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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

8th November 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

FIRST READING **Wis 6 : 12-16**

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Ps 62**

R: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary. to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **(R.)**

SECOND READING **1 Thess 4 : 13-18**

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

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL
Mt 25: 1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew



Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.

The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.' *The Gospel of the Lord.*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

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

The Hour and the Time

Israel was often portrayed as a bride in Jewish scriptures. So, the question was: 'When would the Bridegroom – the Anointed One of God, the Christ – appear?' Jesus' warning is to the attendants of the bride: 'Be alert, be vigilant, be prepared.' *Some* (the five foolish attendants) did miss the moment: the earthly ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

But his warning is also for the Catholic Church which is the new Bride of Christ. We are the attendants to the Bride and the imperative applies to us also: Be alert, be vigilant. Be prepared for the eruption, the intervention of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, into *our* history, into *our* moment of time.

For example, is Christ coming to meet us in the modern movements which demand to hold authority accountable, or which press for just recognition of women? We can foolishly remain in the dark or we can wisely try to throw light on these questions. Only then we will be able to discern whether indeed it is the Lord who is approaching.

We could pause to pray that we be ready when the Bridegroom responds to the ancient prayer: 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

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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

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

St Monica's Got Talent

This is the last week to buy tickets for St. Monica's Got Talent from the Youth Group 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



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

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

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. You can give cash, or use the special envelopes, or this QR code.

14th / 15th November ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	M. Joseph G. Basha	M. Falamich J. Jacob	M. Ellis T. Jones
Extraordinary Ministers	A. O'Dwyer C. North	S. Joseph M. Joseph	TBA
Acolytes	P. Handcock	P. Mooney	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (13th November)		
Children's Liturgy	Michelle / Sheryl		
Morning Tea	Cindy & Stella		
Counting	Group 4		

Youth Corner

Scripture: Matthew 25: 1-13

Observation:
This week's gospel is the parable of the ten bridesmaids. Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding banquet, with the bridegroom as Christ and the bridesmaids as the Church. All ten take lamps, but only five bring extra oil. The bridegroom is delayed, and all ten fall asleep. At midnight the cry goes out that he is coming. The unprepared find their lamps going out, and when they ask the wise for oil, they are refused: there isn't enough for both. While they rush off to buy more, the bridegroom arrives, the door is shut, and they are told, "I do not know you."

Application:
Noticeably, both groups fell asleep while waiting; the distinction lies entirely in their preparation and what they carried in reserve. The oil symbolizes our personal relationship with Jesus, which, much like the bridesmaids' lamps, cannot simply be borrowed from someone else when time runs out. We cannot rely on another person's faith to sustain us at the final moment.

It is easy to fall into the trap of doing only the bare minimum for our spiritual health—attending mass weekly or reciting grace before meals—without an earnest desire to deepen our intimacy with Christ. The endless demands of work, personal ambitions, and daily relationships can quickly overshadow our spiritual focus. Yet, because we are uncertain of the exact moment Christ will come or when our earthly life will end, cultivating true readiness is not something we can afford to wait.

This preparation is not something we achieve solely by our own strength, but through allowing God's grace to work within us. By drawing upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism and confirmation, we begin to manifest the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. Nurturing this reserve requires an intentional daily prayer life—whether through meditating on holy scripture, spending quiet time in eucharistic adoration, offering praise through music and hymns, or engaging in heartfelt conversation with the Lord. Try dedicating five to ten minutes every day to open your heart to God, making sure to spend part of that quiet time in silence, simply listening for His voice.

Prayer:
Dear Lord, thank you for inviting us to your wedding feast and loving us unconditionally. Keep our lamps filled with the oil of your Spirit, so that we seek you in all we do and are ready whenever you call. Wake us when we grow sleepy, and guide us in holiness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.