

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"



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A 30TH AUGUST 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING

Jer 20 : 7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62

R: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Rom 12 : 1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16 : 21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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

'Get behind me, Satan'

We have to get one terrible thought out of our heads, i.e. that the Heavenly Father of Jesus *wanted* him to suffer a tortured, agonising death. Yet we do say: 'It was necessary that Jesus suffer and die.' What can this mean? I believe this refers to the necessity of divine mission and the necessity of divine love.

First, it *was* the Father's will that Jesus remain true to the mission to preach and embody the gospel of mercy and forgiveness. It was inevitable that powerful elites would find this intolerable and have Jesus eliminated. Secondly, God so loved the world where death ravages human beings, that God determined to absorb the suffering and pangs of death.

The temptation to avoid that dreadful necessity lead Jesus to rebuke Peter: 'Get *behind* me, Satan', a terrible variation of the initial call: 'Come, *follow* me.'

We could pause for a moment to very consciously make the sign of the Cross, the consequence of Jesus' mission and love for us.

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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

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

World Youth Day Fundraising Bake Sale

On **20th Sept 2026**, Sunday, we shall have a bake sale, raising funds in supporting our youths to 2027 World Youth Day in South Korea. There will be mooncakes (sweet potato and red bean flavor), **\$5 for one, \$20 for six**. Pre-order is necessary, which can be made on **31st Aug** and **6th Sept 2026**.

HSC Blessing

Blessing for HSC students this year will be made at Masses on **27th Sept 2026**.

Life-Skills Workshop

On **10th Oct 2026** (Sat, 10am-3pm) there will be another round of life-skills workshop. The topic is "**public speaking skills**". Come along if you want to ace your next presentation! There will be a small fee to help cover the cost of lunch. Our **annual trivia night** will be followed. Contact Cheryl Wong (0481 507 169) or Raphael Cheung (0420 947 121) if you are interested.

St Monica's Got Talent

The 3rd season of St Monica's Got Talent will be back on **28th Nov 2026, 7pm!** If you would like to perform, please contact Raphael Cheung (0420 947 121) to register your act. Any kind of acts are welcome, so you can show off your dance moves, beat boxing, juggling, martial arts, etc. Let our community see your talents and praise God! All proceeds will go towards the repair and maintenance of the parish church and hall.

No Weekday Mass from 1st to 4th September 2026
(Tuesday to Friday)

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

2026 Father's Day Appeal

There will be special collections at the Masses on 5th & 6th September for supporting our retired clergies.

Scripture: Matthew 16: 21-27

Observation:

In today's gospel, Jesus begins to foretell his passion, in which the disciples are struggling to accept and understand. Jesus speaks of the great suffering he must go through at the hands of the elders, priests and scribes, and eventually be killed in the cruellest way, crucifixion, and then be raised on the third day. Here Jesus is talking about an eternal victory and glory when he is raised, conquering death and the devil. The disciples do not understand this because they cannot fathom the possibility of His death and resurrection because they are looking at it from an Earthly perspective. So Peter decides to take matters into his own hands and rebuke Jesus, at which Jesus calls him Satan. This is because Peter had shown disobedience to the Lord by speaking against His plan. Then He tells the disciples what it means to obey and be a true disciple. Now He never specifically says he will die on the cross here but He said that to be His disciple, we must carry our cross and renounce ourselves and our old lives. In Jesus's time, the cross symbolizes death and suffering, and so He is saying that to follow Him, we will have to face all kinds of persecutions and suffering. However, Jesus also turns the cross from being a symbol of death to a symbol of His glory and new life. So His invitation for us to carry our crosses is not only to symbolize the trials and tribulations we will face as Christians, but the death of our old ways and the birth of a new life with Christ.

Application:

In our daily lives, we will often have to face situations that does not immediately make sense to us, and may go against our natural reflexes, for example, putting our own public image as priority and obsessing over it (sin of vanity). We may choose to do something that is wrong or against our belief, against God, just to fit into the society's mould and be liked by others. These and many worldly temptations are part of the cross we must carry in order to be a Christians. The battle is long, and may seem impossible, but Jesus has already conquered the cross and changed it forever, so we must also take great peace and trust in God that when we fight against our worldly desires, God is fighting with us. When we wear our crosses on our neck or wrist, or hang it up in our home or car, let it not be reduced to mere jewellery or decoration, but we are displaying a sign of Jesus's sacrifice, our fight against sin and our wish to be a disciple of Jesus.

Prayer:

Father, give us the strength to not walk away from you when we are faced with temptations and trials, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Remind us when we stray from you the cross that we bear, and let it be a sign to the world that You are the way. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

5th / 6th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	K. Handcock E. Caruana	P. Fleming C. Cheung	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock M. Woolridge	S. DeAraujo S. Joseph	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (4 th September)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl / Julie		
Morning Tea	Michael & Sando		
Counting	Group 4		