

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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A

20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Ecclesiasticus

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144

R: *The Lord is near to all who call him.*

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. the Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)

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

SECOND READING

Phil 1 : 20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of you Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 20 : 1-16

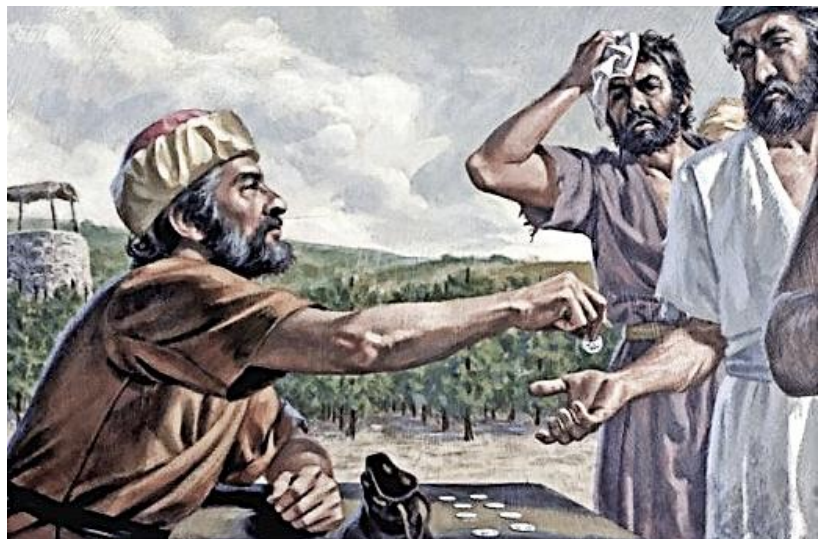
A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them

to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.' *The Gospel of the Lord*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



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

COMMENTARY

No Salvation outside the Church?

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius.

This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the Kingdom of God.

Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of *their* idea that God's grace could *not* be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People.

We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us 'the Bread of Life', given for the salvation of *all* the world.

© 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

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

HSC Blessing

Students sitting the HSC this year will be blessed at all Masses on **27 September**. To be included, please text Cheryl (0481 507 169) with your name and the Mass time you'll be attending.

Life Skills Workshop

Saturday 10 October, 10am-3pm, Community Room. Youth Group is running another life skills workshop, this time on public speaking, for youth **aged 14 and above**. Cost is **\$15**, covering lunch, snacks and drinks. Scan the QR code below to sign up, or pick up a leaflet from a Youth Group leader at the back of the church.



Youth Sleepout

Straight after the workshop on **Saturday 10 October, from 4pm (overnight)**, in the hall. Our annual Sleepout raises awareness and funds for homelessness on behalf of St Vincent de Paul Society, and is open to all Youth Group participants. Cost is **\$15**, covering dinner and breakfast. Register using the QR code below.

Fr Lam will lead Adoration at **9pm** that night, and all parishioners are warmly welcome. No registration is needed for Adoration.



St Monica's Got Talent

Youth Group is hosting another round of St Monica's Got Talent on **Saturday 21 November 2026**, and expressions of interest are open now. If you can sing, dance, beatbox, juggle, do martial arts — or have any talent you'd love to share — please contact Raphael on 0420 947 121. It's a wonderful chance to use the talents God has given you to give back, with all proceeds going towards the repair and maintenance of our beloved church.

PARISH ACTIVITES

Month + Corner



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

2027 World Youth Day Fundraiser: Mooncake Sale

Pre-ordered mooncakes are ready for pick-up **today**. Please give the team your name and they'll hand over your order. A limited quantity is also available for purchase:

\$20 for a box of 6, or \$5 each.

26th / 27th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	M. Joseph A. Bentley	M. Joseph B. Hooker	E. Saleh N. Sindayen
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Bentley M. Samson	P. Hourigan J. Skulander	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (25 th September)		
Children's Liturgy	Resume on 18 th October		
Morning Tea	Jason & Beth		
Counting	Group 2		

SOAP 20th Sept 2026

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16a

Observation:

Matthew records Jesus telling the parable of a landowner who goes out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard, agreeing with them on the usual daily wage. He returns to the marketplace at nine o'clock, at noon, at three, and again at five in the afternoon, hiring anyone still standing idle and promising to pay them what is right. When evening comes, he instructs his steward to pay the workers beginning with the last ones hired, and each of them receives the same full day's wage. Those who had worked since dawn expect more, and when they receive the same amount, they complain that the landowner has made the latecomers equal to those who bore the heat of the whole day. The landowner replies that he has done no injustice, since he has paid exactly what was agreed, and he asks whether they are envious because he is generous. Jesus closes the parable by saying that the last will be first, and the first will be last.

Application:

In today's Gospel, we are reminded that God's generosity is not measured the way we measure fairness. The workers who came early were not cheated, yet they still felt cheated, simply because someone else received the same gift they did. That reaction is familiar to us. At school, at work, and especially online, we constantly compare ourselves to others, keeping quiet records of who is ahead and who is behind, who deserves what, and whether our own effort has been properly noticed. The same habit can creep into our faith, where we may feel that people who came to God later, or who seem to struggle less, have somehow received something they did not earn. But the vineyard is not a competition, and God does not have a limited amount of love to hand out. He calls each of us at different hours of the day, and He gives Himself fully to everyone who answers. For some of us that call came in childhood, and for others it may come much later, or it may be a call we are only now beginning to take seriously. What matters is that we answer when we hear it. Just as a family meal is not divided according to who worked hardest that day, God's mercy is not portioned out according to who arrived first, and recognising this frees us to be glad for others rather than resentful of them.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank You for calling us into Your vineyard and for Your generosity, which is always greater than we deserve. Help us let go of envy and comparison, and help us to rejoice when others receive Your mercy. Teach us to work faithfully for You without counting the cost. Amen.