

# 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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2026

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

### FIRST READING

Is 5 : 1-7

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress. *The word of the Lord.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79

#### R: *The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.*

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)

### SECOND READING

Phil 4 : 6-9

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you. *The word of the Lord.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Mt 21: 33-43

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.' *The Gospel of the Lord.*



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

**St. Monica's Catholic Parish**  
**Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta**

|                                                  |                                                                                              |                                                                                               |                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday Masses:                                   | English: Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 6pm<br>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<br>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.<br>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: <a href="mailto:shingmanlam@gmail.com">shingmanlam@gmail.com</a>    |
| Postal Address:                                  | 8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151                                                      |                                                                                               | Website: <a href="https://stmonicanp.org.au">https://stmonicanp.org.au</a> |
| Office hours:                                    | Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm<br>Sunday 9am-11am                                              | Phone: 9630-1951<br>Email: <a href="mailto:stmonicanp@bigpond.com">stmonicanp@bigpond.com</a> |                                                                            |

**St. Monica's School**

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Email: [stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**COMMENTARY**

**Good Wine required  
Hard Work**

In the Hebrew scripture, Israel is spoken of as the Vineyard of God. We can say that now the Church is the vineyard of God. God is the Landlord, we are the tenants. It is our job to faithfully tend it and make sure it bears good fruit. If we are unfaithful, then God *will* find other people to carry on his plan, other tenants to tend his vineyard.

Certainly, we see that within the Universal Church. With the decline of the Eurocentric church, who has God turned to as new tenants for his vineyard? Look at the surging numbers of Catholics in sub-Sahara Africa, Nigeria, the Philippines, Korea. The persecuted Church in Vietnam and China is surviving and growing despite the severity of oppression.

I think we may agree that the vineyard of the Church in Australia is not as fruitful as it could be. This is a challenge for us. It is wonderful to see the energetic work of the new immigrants and refugees in our parishes (including the Bishop of Parramatta!).

We could pause for a moment to commit to taking up the privilege and duty to work in the vineyard of the Church.

© 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**

**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.

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



### 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. 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](mailto:stmonicasacraments@gmail.com)  
**Deadline for enrolment of Reconciliation: 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:winnieklau@yahoo.com.au)

Scripture: Matthew 21:33-43

### Observation

In today's scripture, Jesus tells the Parable of the Wicked Tenants where a landowner leases a vineyard to tenants before travelling. At harvest time when the landowner sends servants to collect his share of the produce but the tenants beat, stoned and killed every one of them. Again, the landowner sends more men, and they face the same fate. The owner lastly sends his son, expecting them to respect him, but the tenants kill the son to seize his inheritance. Jesus asks what the owner will do and the listeners reply that he will destroy the wicked tenants and lease the vineyard to others. This parable is teaching us about God as the landowner, and Jesus as his Son. The chief priests and the Pharisees are like the original tenants of the vineyard, having gotten so used to being stewards of the vineyard that they forgot that they didn't own it. At the end of the parable, Jesus tells us that He is firing the corrupt religious leaders from being the caretakers of God's message and handing the job over to a new community of believers who will show their faith through good actions and love.

### Application

If this parable is about the chief priests and Pharisees, what does it teach us about ourselves as followers of God? Jesus seems to be teaching us that we are now the tenants of God's vineyard and have been entrusted with this world, with all that we have. We are also now called to care for it well and offer our work and success back to God as an act of gratitude by prioritising God in everything we do and placing good intentions behind our actions which reflect the love God gives us. This parable is also warning us not to take any of this for granted. Our life and our privileges are all a grace and gift from God. We too may be tempted to think that we can keep the fruits of God's vineyard to ourselves, and often, amidst our studies or working hard to make a living, it's easy to forget that everything that we have isn't ours, but the Lord's. Jesus also teaches us not to hoard our lives, time, dreams or plans to ourselves like the tenants hoarded the produce, but to open your heart to receive God and all He sends into our lives. The last line of the Gospel today reminds us that the Kingdom of God can be taken away from anybody who is unfaithful and given to those who are willing to embody the character of Christ.

### Prayer

Lord, show me how to recognise and appreciate the gifts and talents you have poured upon me. Grant me the grace to offer my hard work back to you with a spirit of gratitude and open my heart to welcome everything and everyone you send into my life. Guard my heart against the temptation to hoard my time or success and may I be reminded that I am a caretaker of Your vineyard.

Amen

| 10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> October ROSTERS |                                                          |                          |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
|                                                     | 5pm Vigil                                                | 9am                      | 6pm                  |
| <b>Readers</b>                                      | K. Handcock<br>G. Basha                                  | M. Falamich<br>S. Joseph | M. Ellis<br>T. Jones |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>                      | B. Meleca<br>K. Handcock                                 | J. Skulander<br>J. Cruz  | TBA                  |
| <b>Acolytes</b>                                     | P. Handcock                                              | N. Joseph                | A. Cheung            |
| <b>Cleaning</b>                                     | Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (9 <sup>th</sup> October) |                          |                      |
| <b>Children's Liturgy</b>                           | Resume on 18 <sup>th</sup> October                       |                          |                      |
| <b>Morning Tea</b>                                  | Shankar & Mehaara                                        |                          |                      |
| <b>Counting</b>                                     | Group 4                                                  |                          |                      |