scan this***

***QR code or call the parish office.***



**The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to...**



Act with Justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person

Act with justice and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount



## 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)  
**Deadline for enrolment of First Eucharist: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**

## Youth Announcements

### 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> July 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.

Scripture - Matthew 10:26-33

### Observations

In the passage, Jesus teaches that the truth will eventually be revealed and that His followers should boldly share His message with others. Jesus begins the passage telling us to fear God, but by fearing him you come to know his power and helps us recognise how much he does for us to guide us to Him. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is constantly teaching us about the love of our Father. When we proclaim about Jesus, we then preach the expression of God's love shown to man through Jesus. He then states, "do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows", which for context, sparrows were often worth very little at the time. So Jesus teaches that if God watches over even the sparrows, then we can be confident that He values and cares for us even more. Jesus in the Gospel is essentially giving us a guide on how to live the way he wants us to and reminds us that He holds power like nobody else, and that we should trust in God and praise Him in all that we do.

### Application

Today's gospel teaches that we should not be afraid, but instead trust in God and boldly live out our faith. Jesus tells His followers that what is revealed in private should be shared openly, encouraging us to proclaim His message with confidence. He also reminds us that while people may have power over the body, only God has authority over our eternal lives so our complete trust should be in Him. Jesus tells us to "fear Him who can destroy", which is not saying that we should be afraid of God, but rather recognise His lasting power over our eternal souls. Fear of God shouldn't be terror, but about acknowledging His authority and allowing that respect to guide us towards His truth through prayer and the Bible. At the same time, Jesus shows that God deeply cares for us, using the example of the sparrows and explaining that even the hair on our head is counted revealing that nothing in our lives goes unnoticed. It reminds us to trust that God values us and is aware of everything in our lives which can give us confidence when feeling unsure or pressured by others. Jesus then emphasises that those who acknowledge Him before others will be acknowledged before God, highlighting the importance of unwavering faithfulness. This passage challenges us to live more openly as Catholics, not just in prayer but being aware of small decisions like how we treat others, the choice we make and whether our actions will reflect our faith.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for your loving and caring towards me. Please give me the strength to put my faith into action and to acknowledge your truth to others. Help me to remember that I will always be valuable to you, and you understand me better than anybody else can ever understand me. Guide me to trust in your ways in all that I do. Amen.

### 27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> June ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	B. Meleca G. Basha	S. Younes S. Jacob	E. Saleh N. Sindayen
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	B. Meleca M. Woolridge	P. Hourigan S. Joseph	TBA
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (26 <sup>th</sup> June)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Julie / Sheryl		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Pinto Family		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 4		