

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A

18TH OCTOBER 2026

ENTRANCE

ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.



FIRST

READING

Is 45: 1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22 : 15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95

R: Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**

Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1 : 1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

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

Whose Image and Likeness?

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. They are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

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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

Today is **World Mission Sunday**. We have a special collection at the Masses in supporting the Catholic Mission Australia. Donations can be done using the special envelopes on the pews, or using this QR code.
Thank you for your generous support.



YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Youth Sleepout

The donation link to support the youth who slept out last weekend in our church hall is still open, so if you would like to make a donation, you can do so via this QR code. Thank you for your generous donation.

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.

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

Scripture: Matthew 22: 15-21

Observation:

The Pharisees and Herodians came together to corner Jesus. They ask him, "Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" This is a trap because saying "yes" would outrage the Jewish public who hated Roman rule, while saying "no" would allow them to report him to the Roman authorities for treason. Jesus, seeing through their trickery and hypocrisy, asks them to show him a denarius (the Roman coin used to pay the tax) and asks whose face and name are stamped on it. When they reply, "Caesar's," Jesus delivers his final conclusion: "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Application:

The question forces a choice between God and government. Jesus refuses this and points out that the coin bears Caesar's image, so it belongs to Caesar, and paying taxes is a fair obligation. But Genesis 1:27 says we are made in God's image. If the coin is Caesar's because it carries his likeness, then we are God's because we carry his.

So the answer is about more than money. We can work, pay taxes and obey the law as responsible citizens while recognising that our whole lives belong to God. Everything we have is a gift from God, and sometimes it is easy to grip onto those gifts so tightly that our faith, kindness and generosity go neglected. Earthly things will be left behind. What we give to God endures. The question we need to ask ourselves is where our deepest loyalty lies. Jesus is telling us that whilst we should honour our earthly duties, we should also hold our possessions loosely, and make devoting ourselves to God and to others our priority. Practically, it means that we should be honouring God in all that we do, give thanks for the things we have and regularly give back to the community and church with our God given gifts such as knowledge, skills, money, time, personalities etc.

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Through navigating our own journey with You we ask for guidance and insight in how we can balance our duties as a person with our duties as a follower of Your teachings. Helps us to navigate through the world we live in, giving us the grace to be responsible, honest and respectful citizens while still being able to remain faithful to You. When we face pressures or challenges that can compromise our faith or divide our loyalties grant us the strength and courage to stand firm to defend your truth. In Your name we pray, Amen

CWL Melbourne Cup Luncheon

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!

24th / 25th October ROSTERS

	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	C. Kandalaft M. Joseph	J. Nguyen C. Cheung	T. Lim M. Caga-Anan
Extraordinary Ministers	C. North K. Handcock	P. Hourigan S. Joseph	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (23 rd October)		
Children's Liturgy	Maria F / Michelle		
Morning Tea	Jacob & Cecilia		
Counting	Group 1		