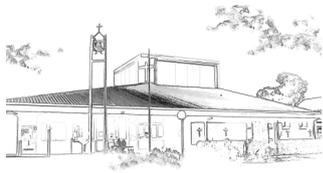


The Parish of Richmond



St Monica's Church
Cnr Windsor & Bourke Sts
RICHMOND, NSW

St Gregory's Church
5 Old Bells Line of Rd
KURRAJONG NSW

St John of God Chapel
177 Grose Vale Rd
NORTH RICHMOND, NSW

St Monica's Primary School
32 Francis St RICHMOND NSW
Ph: 4570 3700

Parish Office
1A Bourke St RICHMOND NSW
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri
9:30am-4pm
Ph: 4578 1410
www.parishofrichmond.org.au



Second Sunday of Advent – Year A 6/7 December 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Isaiah 30:19, 30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Baruch 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Presider: As we gather round the Advent wreath to prepare for the lighting of the second candle, let us pray that nothing may hinder us from receiving Christ with joy... pause. In the words of the acclamations, we pray...pause

Presider: A voice cries in the wilderness:

All: Prepare a way for the Lord!

Presider: Across the desert, through the valleys, over every mountain:

All: Make his paths straight!

Presider: Repent and believe the Good News:

All: For the kingdom of heaven is close at hand!



PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD!

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "prepare a way for the Lord!" John the Baptists proclamation sums up the theme of the Advent season. It's a call for us to plunge into the wilderness of our hearts. It is in the heart that the way of the Lord must be prepared for.

As we traverse through the Advent season, we are invited into the wilderness of our hearts with Jesus. The wilderness is a still place, a silent place, and a reflective place. It's place that is conducive to hearing the voice of God. Are we able, this Advent, to find that time to listen? Good preparation always requires good reflection.

The wilderness is also a challenging place, and a place of repentance. It's a barren, and isolated environment that strips away distractions, forcing introspection on our lives. We might ask, what is the difficult thing that needs tackling in our lives? What is it at this time of year that our hearts need purifying from? The preparation for the Lord at Advent thus becomes transformative, where we address the things that keep us from God.

As we come now to the second week of Advent, let us go and encounter Jesus in the wilderness of hearts. Let us spend this time to reflect and speak with God, and to repent from the things that separate us from Him. In this way we will prepare well, and with joy, for the coming of Jesus in the manger at Christmas.

Fr Adam Carlow.

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PRINCIPAL - ST MONICA'S SCHOOL

Melissa Beggs
StMonRic@parra.catholic.edu.au



The Parish of Richmond

Christmas Mass Times ...



St Monica's: Wednesday December 24 6pm Vigil (Children's Mass)

Midnight Mass - Readings and Carols from 11.30pm

Thursday December 25 7.30am & 9.30am

St Gregory's: Wednesday December 24 8pm Vigil Mass

Thursday December 25 8am



**2nd Rite of
Reconciliation
St Monica's,
Richmond
Wednesday,
17 December
7.00pm.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to those who prepared the supper following the Memorial Mass recently. It was greatly appreciated and to all who helped with the 'Thank you BBQ' making it a special night for all.

Also, to those who prepared the Churches, decorating inside and out, calling us to focus on Christ this Christmas. Have you noticed the Advent Wreath in the round garden at St. Monica's? It is especially effective at night with its twinkling lights.

Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Ian Huxley will take place at St. Monica's on Thursday 11th December at 10am.

Advent Prayer Groups continue Monday 8th December 7pm and Tuesday 9th December meet at 9.30 -10am start, both held in the Emmaus Room.

RCIA meets tomorrow Monday 8th Dec at 7pm. We will open with the Advent Prayer and follow with 'Baptism and Confirmation.'

Piety Stall: Christmas gift ideas. Christmas cards \$5.00 for a pkt of 8. God's Word, a daily reflection book \$20.00. 2026 Columban Calendars \$10 each. Also available at St Gregory's.

Reconciliation will be available each Wednesday throughout the season of Advent during Exposition following 9am Mass at St Monica's.

PARISH DIARY DATES



- **Monday 8 December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Mass at St Monica's at 9am.
- **Friday 12 December Anointing of the Sick will take place during 9am Mass at St Monica's.**
- **Saturday 13 December Saint Lucy.**
- **Saturday 13 December Parish Retreat 9am-12.30pm.**

Catholic Outlook. New edition available today, pick up your free copy in the foyer.

Parish Retreat ..

Next Saturday 13th December at St Monica's from 9am-12.30pm in the Emmaus Room. Come and join us for this special time of prayer. The retreat will be led by Marilyn Hancock from the Diocesan Committee for this 'Jubilee Year' which has as its theme Advent 'Pilgrims of Hope' Retreat. Register using the sign on sheet in the church foyer.

Christmas Eve Nativity play rehearsal.

Following 9.30am Mass at St Monica's on Sunday 7th December rehearsals will begin for the presentation of the Nativity at the Vigil Mass, Christmas Eve 6pm. We need many helpers please come and join us. This is always a special event which brings much joy. Rehearsal dates Sunday 14th & 21st December after 9:30am mass.

Sharing Christmas Joy

It has been proposed that we reach out to the inmates at John Moroney Correctional Centre, Windsor once again this Holy Season. We are inviting you to bring a bar of light fruit cake (approx. 250g) or a 500g square fruit cake weekend of 6th/7th Dec and the weekend of 13th/14th Dec. They will be cut into slices & bagged for distribution on Sunday 15th December, following 9.30am Mass at St Monica's. If you are able to help with cutting & bagging the cakes, please contact the office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



PARISH MASS TIMES

St Monica's
Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 7.30am,
9.30am, 5.30pm
Mon, Wed & Fri: 9.00am

St Gregory's
Saturday: 9am
Sunday: 8am
St John of God
No Masses at this stage

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation
St Monica's:
Saturday 5.30pm - 5.50pm.
St Gregory's:
Saturday after 9.00am Mass.

Anointing of the Sick Mass
Second Friday of the month, 9am
at St Monica's or by arrangement
with the priests

Baptism

By appointment only.
St Monica's: 2nd & 3rd Sundays
at 11am.
St Gregory's: 1st Sunday at 11am
Booking & Preparation are essential.

Marriage

Strictly by appointment. A minimum
of 6 months notice is required. All
enquiries please email:
admin@parishofrichmond.org.au

PARISH COUNCIL & PARISH FINANCE MEETING

**joint end of year
celebration.
10 Dec at 7pm.
Meeting Minutes
available on notice
boards in church
foyers & parish
website.**

SAVE THE DATE ..

St Paul's Feast ..

Saturday 17th January 2026 at St Monica's.

Mass will commence at 5.30pm followed by a procession. After the procession you are all invited to join in for the fun.

There will be the Maltese concert band, food, drinks, BBQ, pastizzi, traditional Maltese biscuits, chocolate wheel & lots of prizes.

All welcome.

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



W L U Z M H V J O J Q V Q S U
I Y V S L O G N K M D B H A K
K C T X T N M R H K Y T E X X
C I X J T E Z Y J T A E S L E
P N N Y Y A S L P P T R Z T
R B M G J W I L D G S U E S Q
E D A H D H A I R U X G P T C
P Z O P Y O U S C E N U E R F
A T O Q T W M O H I N J N A F
R Z S G N I L O H L R L T I M
E Z J N P O Z C P N E P Y G P
E S P O A E A E H M N N Z H C
L O R D H E M T A F T Q X T Y
J W K K R N J C U Y C T Q T U
I X E P F N M H L D Z D E N I

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BAPTIZE	STRAIGHT	PATHS	PREACHING	WILD
REPENT	LOCUSTS	HONEY	CAMEL	BELT

Luke 24 Youth Group (8-17yrs)

Date: Monday 8th December

Venue: Emmaus Room

Time: 5.30 - 7pm

STEWARDSHIP: PARISH DONATIONS

Donations can be made using the bank details below, or via the Tap-and-go machine and online donations which are accepted through our parish website at parishofrichmond.org.au.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

SUPPORT DONATIONS

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Account name Richmond St Monica's Church

The First Collection - Supporting the Diocesan priests

Reference First Collection (Your name)

The Second collection - Supporting the parish needs

Reference Second Collection (Your name)

Grant Eternal Rest to the recently deceased:

Ian Huxley, Thomas Ngwu, Betrand Ugwuene, Peter Colman, Celia Morrison, Elizabeth Eddy, Clare Tame, Christopher Gorman

... and those we remember this week:

Maria & Domenico Scopelliti, Laura Galias & Laureano Galias, Barbara Matthews, Thelma Want, Charlie & Jeffrey Refalo

We Prayerfully Remember the Sick

Robert Pereira, Ruth Larven, Trisha Corbett, Drago Gracner, Sandra Vaughan, Delina Galea, Lorraine Phillips, Joan Crutcher, Margaret Skelley, Maria Zeks, Mark Potter, Pat Stanton, Rose Galea, Peter Johnson



We welcome the newly baptized...

...to our Christian family



Happy birthday

to all those celebrating this week:

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

Rosary

St Monica's: 8.40am before weekday Mass.

St Gregory's: 8.40am before Saturday Mass.

Children's Liturgy

Every Sunday excluding school holidays during 9.30am Mass at St Monica's

Parish Morning Tea

After 9.30am Mass every fourth Sunday of the month at St Monica's & every second Sunday of the month at St Gregory's after 8am Mass

Body of Christ Prayer Group

First Wednesday 7-8.30pm pray for vocations. All welcome.
1 Hughes Ave, Hobartville.

Table Tennis 1st & 3rd Mondays 5-7pm in the Old Church.

Benediction & Mass

St Monica's: Every 1st Friday of the month 6.30pm - 7.30pm.
St Gregory's: Every 1st Saturday after 9am Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

St Monica's: Wed after 9am Mass to pray for vocations.

Monthly Special Blessings.

Marriage Anniversaries - Every 2nd Sundays of the month.

Birthdays - Every 4th Sundays of the month.



NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER
13/14 December 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent
Year A

St Monica's

Readers
 6.00pm - J. Fewtrell C. Hession
 7.30am - T. Maguire A. Edwards
 9.30am - E. Esposito K. Brough
 5.30pm - J. Morley E. Teuma
Extraordinary Ministers at Holy Communion

6.00pm - P. Hession J. Chapman
 7.30am - A. Burnett A. Dunbar
 9.30am - N. Esposito C. Sultana
 5.30pm - S. Nash S. Higgins
Minister of the Altar

6.00pm - A. Vincent
 7.30am - R. Ujmiak
 9.30am - D. Murphy
 5.30pm - T. Ross

Junior Ministers
 6.00pm -
 7.30am -
 9.30am - C. Murphy M. Hoffman
 5.30pm -

Data Projector
 6.00pm - M. Breaden
 7.30am - C. Thompson
 9.30am - M. Saliba
 5.30pm - M. Teuma
Children's Liturgy
 9.30am - S. Beverington

Counters
 07 Dec - V. Muscat F. Muscat R. Camilleri
 14 Dec - F. Crew T. Misdom M. Want

WEEKDAY ROSTER
Monday 8 December 2025
 Reader - F. Crew
 EMoHC - C. Nickle
Wednesday 10 December 2025
 Reader - A. Aquilina
 EMoHC - M. McMahon
Friday 12 December 2025
 Reader - D. Bowles
 EMoHC - M. Ryan

St Gregory's

Saturday 13 December 2025
 Reader - M. Ryan
 EMoHC - J. Wall
Sunday 14 December 2025

Readers
 8.00am - P. Hurst J. Wall A. Bwaia
Minister at the Altar - F. Kelleher
Extraordinary Ministers at Holy Communion
 8.00am - P. Waterford
Data Projector - A. Drew
Altar Preparation - M. Ryan
Cleaners - D. Grima

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FOR HIRE: The Emmaus Room: A small double-room with kitchen & IT facilities is available for hire, through the *Parish of Richmond*, by parishioners & friends. The area is suitable for small social gatherings, workshops & other functions. Availability by arrangement with the Parish Office.