

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"

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

26TH JULY 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING

1 Kgs 3 : 5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.' *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 118

R: Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. (R.)

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. (R.)

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. (R.)

Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 8 : 28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory. *The word of the Lord*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13 : 44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.' *The Gospel of the Lord*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.



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 8.30am-2.30pm Phone: 9630-1951 Sunday 9am-11am Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

The Language of Heaven

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is St John Henry Newman's image of Hell.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There would be lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

© Fr Michael Tate

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

**St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal
on 25th & 26th July 2026**

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.

You can donate cash, or use the special envelope and put into the collection bags.

Online donation using the QR code is also welcome.

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/winter-appeal-nsw>



NO WEEKDAY MASS

The 9:15am Mass on 30th & 31st July 2026 (Thursday & Friday) will be cancelled as Fr Ephraim will join a retreat.

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. 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



Voices of St Monica's Choir Needs You Children & Youth welcome!

Rehearsal: Every Sunday during school term, 10 - 11:25am
Enquiries and Registration: Winnie Cheung, 0405 608 691
or email: winnieklau@yahoo.com.au

Scripture: Matthew 13:44-52

Observation:

In life, there are many things we consider valuable. While this varies from person to person, many would list things like career, relationship, possessions and so on. And while everyone justifies the value of something differently, generally, the more valuable something is viewed as, the more we are willing to sacrifice for it. In today's Gospel, Jesus likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a hidden treasure and a pearl. In both these parables, the individuals who discover this treasure are more than willing to sell everything they have in order to acquire it. While you may imagine that selling all you have would be difficult in an emotional sense, there is not a mention of reluctance in either of these two parables, and instead in the first parable, the man was joyful as he bought the field. This is a joy that can only be found in knowing that what you are buying is so much more valuable than everything else.

Following Christ and being faithful is often considered through the lens of sacrifice and obligation, but in these parables, Jesus instead draws our attention to the reward. If we are able to truly understand the value of God's Kingdom and put our faith above all else, then choosing Him becomes the easiest thing we can do.

Jesus also shares the parable of the fishing net. While the message of the wicked and righteous being judged in the end is quite obvious, it is important to remember that simply counting yourself amongst the faithful is not enough. We have to actively live out this faith rather than just listen to the Word.

Application:

The Gospel encourages us to reflect on the things we value the most. It is quite easy to devote time to the things in our worldly life like work, study or physical possessions while leaving God whatever time is left. However Jesus challenges this, inviting us to place him in the centre of our lives. The parables remind us that nothing we give up for Him compares to the reward we will receive.

We are also reminded not to become lukewarm. We should be actively nurturing our faith and applying what we learn through the Gospel in our daily lives. By always seeking God, we are not only preparing ourselves to accept the Kingdom of God, but are also able to live out our faith here and now.

Prayer:

Dear God, please help us to recognise the true value of our faith, and to put our relationship with you above all else. Give us courage to follow you with joy, trusting that your plans are greater than our own. Help us to spread this joy to those around us, so that we may be ready to fully accept your reward. Amen.

1st / 2nd August ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	E. Caruana K. Handcock	P. Fleming J. Jacob	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	L. Iemma B. Meleca	M. Law J. Payra	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (31 st July)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl / Julie		
Morning Tea	TBA		
Counting	Group 4		