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"

First Sunday of Advent – Year B

29th November 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
To you, I life up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.



FIRST READING
Is 63 : 16-17; 64 : 1, 3-8
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Ps 79**

R: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **(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.)**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

SECOND READING **1 Cor 1 : 3-9**
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Mk 13 : 33-37**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!' *The Gospel of the Lord.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

Timely Living and the End of History

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

© 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

Christmas & New Year Mass Times (2026-2027)

Event	Date	Time	Language
Christmas Eve	24th Dec 2026 (Thursday)	6pm	English
		9pm	Cantonese
Christmas Day	25th Dec 2026 (Friday)	12am *(Midnight & Candlelight Mass)*	English
		9am	
		11:30am	Cantonese
Feast of the Holy Family	26th Dec 2026 (Saturday)	5pm (Vigil)	English
	27th Dec 2026 (Sunday)	9am	English
		6pm	
		11:30am	Cantonese
Solemnity of the Mother of God	1st Jan 2027 (Friday)	9am	English & Cantonese
Epiphany of the Lord	2nd Jan 2027 (Saturday)	5pm (Vigil)	English
	3rd Jan 2027 (Sunday)	9am	English
		10:30am (Youth Mass)	
		6pm	
		11:30am	Cantonese

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

Feast of the
Immaculate Conception of Mary
8th December 2026, TUESDAY
9:15am, 7:30pm

5th / 6th December ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	B. Meleca E. Caruana	M. Joseph P. Fleming	M. Novak D. Llevado
Extraordinary Ministers	A. O'Dwyer K. Handcock	M. Law M. Joseph	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	A. Cheung
Cleaning	Group 1 – Chinese Chaplaincy (4th December)		
Children's Liturgy	Sheryl / Julie		
Morning Tea	Pinto Family		
Counting	Group 2		

Youth Corner

Scripture: Mark 13:33-37

Observation
In this week's gospel, Jesus compares us to servants left in charge of a house while the owner is away. Each servant has a task, and the doorkeeper is told to keep watch. The owner could return at any hour: evening, midnight, cockcrow or dawn. Jesus' point is simple: "Watch."

Application
Staying awake doesn't mean anxiously staring at the sky. It means living as though the owner could walk in today. A good servant doesn't wait for the boss to appear before working hard, and a house kept tidy only when the owner is home isn't really cared for.
We don't know when Jesus will return, so the question is how we live until then. Our tasks are ordinary: love God, love people, and do what's in front of us faithfully. Procrastination is the quiet enemy here, because "I'll sort it out later" is how we drift.
Some practical things we can do are start the day with God through prayer before anything (including scrolling on your phone!), stop procrastinating on things you need to do (start on your assignment, reply to that message or email etc.), keep in mind how you act in your day to day life (does it reflect a faithful life), and serve others.

Prayer
Lord, keep my heart awake and alert to Your presence today. Help me faithfully do the work You have given me and stay ready for Your return without fear or distraction. Amen

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Youth Christmas Party 2026
Christmas is fast approaching! We invite all the youths to come join us at our annual Christmas Party on the 19th December (Saturday). We shall be hosting a good old Christmas barbecue and games! Prices are **$20** per person. Please contact Brian Wong (0491 138 451) or Raphael Cheung (0420 947 121) to register.

Social Justice Month
December is our social justice month. Our youths will be making DIY car scents diffuser for sale to raise money for charity this Christmas. More details will follow in our announcements in the coming weeks.