

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"

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

16TH AUGUST 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.



FIRST READING

Is 56 : 1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 66

R: O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Rom 11 : 13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of

you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 15 : 21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel

according to St Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again *The Gospel of the Lord*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

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

On Catholic Dogs

A pagan woman approaches a Jewish man and she begs Jesus to heal her daughter.

Jesus gives a dismissive answer to the woman: 'It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the house dogs.' The children are obviously the Jewish people.

This remarkable pagan woman stands her ground and engages in a verbal joust with Jesus! She argues: 'Yes, Lord, but even the house dogs get the crumbs that fall from their master's table.'

Jesus recognises her faith and the daughter was healed. This story was put in the Gospels to show how Jesus extended his saving mission to non-Jews in Pagan territory.

That is Good News for billions of non-Jewish people over the course of history since then and into the future. That is why we are truly 'Catholic', which, as you know, is the Greek for 'world-wide'.

We could pause for a moment to celebrate this Canaanite woman as the first 'Catholic'!

© 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

A Heartfelt Thank You from the St Vincent de Paul Society

We sincerely thank you all for your generous donations. Your kindness and support have made a meaningful difference to those doing it tough this winter. Your generosity helps bring comfort, hope, and assistance to individuals and families in need.

On behalf of everyone at Vinnies, thank you for helping us support our community.

Vinnies, St Monica's North Parramatta Conference

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. Resume on 7th Oct 2026, then 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

SOAP Reflection 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Scripture- today's scripture comes from the book of Matthew, specifically Matthew 15: 21-28. Put briefly, it recounts an encounter Jesus has with a Canaanite woman begging him to help her daughter who was troubled by the devil. Though he initially says nothing, and though his disciples beg him to send her away, the woman persists. As a result, though a Canaanite, Jesus acknowledges her faith and cured her daughter.

Observation- Something I observed that seemed quite interesting to me was that Jesus seemingly ignores her in the beginning. At first, I was somewhat perplexed. Why would Jesus, the epitome of love and compassion, ignore a woman so obviously in need of help?

If you consider it a bit more, it becomes apparent that while Jesus does at first say nothing, it isn't out of irritation, but rather he seems to be gauging her. Even when the disciples try to get him to rebuff her, he merely explains that he was only sent to save the those lost descendants of the House of Israel. In this way, rather than sending her away, he seeming gives her a chance to explain herself, and in doing so, she is able to prove her faith. She kneels before him, and kneeling while obviously a sign of fealty, is also an acknowledgement that she recognizes Jesus as who he truly is – it is something that has been echoed by many others in the Gospel.

Application- While there is a lot more that can probably be analyzed, the important thing to take away from this Gospel is that salvation is not just limited to the house of David, but rather, to those who display true faith. And therefore, while it is so easy to just ignore those who do not believe in God, under the pretext that there is no point helping them, it is important to remember that this is not necessarily the case. It is precisely because of faith being the key to salvation that as Catholics we have a duty to also give others a chance at it, and to spread the word as far as we can, even through the simplest things in our daily lives.

Prayer- Today, while reading this Gospel, I pray that we can be reminded that God's love and hope for us extends past those who are Catholic and to those who do not currently have a place for him in their hearts. May we have the courage to go towards them and reach out a helping hand – a hand free of judgement, and full of care. I pray that all those currently lost find their way towards you in the hopes that they too can experience your salvation. Amen.

22nd / 23rd August ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	B. Meleca C. Meleca	M. Falamich M. Joseph	E. Saleh N. Sindayen
Extraordinary Ministers	C. North A. O'Dwyer	J. Skulander C. Cheung	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (21 st August)		
Children's Liturgy	Julie / Jesuina		
Morning Tea	Cindy & Stella		
Counting	Group 2		