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"

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

15th November 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

FIRST READING **Prov 31 : 10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Ps 127**

R: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **(R.)**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. **(R.)**

SECOND READING **1 Thess 5 : 1-6**

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

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Mt 25 : 14-30**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

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 Phone:9630-1951 Sunday 9am-11am Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School
School Principal: Fiona Bylsma Phone: 8832 4100 Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Befriending Time

God's plan for human happiness is mostly frustrated by a good person burying his or her personality traits, what one might call one's talents, which is really to bury oneself and to become invisible.

In the old language of my schoolboy catechism, we should be concerned not just with sins of commission, but with sins of *omission* – failure of courage, failure to take risks, failure to put everything on the line with the personality and the moment in time given to you and to me.

As Shakespeare says in Julius Caesar:

> 'There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in stillness and in miseries.'

The Divine Tide is flowing through human history. We should trust ourselves to that tide which can carry us to the shores of Heaven. Failure to take risks leads to Hellish stillness and miseries.

We could pause for a moment to pray that we might use our talents so as to hear: 'Well done, good and faithful servant … come and join in your Master's happiness.'

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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



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

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



2027 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

Youth Announcements

St Monica's Got Talent

Thank you all for your support these last few weeks. See you all at St Monica's Got Talent on 21st November! Reminder that the show starts at 7pm, with meals being served from 5:30pm for those who purchased a meal voucher.
See you there!

21st / 22nd November ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	B. Meleca C. Meleca	S. Jacob S. Joseph	E. Saleh N. Sindayen
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Handcock M. Wilkinson	J. Skulander J. Payra	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	N. Joseph	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (20th November)		
Children's Liturgy	Julie / Jesuina		
Morning Tea	Michael & Sando		
Counting	Group 5		

Youth Corner

Scripture: Matthew 25: 14-30

Observation:
In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents. This is not just a story about a master and his servants but a lesson for us to make use of the knowledge of our faith and with meditation and prayer, profess and live the Catholic faith. In the story, the master allocates talents to his servants; one received five, one had two and to another one, according to their ability. These servants were *entrusted* with the responsibility of growing their master's wealth. The first two servants were faithful stewards of their master's property and traded their talents, doubling them. The third servant, however, was afraid and buried his master's money. When the master returned, the servants who doubled their talents were commended – "well done, good and trustworthy servant…enter into the joy of your master". But when the third servant came forward returning the talent entrusted him, the talent was taken from him and given to the servant with ten talents and thrown into darkness.

Application:
During this time between Christ's departure and his return in the Second Coming, we have been entrusted with spiritual graces and gifts from God – His Word, the sacraments, prayer, forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, personal qualities and social opportunities to serve others and build up the kingdom of God. Through a series of parables, Jesus teaches us the importance of active participation and sharing God's gifts, reminding us of the dangers of spiritual neglect and laziness. Those who live the faith, engaging with the sacraments, prayer, works of mercy and sharing of the Gospel will be rewarded with eternity with our Father. But those who are crippled by fear, laziness or spiritual paralysis, like the third servant who buries his gift in the ground and doing nothing with the grace he received end up losing everything.
While all of this sounds sombre and gloomy, there is still time for us to reconnect if we have lost our way. Going to confession and acknowledging our errors, connecting with faith communities, friends and making small daily actions to build up our relationship with God are key for us to be faithful stewards of God's grace.

Prayer:
Dear God, Thank you for entrusting us with the spiritual and natural abilities to live and share your grace. May we be faithful stewards and in living the faith and sharing Your truth, multiply your love and mercy to others. Help us when we fall into passiveness and fear and remind us that true reward is in sharing the faith and eternity with You. In Your Son's name we pray, Amen.