

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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A 13TH SEPTEMBER

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the prophet Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102

R: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults (R.)

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 14 : 7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. *The word of the Lord*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

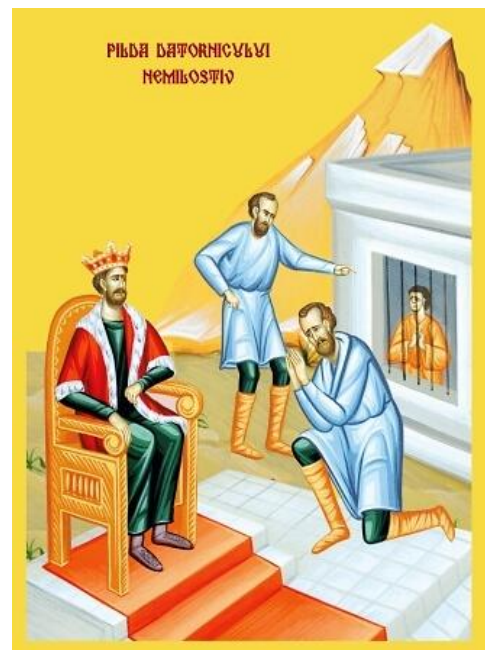
GOSPEL

Mt 18 : 21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to



throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

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 Sunday 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

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 Fundraiser- Mooncake Sale

Some Youth Group participants will be holding a mooncake sale in September to raise funds to support their pilgrimage to the 2027 World Youth Day in South Korea. They will be selling homemade mooncakes in 2 flavours (Matcha red bean and Purple sweet potato). The price will be **\$20 for a box of 6**. In order to secure a box, pre-orders can be made on **6th Sept and 13th Sept**. Please bring **cash** along to make a pre-order and support our WYD group!

HSC Blessing

Blessing for HSC students this year will be held at Masses on **27th Sept**. If you are sitting the HSC exam this year, please text Cheryl (0481 507 169) to be included in the blessing.

Life Skills Workshop

On **Sat 10th Oct, 10am-3pm**, Youth Group will be hosting another life-skills workshop. Aimed at youth **aged 14 and above**, our youth leaders will be running a session on public speaking skills in the **Community Room**. Cost is **\$15** to cover lunch, snacks and drinks for the duration of the workshop. Information regarding sign-up will follow in coming weeks.

Youth Sleepout

Following our life skills workshop session (**Sat 10th Oct**), Youth Group will be hosting our annual Sleepout to raise awareness and funds for homelessness on behalf of St Vincent de Paul. The Sleepout will be held in the hall from **4pm** onwards (overnight) and is open to all Youth Group participants. Fr Lam will be hosting Adoration that night at 9pm. ALL parishioners are welcome to attend Adoration! More information to follow in coming weeks.

St Monica's Got Talent

Youth Group is hosting another round of St Monica's Got Talent on **28th November**! We are opening applications/expressions of interest for acts **NOW**! So if you can sing, dance, beat box, juggle, do martial arts or have ANY talents you would love to show off, please contact Raphael (0420 947 121). This is a great opportunity to use the talents God has given you to give back to the community as all proceeds from this event will go towards the repair and maintenance of our beloved church.

WORLD YOUTH DAY FUNDRAISER

Mooncake Preorders

Handmade snowskin mooncakes in Matcha Red Bean & Purple Sweet Potato



\$20 | Box of 6
Cash only

Matcha Red Bean

6 in a box

Mixed Box

3 of each

Purple Sweet Potato

6 in a box

PREORDER DATES

Sun 6 September
Sun 13 September

Tickets handed out when you pay

Fixed flavour boxes only. Custom mixes aren't available.

ORDER AT THE WYD TABLE - CASH ONLY

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
Deadline for enrolment of Reconciliation: 12th Oct 2026



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 13th Sept 2026

Matthew 18: 21-35

Observation:

Peter approaches Jesus thinking he's being generous by offering to forgive someone seven times. Jesus challenges this by not just raising the number of times a person should forgive, but implying that forgiveness isn't something that should be counted at all. In the parable, a servant owes a king an enormous amount of money, "ten thousand talents," roughly the equivalent of sixty million days of labour, far more than he could ever repay. The servant falls to his knees and begs for patience and time to pay it back, and the king decides to forgive the entire debt. Right after this, the same servant runs into someone who owes him a much smaller amount, "a hundred denarii," about three to four months' wages. He aggressively demands the money, while the man begs him for patience. The servant refuses and has him thrown in jail. The size of the two debts is deliberately mismatched, and that contrast is the whole point of the parable. The first servant quickly forgets that he was just let off the hook for a lifetime's worth of debt, and moments later shows no mercy over a debt that's small by comparison. When the king finds out, he's furious, not really because of the money, but because the servant received mercy and refused to pass it on. Jesus ends the parable by saying that forgiveness has to come "from the heart," meaning it isn't just about words, but something genuine on the inside.

Application:

This story makes it clear just how uneven things really are. Ten thousand talents versus a hundred denarii isn't even a fair comparison, it's basically the gap between how much God forgives a person and how much anyone could ever "owe" them. But people still keep track of small things anyway, like a mean comment, a friend who let them down, or something a family member did that hasn't been let go of. Just like the servant, someone can receive huge forgiveness and then turn around and refuse to give someone else a much smaller kind of grace. This story isn't really about being fair, it's about remembering. It challenges a person to stop and ask if there's someone they're still holding a grudge against, even quietly, and reminds them how much they've been forgiven, and that it should be a lot easier to let go and forgive other people.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank You for forgiving a debt I could never repay. Forgive me for the times I've held onto something small when You've forgiven me for so much more. Reveal to me anyone I haven't fully forgiven and to take away any pride that keeps me from letting go. Give me a heart that truly forgives, the way You've forgiven me. Amen.

19th / 20th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	G. Basha K. Handcock	S. Younes J. Nguyen	M. Ellis T. Jones
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson L. Iemma	C. Cheung M. Law	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (18 th September)		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle / Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Pinto Family		
Counting	Group 1		