

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING

Ezek 33 : 7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94

**R: O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Rom 13 : 8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 18 : 15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.



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

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

2026 Father's Day Appeal

There will be special collections at all the Masses today for supporting our retired clergies. Please use the special envelopes or the QR code here.



SOAP 6th Sept

Scripture Matthew 8:15-20

Observation

In this week's gospel, Jesus gives us some practical advice about relationships and what to do when things go wrong. We all experience disagreements, misunderstandings, disappointments, and moments when people hurt us. Jesus reminds us that we should not simply hold onto these things or allow them to quietly create distance between us. Instead, He encourages us to approach one another honestly, patiently, and with love. If something needs to be said, Jesus asks us to have the courage to speak to the person directly rather than allowing frustration, judgement, or gossip to take over in order to restore understanding and peace.

None of us is perfect, and we all have our own faults and shortcomings. Correcting someone is therefore not about judging or punishing them. It's about caring enough to help one another grow, while remembering that we too are always in need of God's mercy and understanding.

Jesus then reminds us that when two or three gather in His name, He is there among them. Our faith is not something we live alone. We have a responsibility for one another, and Christ is present when we come together, support one another, and seek what is good for our community.

Application

The gospel this week challenges us to think about how we handle difficult moments in our relationships. It can be tempting to hold onto hurt, talk about it with others, or keep replaying what happened in our minds. Jesus offers us another way: speak with charity, listen with humility, forgive where we can, and pray when we don't know what else to do.

Sometimes we may need the courage to have an honest conversation. At other times, we may need the wisdom to recognise that we have done what we can and leave the rest in God's hands. Not every situation will end exactly as we hope, but we can still choose peace. Moving forward can simply mean accepting what we cannot change, being grateful for what we have learned, and trusting God with what comes next. We can also learn to appreciate the good that comes into the lives of others, knowing that God's blessings are not limited or measured against our own. As members of a parish community, we are called to look out for one another. We can encourage each other, offer support when someone is struggling, and help one another stay close to God. Sometimes, the most helpful thing we can offer is simply a listening ear and a prayer.

Perhaps this week we can ask ourselves: Is there something I need to make peace with? Is there someone I need to approach with greater kindness? Is there something I need to let go of? Jesus reminds us that we don't have to do any of this alone. Wherever we gather in His name, He is there among us.

Prayer

Jesus, help us to be people of peace, patience, and understanding. Give us the courage to speak with kindness when something needs to be said, and the humility to recognise our own faults. Teach us to listen, to forgive, and to know when it is time to let go. Help us to care for the people You have placed in our lives. Give us generous hearts that can appreciate the good in others, while remaining grateful for the blessings You have given us. Bless our parish community and help us to support one another with compassion and grace. May we remember that we do not walk alone, because You are with us whenever we gather in Your name.

Amen.

12th / 13th September ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	S. Meleca C. Meleca	S. Jacob A. Espiritu	F. Lo D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	C. North B. Meleca	J. Cruz J. Payra	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	I. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (11 th September)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina / Maria F		
Morning Tea	Jacob & Cecilia		
Counting	Group 5		