

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"

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

2ND AUGUST 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

FIRST READING

Is 55 : 1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144

R: *The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.*

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger,
abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them
their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant
the desires of all who live. (R.)

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him, call on him
from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 8 : 35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 14 : 13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children *The Gospel of the Lord*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.



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

Feeding of the Hungry Crowd

Note the disciples' reaction to the plight of the hungry crowd: 'Send the people away so that *they* can buy.' The disciples have gone for the fix which puts no responsibility on them. They are willing to entrust the hungry crowd to market forces. Those with money can eat: those without, can't. For the disciples, money and commerce are the answers to hunger.

Jesus rejects that solution. 'There is no need for them to go; give them something to eat yourselves.' The solution to the hunger of that crowd was to give generously what little the disciples had. What they could have kept for themselves was to become gift. Once the disciples were in Jesus' frame of mind, the hunger of the crowd was satisfied. How did this come about? The answer lay in human cooperation with the impulse of Divine generosity which knows no limits. The story simply says that Jesus blessed and broke the loaves 'and handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd.' Jesus depended on the disciples to obey him: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'.

Jesus still looks with gut-wrenching compassion on those who are hungry in our own society and throughout the world. If we answer that market forces will suffice, Jesus will reject our answer as decisively as he rejected the answer of his earliest disciples. We have to take responsibility to share what we have, to be generous with what we have. After all, Jesus, Our Lord and Master, *commands* us: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. Note how Jesus blessed those loaves and broke them before they were distributed, which reminds us of the words of Pedro Arrupe, former General of the Jesuits, 'Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in the world.'

We could pause for a moment at Mass to ask: Who are those hungry people crowding in on us, and then pray that we may respond to them as our Lord commanded, so that the hungry of the crowd, and our hunger to really follow our Lord, *will be satisfied*.

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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

SPECIAL MASSES IN AUGUST 2026

Solemnity of St Mary MacKillop

5th August 2026 (Wed) 9:15am

Solemnity of The Assumption of Mary Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

14th August 2026 (Fri) 7:30pm

15th August 2026 (Sat) 9am

PARISH ACTIVITIES



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

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

On 16th August 2026, Simon Carrington will come to the Youth Group Session at 10:30am and share his new book on chastity. All members and leaders are welcome!

Scripture – Matthew 14:13-21

Observation:

There will be times in our life where we have suffered or failed, feel uncertain about the future or feel hurt or grief and it is important not to give into these emotions and feelings of despair. We see this in the Gospel of Matthew today through Jesus. After having made known the death of John the Baptist, Jesus, like many others who lose a loved one, would've been overcome with grief and sorrow, and yet he is full of compassion when he sees a crowd of followers. It is evident then, that in these moments of darkness, we should not give into these emotions and sense of failure or anguish, but rather to offer what we have and embrace the love that God so wants to bestow us.

Jesus also reveals his divinity in performing the miracle of completely alleviating the hunger of men and women using what seems to be a measly number of resources. The crowd was made up of five thousand men, not including women and children, and yet when all they had was five loaves and two fish, Jesus takes them, blesses them and breaks the loaves and gives them to the disciples to feed the people. Every person that ate was satisfied with twelve baskets of food to spare. Jesus thereby shows whatever that can be offered to God, is multiplied, providing true satisfaction in abundance.

Application:

It can feel easy to follow Christ and live a faithful life when things are going well; when there is little uncertainty, stress, or broken relationships in our life. However, Jesus is overwhelmingly compassionate when all we can offer is our faith in him even when there is brokenness around us. No matter who we are, young or old, poor or rich, we can offer what we have to participate in the faith. And Jesus having shown that even with scarce resources, he multiplies what is giving up to him. So, with our humble offerings, whatever they may be – 10 minutes to listen to daily scripture, a decade of the rosary or an Our Father, Jesus will perform great works and give us the fill that we need.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Help us in times of uncertainty, anguish and unease, and show a compassionate heart to others. Grant us the fortitude to trust in your love and generosity especially when we are doubtful, disheartened or feeling lukewarm. Guide us to meet with those who hunger and are in need and help us to reveal the fulfillment of the Word to others. Amen.

8th / 9th August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha A. Bentley	A. Espiritu S. Younes	F. Lo D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley K. Handcock	J. Cruz S. Joseph	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (7 th August)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina / Maria		
Morning Tea	TBA		
Counting	Group 5		