

# 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"*

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

### FIRST READING

2 Kgs 4 : 8-11, 14-16

#### A reading from the second book of Kings

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.' *The word of the Lord*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 88

**R: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

### SECOND READING

Rom 6 : 3-4, 8-11

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

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

*The word of the Lord*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God will called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.  
Alleluia!



### GOSPEL

Mt 10 : 37-42

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

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

**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**

**Christianity not a Cult**

In the early Church, Christianity ripped families apart. Good Jewish families would have been appalled to see their sons and daughters go off to follow a crucified blasphemer. Good reason to keep apart in the synagogue, avoiding damnable pollution. This sectarianism contrasted with the Christians who fearlessly went out into the world.

St John Paul II personified what it is to be Catholic. But, he pressed a prayer into a crack in the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and as an old man shuffled across the floor of a Mosque in Syria.

Of course, there was no compromise of belief and faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, denied by both Jews and Muslims. But his actions were not those of one with the siege mentality of the member of a cult. Rather, he was able to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to take these steps recognising what was good amongst the adherents of those faiths.

We could pause for a moment to implore the Holy Spirit to break us out from any constricting cult-like tendencies so that we can go out into the world powerfully proclaiming the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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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

**Peter's Pence 2026**

Please support the ministries of our Pope. Special donations will be collected today. You can either donate cash or scanning the QR code for internet banking. THANKS!

[www.obolodisanpietro.va/en/dona.html](http://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en/dona.html)



**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.***



## 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 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**

## St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal 2026 on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> July

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.

### 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> July ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
<b>Readers</b>	A. Bentley E. Caruana	A. Espiritu B. Hooker	F. Lo D. Cruz
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	A. Bentley M. Wilkinson	M. Joseph J. Payra	TBA
<b>Acolytes</b>	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
<b>Cleaning</b>	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (3 <sup>rd</sup> July)		
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Resume on 26 July 2026		
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Jason & Beth		
<b>Counting</b>	Group 5		

Scripture - Matthew 10:37-42

**Observation** - At a first glance, Jesus appears almost callous and his messaging paradoxical in today's gospel - stating anyone who loves their family more than Him or is unwilling to 'take up their cross' is considered unworthy, and whoever finds their life will actually 'lose it'. However, Jesus is trying to emphasise the importance of loving and maintaining our relationship with Him first and foremost, because this will inform how we interact with others. By choosing to commit ourselves totally to Christ will also guide us in how we navigate life and challenges as a Catholic - for example, the Gospel and Jesus' teachings may not be well received by all - despite this, we cannot give into the pressures of society, or fall victim to broader, worldly and material desires of this world as this will only lead to spiritual loss. Jesus ends with a hopeful, practical message, reminding us that being welcoming and inviting to others - and even a small act of kindness to a fellow believer ("If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple") will not go unnoticed.

**Application** - Today's gospel gives us an opportunity to reflect on our relationships with Jesus and other people. Take the time to consider if you have been praying, talking and listening to God, thinking about the ways Jesus presented Himself to others. In practical terms, it could include being more mindful and intentional with your thoughts and actions as you go about your daily life or practice being giving and self-sacrificial, even in small moments. When we choose to love Christ and be more like Him, this will teach us how to treat others, believers and non-believers alike.

**Prayer** - Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me despite my many flaws, and how far I may have strayed from you. Help me to always come back to you and may you always serve as a reminder for how I should be navigating life, its challenges and my relationships with others. I pray that others may be able to see the face of God in me through my love and my actions. Amen.

## Youth Announcements

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

### World's Greatest Shave – on 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 2026

Thank you everyone for the support! We raised \$13,951 in total! This will go to The Leukemia Foundation.

### World Youth Day Bake Sale – on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Again, thank you everyone for your support. We raised \$1,501 which will go towards sponsoring our youths going to World Youth Day next year.