

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"

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A

25TH OCTOBER 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

FIRST READING

Ex 22: 20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.'" *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 17

R: *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1 : 5-10

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Mt 22: 34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our 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 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

True Perspectives

Did you notice that Jesus does not command us to love 'God'? No, we are to love 'the *Lord* your God', the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love *the Lord* your God'.

Then Jesus does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, 'Love your neighbour as *yourself*.' But who is 'yourself'? In the wonderful story-telling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had Divine Breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being. We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath at the core of our being.

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way, and thereafter every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically or culturally distant.

We could pause for a moment to see the true dimensions of God, self and the other, to more easily fulfil the dual command

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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!

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 22:34-40

Observation: In today's gospel, the Pharisees, a group of religious teachers in the Jewish community, test Jesus' knowledge of Jewish law by asking him which commandment is the greatest. The law was central to the Pharisees' faith, and they believed it came from two sources: the written law, the Torah, and the oral traditions of the Jewish people. The Pharisees clearly felt threatened by Jesus, who was offering a new perspective on Jewish beliefs and practices. They had likely heard about his discussion with the Sadducees, who did not believe in the afterlife, in which Jesus taught that there is life after death. The Pharisees may have been trying to challenge Jesus' legitimacy as a teacher, and it is in this context that he gives us the greatest commandments: to love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and to love your neighbour as yourself.

Application: Jesus' greatest commandments are well known, but what does it mean to love? Love is the recognition of a person's dignity and humanity, marked by a selfless desire to uphold their wellbeing. We want what is best for another person: to help them meet their needs, find happiness and grow. We all want these things for ourselves, and Jesus' teaching to "love your neighbour as yourself" asks us to want the same for others, and to care about their happiness, self-worth and wellbeing as much as our own.

This requires us to understand another person's perspective and to be attuned to how they feel and why, including whether their material and emotional needs are being met. When we understand this, we can respond to their needs and feelings.

Love can be expressed in many ways: celebrating with someone when they achieve something significant, acknowledging their talents and strengths through praise and encouragement, listening to and advising someone going through a difficult time, showing concern and offering constructive feedback when someone is clearly making the wrong decision, and gladly providing practical support when it is needed. These actions show care for another person and a selfless interest in their life. Loving relationships flourish when such care is reciprocated. When we love others, we also love God, because we help express his love and become positive ambassadors for Christ, showing people that God cares for and loves them.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to love you and one another by always being attuned to people's wellbeing and happiness. Give us the courage and selflessness to respond to each other's needs and promote what is good for others, so that we may reflect your love to everyone we encounter. Amen.

ALL SOUL'S DAY Masses

2nd Nov 2026 (Monday)

9:15am & 7:30pm

31 st October / 1 st November ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	E. Caruana K. Handcock	B. Hooker M. Joseph	N. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	M. Wilkinson A. Bentley	J. DeAraujo S. DeAraujo	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	N. Joseph	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (30 th October)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl / Julie		
Morning Tea	Pinto Family		
Counting	Group 2		