

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"



THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.



FIRST READING

Rev 7: 2-4. 9-14

A reading from the book of Apocalypse

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel. After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.' One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.' *The word of the Lord.*

1ST NOVEMBER 2026

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23

R: *Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.*

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3 : 1-3

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5: 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.' *The Gospel of the Lord.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

The Beatitudes... A Call to Action

How can those suffering grinding poverty such that their whole personality is impoverished – the poor in spirit – be 'Blessed'? How can those who hunger and thirst for justice be 'Blessed'? The answer lies in the new community which Our Lord is establishing under the reign of God.

There are people within this new society who do everything possible to lift the poor out of poverty, to comfort those who are mourning, to make sure the gentle share in the earth's resources, to satisfy the craving for justice. These are 'saints' who are merciful, pure in heart, makers of peace.

The full measure of authentic humanity is Jesus Christ. But there are millions, only a few celebrated in the Church's calendar, who have tried to measure up to the challenge presented by the Teacher of the Beatitudes. These are saints, those who know that they cannot help create the Beatitude society out of some political ideology, but who wholeheartedly respond to the teaching of the One whose Holy Spirit can empower rising to the challenge.

We might pause a moment to pray that God may deal with us mercifully as we fall short of the full stature of the One who embodied the Beatitudes, at the same time as we celebrate the lives of the countless many who have measured up superlatively, the saints whose feast day we celebrate.

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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

CWL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Stall opens **after 9:00am Mass on Sunday 8th November** and **11:00am on Sunday 15th November**. Variety of Christmas gifts including Christmas cakes, Lemon Butter and Tomato Chutney.

Cash only All Welcome

All money goes to St Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Appeal

CWL Melbourne Cup Luncheon - ALL WELCOME

3rd Nov 2026, TUE, 12pm – 4pm, \$35

Lunch+Drinks+Dessert+Games

Contact **Julie 0411988361 or Regina 0404247450**

RSVP by 30th Oct 2026

Please wear a hat and look stunning!

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

St Monica's Got Talent

Youth Group will be selling tickets to St Monica's Got Talent after Masses. The night is on **Saturday 21st Nov** at 7pm, with **adult tickets \$15, child tickets \$10**, and an **optional \$10 meal ticket** for fried rice and a drink. *If we reach 140 ticket sales, Fr Lam will do a special performance!* All proceeds go to the repair and maintenance of St Monica's. We look forward to seeing you there! For enquiries, please call Raphael Cheung 0420947121.

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.

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

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

ALL SOUL'S DAY Masses

2nd Nov 2026 (Monday)

9:15am & 7:30pm

Bishop Good Works Appeal

A special collection will be done at the Masses on 7th & 8th November 2026, to support Catholic Care in helping the victims of domestic violence.

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12a

Observation:

This week's Gospel details the opening of the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus taught the crowds the beatitudes. He explains that the blessed are the poor, the mourning, the meek, the hungry and thirsty, the merciful, the pure, the peacemakers, and the persecuted; that these are the blessed who should rejoice and be glad for their reward is great in heaven. The message is one that encourages us to reckon with the reality in which what we enjoy or desire is not necessarily what we are truly called to live for. Whilst this may be confronting, this message is also one that is hopeful and comforting. We are assured that there are blessings to our mournings, hunger and persecutions, that persistence in seeking righteousness, being merciful and offering peace will be rewarded greatly. Whilst every challenge or adversity may not have a "reason" per se, God is with us and we can rest assured that we can find comfort in Him. Importantly, the beatitudes are more than a set of regulations or theoretical ideals, but a depiction of how Jesus lived, and to live as guided by the beatitudes, we may live our lives according to God's will, a blessed and authentic life with genuine joy.

Application:

The modern world can be engrossed in materialism, competition and pleasure; a way of life which may displace our priorities from what is intended by God. The beatitudes guide in finding what truly matters, the joy that can only be found in imitating Christ's way of life. To further understand what that truly entails, let's further reflect on each section of this week's Gospel.

To be "poor in spirit", beyond material poverty, is to have the humility to offer ourselves to God even in our nothingness, emptying ourselves of pride in order to receive God fully.

Those who "mourn" are provided the hope that we will find joy in anticipation of heaven beyond our worldly mourning. The "meek" show their strength not through force but gentleness and love. They are freed from the worldly obsession with power and only focus on following Jesus.

Those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" desire God's will to be done, and God promises nourishment for the soul.

The "merciful" reflects God's love. We who hope for mercy should show mercy through God's graces.

The "pure in heart" love simply and unconditionally, through true faith and compassion.

The "peacemakers" are those who seek to reconcile and bring upon unity, in order to share in God's love through communion.

Those "who are persecuted for righteousness' sake" reveal the blessings of God's promises for eternal life.

We are called to live holy lives, lives that bring joy as intended by God, lives that emulate Jesus' way of life. We strive towards such lives because we trust in His vision of where true happiness lies.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for teaching us the way of true blessedness and showing us these blessings through Jesus' life and ministry. Give us the strength to live by the Beatitudes and the courage to remain faithful amidst challenges and adversity, so that we may one day rejoice in the promises of God. Guide us in living compassionate and holy lives, in order to reflect God's love to those around us and to experience true happiness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

7th / 8th November ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	J. Kandalaft A. Bentley	P. Fleming S. Younes	F. Lo D. Cruz
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Samson B. Meleca	J. Cruz P. Hourigan	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (6 th November)		
Children's Liturgy	Jesuina / Maria F		
Morning Tea	Jason & Beth		
Counting	Group 3		