

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Yr A

1st Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 All nations shall stream to the mountain of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 122.1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (R. see 1) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

2nd Reading

Romans 13:11-14 Live honourably, the day of the Lord is near.

Gospel Acclamation Verse

Psalm 85.7 Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 24:37-44 The Lord is coming when we least expect.

LITURGY TIMES

Saturday Reconciliation, 5-5:45pm Vigil Mass, 6pm

Sunday

Mass, 8am, 9.30am and 6pm Youth Mass, 2nd & 4th Sun, 6pm Filipino Mass, 1st Sun, 3.30pm

Monday and Wednesday Mass, 7am (except on Public Holidays which changes to 9.05am)

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mass, 9.05am Anointing Mass, 1st Fri, 9.05am

Friday Night Devotions (7.30pm)

1st Fri, Taize & Exposition of the **Blessed Sacrament** 3rd Fri, Divine Mercy & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Children's Liturgy

Sat 6pm and Sun 9.30am 2nd & 4th Sun of the month (during school term)

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals by appointment

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:44

rpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

VOICE FROM THE PEWS

This Gospel reading is a sober beginning for a weekly journal. Yet Matthew's advice to be ready for anything is certainly still valid today. Somehow, we have to balance living in the present with a healthy concern for tomorrow. We need to concentrate on living one day at a time—fix breakfast, go to work, and plan for that special vacation, always aware that no plans are set in concrete. We are never quite in control.

I may wake up in the morning to discover there's no milk and then be late for work because of bad traffice. Worse vet, I could get to work and find out the company is cutting back and I'm going to be laid off. So much for that hoped-for vacation. We can plan for all sorts of contingencies, but we cannot control what curve balls life will throw at us.

I used to think that God was testing me, but now I realize God doesn't play that way. As Christians, we believe in a God of abundant love who doesn't test his children to see if they will fail. What I do know is

that God is with us in every step and misstep. Indeed, Jesus tells us that he is not just with us but in us.

©LP

So we plan and re-plan and count on God to be at every crossroads. We grieve over our losses, but find strength in knowing we have Jesus' endurance and courage to lean on. We stay alert for what may come, but we find God in the present. If we remember Jesus is always with us, as close as our next breath, we can better stay alert and recognize Jesus when he comes again.

FAMILY RESPONSE:

Together, draw up a list of ways each family member can show his or her love for each other in the New Year. Post the list on the refrigerator.

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The Holy Spirit Parish pays respect to the Darug People, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather to celebrate our faith and worship God. We acknowledge with respect the elders past and present.



We are a welcoming parish. Whatever your present status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation, whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, race or color, sexual orientation, whatever your self-esteem... you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected by the Catholic Community of Holy Spirit.

If you are not an active member of this Community, consider sharing in what we have to offer. We serve the Community through outreach, education. social activities, sacramental preparation, youth and comfort to the sick and mourning. In addition to our spiritual and outreach organisations, perhaps you have an interest in joining one of our many liturgical ministries as: Minister of Holy Communion, Lector, Welcomer, Choir, etc.

Persons are formally registered by filling out a form that is then entered into the parish data system (information supplied remains confidential). These forms are available from the parish office or in the church foyer.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the People of God at Holy Spirit Parish is to witness to and to proclaim the word of God, and to pray and celebrate the Liturgy in word and sacraments so that we may be of service to others and form a community of "one mind and one heart on the way to God." (St Augustine)

FROM POPE FRANCIS:

Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by Love.

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving the sacraments, contact Parish Office or complete the Pastoral Care for the Homebound form available in the foyer.



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

SICK:

Josette Sultana, Cathy Hey, Joel Dizon, Ramona Villote Puri, Robert Michael Gurnett, Robert James Houston, Ela O'Neil, Cleo Almanzor, Andrew Boulos, Louis Tham, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Jennifer Johnson, Sr Naomi Smith.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Rommel John Abacan, Daisy Generakai Gallofin, Iham Hatter, Leo Weekes, Marey S Felice, Sally Carter-Warren, Jan Baird, Remedios Somera, Umi Bedi, Frederick Lazana, Kevin Fernandez.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Feliciano Millon Fernandes, Sor Sagrario del Marta, Remedios Abacan, Avelina Supan, Jojie Temblique, Sharon Ng, Noeline Wilkinson, Marina Paz, Giacobe Nguyen Bac Nha, Pamela Smith, Charlie Vella, Agnes Azzopardi, Joseph Sant, Jane & John Camilleri, Rose and Victor Sant, Vince Sant , Polly Sammut, Mary Vella, Carl Chelyan, Victor Sequeira, Julie Sequeira, Leo de Souza, Carmel Facciol, Rosalia Berin, George Herft, Ricardo Herft, Antonio de los Santos, Maisie Stevens,

Ramiro Arraiza, Cecil Enus.

Names submitted to Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS & PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME

If you are a new parishioner to Holy Spirit or an existing one and you would like to participate in the Planned Giving Program, forms are available for completion in the foyer of the Church. Please complete your details and email it to accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au or hand it to any of our priests. For your convenience we have the option of Direct Debit and/or Envelope contribution.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1 ST COLLECTION	For the care of our Augustinian clergy	\$ 1,473.60	
2 ND COLLECTION	Loose plate	\$ 563.15	
For the administration & maintenance costs of the	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 1,331.90	
parish	Planned Giving Direct Debit & Credit Card	\$ 1,084.42	
SPECIAL COLLECTION	N/A	N/A	

THIS WEEK IN SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY:

Sun 1 Dec:	World AIDS Day	
Mon 2 Dec:	Int'l Day for Abolition of Slavery	-
Tue 3 Dec:	Int'l Day of Persons with Disabilities	ę
Thu 5 Dec:	Int'l Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Dev't; World Soil Day; 2013, Death of Nelson Mandela	
Sat 7 Dec:	Int'l Civil Aviation Day; 1965, Vatican II Pastoral Constitution <i>Gaudium et Spes</i> (Joys and Hopes)	



REFLECTION

Gospel Focus - Get ready!

Jesus draws a parallel between the people in Noah's time and the people of his own time. What it reflects is a complacency that periodically overtook the Jewish people. When the people bound themselves to God in covenant their lives gradually became better. Inevitably, their lives improved to such a state that they forgot God was responsible for their blessings. They ignored their relationship with God and became complacent about their good fortune. Ultimately, their comfort was brought to an end and they recognised once again their need for God. Jesus calls the people to get ready because the pattern is repeating itself.

Scriptural Context - Burglars in the night

The teachings and sayings of Jesus reveal him to be a clever public speaker and story teller. His use of imagery and language captivated the imagination of his audience. However, we have tended to endow his every word with awesome significance and layers of meaning. Today's reading is an example where Jesus used a confronting image simply to gain his audience's attention. He does not intend to suggest that God sneaks up on us like a burglar and is seeking to catch us out. The image conveys the need to prepare for what might happen unexpectedly.

Historical Context - The Advent Wreath

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

Questions for Adults

When Jesus speaks of the 'coming of the Son of Man', to what is he referring? In what ways does the image of the burglar work as a call to vigilance and alertness? In what ways is Advent like Lent? How can you better enter into observing Advent as a time of preparation?

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BAPTISMS



Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to contact the Parish Office prior to attending a preparation evening. Next Baptism Preparation Evening is on Tue 10 Dec, 7.30pm, Pioneers Rm. Presenters are Ben & Rhoda Santiago. We welcome into our faith community

Harley Patricia Donlan (daughter of Brant and Paige)

who will be baptised this



PARISH MEETINGS & EVENTS

Mon 2 December

Tue 3 December

SVDP, Mercy Room, 7pm Christmas Midnight Choir Practice, Church, 7.30pm Social Justice Commission, Augustine Rm, 7.30pm

Wed 4 December

Men's Business, Pioneers Rm, 7.30pm

Thu 5 December

Fri 6 December

Reconciliation & Anointing Mass, Church, 8.30am Christmas Vigil Mass Children Rehearsal, Church, 4pm Children's Choir practice, Pioneers Rm, 4.30pm Taize, Church, 7.30pm

Sat 7 December

WHS, Augustinian Rm, 9.30am RCIA, Pioneers Rm,4,45pm Children's Liturgy, Church, 6pm

Sun 8 December

Children's Liturgy, Church, 9.30am Wedding Anniversary Mass, Church, 9.30am

THE SUNDAY FLOCK



"It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."

Sheepish Question:

What holiday preparations are taking my attention away from the coming of the Lord?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Thank you SMOC Association

We would like to thank the St Mary of Cherso (SMOC) Association for the generous donation to Holy Spirit Parish. The Parish relies mainly on the generosity of parishioners and is very grateful for your support.

The Association was established in the 50's to cater the waves of European immigrants, especially the Croatians, arriving in Australia.

Children's Participation @ Christmas Eve Mass

Children are kindly being welcomed and encouraged to dress up as angels and shepherds, and participate in our annual Christmas Liturgy. Children are being asked to attend all three rehearsals to prepare for the liturgy. The rehearsals will be held at the parish on Fridays 6, 13 and 20 December from 4pm to 5pm. If your child is interested, please complete a permission form available in the foyer and bring it to the first rehearsal.



The Office for Worship is taking enrolments for its 2020 Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for those who are interested in being Acolytes, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion or Bringing Communion to the Sick and Dying.

The course will be in Blacktown and Penrith. NOTE: Introduction Sessions on 10th/13th February are compulsory. Enrolments close on 3 February 2020.

Forms are available in the foyer.

TAP & GO MACHINE

With Tap & Go you can make a contribution at any time you wish.

All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.

The tap & go machine is in the foyer, and is set to \$10. If you wish to donate more than \$10 simply tap your credit card as many times as you like. Thank you for your generosity.



PARISH BULLETIN ADVERTISING



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR BULLETIN!

commencing 2 February 2020

For more information, contact the Parish Office, 02 9670 8222, *admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au*.

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH 2020 Sacramental Preparation

Early bookings can be made online thru the Parish Website commencing 1 December 2019 www.holyspiritstclair.com.au

CONFIRMATION (Year 5)

- Parent Information & Catechesis Meeting
 - Mon, 3 Feb @ 9.30am (1 hr)
 - Wed, 5 Feb @ 7pm (1 hr)
- Preparation Sessions will be in February (3 weeks)
- Confirmation Masses: Sat 29 Feb (10am, 2pm); Sat 7 Mar (10am)

FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)

- Parent Information & Catechesis Meeting
 - Mon, 4 May @ 9.30am (1 hr)
 - Wed, 6 May @ 7pm (1 hr)
- Preparation Sessions will be in May (3 weeks)
- First Communion Masses: 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 June

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Year 3)

- Parent Information & Catechesis Meeting
 - Mon, 27 July @ 9.30am (1 hr)
 - Wed, 29 July @ 7pm (1 hr)
- Preparation Sessions will be in August (3 weeks)
- First Reconciliation: 22, 26, 27, 29 August
- Thanksgiving Mass: 20 September @ 9.30am

NOTE: Children with special needs are most welcome to join the preparation.

For all enquiries contact the Parish Office: W: www.holyspiritstclair.com.au • E: admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au P: 02 9670 8222 • A: 5 Todd Row, St Clair 2759 NSW

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR PRACTICE

We invite all those interested to sing for the Christmas Midnight Mass and the Carols before the Mass. Choir practice will be every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9pm on: Tue 3 Dec Tue 10 Dec Tue 17 Dec ALL WELCOME!

Worshipping communities of St Clair, Erskine Park and parts of Kemps Creek

First IThank

VOLUNTEERS

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

RIBAI

Help vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive

Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION Your Faith | Your Foundation

APPEAL WEEKEND: 30TH NOV - 1ST DEC



Our 2020 Parish Calendar is now available for sale at \$5 each

in the foyer. It contains the different Parish celebrations we will have for the year, feast days of saints, and public holidays. This is a fundraising initiative for any future parish projects.



Anointing Mass on Fri 6 December, 9.05am Reconciliation available before Mass from 8.30-9am Join us for Morning Tea after Mass at the Pioneers Rm Please bring a plate to share



FRI 6 DEC, 7.30PM • HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

WARRIOR Tribal Warrior & Augustinian Volunteers



It was a wonderful day, a Special Experience! - THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who joined us on Sunday - there was an amazing spirit of friendship and understanding that was tremendous to feel as a tangible thing between the visitors, AVA group and the Tribal Warrior community. Lookout for the NEXT Cruise in 2020!

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Advent & Christmas SCHEDULE

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Wed 11 Dec, 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve Mass: Tue 24 Dec, 7.30pm Note: Mass will be inside the church. No need to bring chairs.

Carols: Tue 24 Dec, 11.15pm Masses: Midnight, 8am, 9.30am NOTE: There is no 6pm Mass on Wed 25 Dec



Wedding Anniversary Mass 8 DECEMBER 2019, 9.30AM MASS

Couples celebrating their Wedding Anniversary in the month of December are most welcome to join us.

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



God gives where he finds empty hands.

St Augustine of Hippo 354-430 AD

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ON A LIGHTER NOTE

A lost dog strays into a jungle. A lion sees this from a distance and says with caution, "This guy looks edible, never seen his kind before."

So the lion starts rushing towards the dog with menace. The dog notices and starts to panic but as he's about to run he sees some bones next to him and gets an idea and says loudly "mmm...that was some good lion meat!". The lion abruptly stops and says "woah! This guy seems tougher then he looks, I better leave while I can."

Over by the tree top, a monkey witnessed everything. Evidently, the monkey realizes the he can benefit from this situation by telling the lion and getting something in return. So the monkey proceeds to tell the lion what really happened and the lion says angrily "get on my back, we'll get him together." So they start rushing back to the dog. The dog sees them and realized what happened and starts to panic even more. He then gets another idea and shouts, "Where the hell is that monkey! I told him to bring me another lion an hour ago..."

SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT NICHOLAS

Patron Saint of children, sailors, the falsely accused and repentant thieves Feast Day : 6th December



The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, whose legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus.

St Nicholas was born March 15, 270 AD, in Patara, Turkey, to wealthy parents, who raised him as a devout Christian. Following the premature death of both parents, he was raised by his uncle, the Bishop of Patara. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering.

Nicholas was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man, and in the years 312-315, he went as a pilgrim to visit the Holy Sepulchre, Golgotha, Bethlehem, and many other sites in the Holy Land.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, and was one of the bishops who signed the Nicene Creed. He died on December 6, 343 AD in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church.

The historical Saint Nicholas is commemorated and revered among Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Orthodox Christians. In addition, some Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Reformed churches have been named in honour of St Nicholas. His major shrine, Basilica di San Nicola, is in Bari, Italy.

An initiative of Evangelization and Catechesis Commission

CHILDREN'S CORNER

During the season of Advent we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. What are three things you can do to be ready for Jesus during this first week of Advent?



Help Noah and the animals find their way onto the ark so they can be ready for the flood when it comes.



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NEXT WEEKEND (8 DECEMBER): 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Yr A

1st Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10 A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse. Peace and justice will triumph.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72.1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (*R.* see 7) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

2nd Reading Romans 15:4-9 Live in harmony with one another.

Gospel Acclamation Verse

See 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 John the Baptist begins to preach in the desert.

FLOWERS:Group 1 (Violet)CLEANERS:Group 4BANNERS:Violet

Acolyte/Senior Server Jacob Fonseca Eucharistic Ministers Marion Durbin Mary Fonseca Sylvia Herft

7 DEC, 6PM

Moira Rebello Janice Salmon Hazel Littlewood Jeanne Appleton Dita Sy

Reader 1 Corinne Cerdor

Reader 2 Margaret Herbert Commentator

Dudley Littlewood *Music*

Victor B & Micheal H V

Powerpoint Nanette I.

Junior Servers Jonathon King Xavier Boulos

Devotional Stall Lorensz Herft

Welcomers Fiona Ferreira Danny Sy Dita Sy Acolyte/Senior Server Lou Szymkow

8 DEC, 8AM

Eucharistic Ministers Volunteer Needed Belen Leynes Louise Bucholtz Frances Flood Annette Brackett Ron Brackett Christine Younes Gloria Slade

Reader 1 Volunteer Needed

> **Reader 2** Carol Vella

Commentator Sally Banguis

Music Victor B & Micheal H

Powerpoint Manuel Fidow

Junior Servers Rhys Sarno Isaiah Banguis

Devotional Stall Louise Bucholtz

Welcomers Sarah Damole Jun Damole Espy Sarno Acolyte/Senior Server Anthony Bertumen

8 DEC, 9.30AM

Eucharistic Ministers Shirley Croning Ken Allen Cathy Allen Marie Sanosa Nida Hawley Joy Rulewski Marthese Grima Sina Carvalho

> **Reader 1** Uinise Blake

Reader 2 Joy Rulewski

Commentator Kelly Apikotoa Music

Mary Immaculate

Powerpoint Boy Sanosa

Junior Servers Jamie Bertumen Hayden Bertumen Francis Buenavista

Devotional Stall Ray Portelli

Welcomers Rhoda Bertumen Jenny Kyd Volunteer Needed 8 DEC, 6PM

Acolyte/Senior Server Danny Esguerra

Eucharistic Ministers Romana Cunanan James Pirotta Kate Blasco Pearl Joson Olga Esguerra Esther Rose Jan Manzanares John Shelley

> *Reader 1* Candice Salmon

Reader 2 Marty Facciol

Commentator Derrick Pereira

Music BASIC GIFT

Powerpoint BASIC GIFT

Junior Servers Raphael Ortiz Charlotte Smith Adrian Tauro

Devotional Stall Volunteer Needed

> Welcomers Chrvawn Wren Eleanor Stuart Esther Rose

Holy Spirit Parish St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians Diocese of Parramatta www.parra.catholic.org.au Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park • Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry • BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry)

Facebook								
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Office Hours	9.00am to 5pm (Monday to Friday)							
Priory	3 Peter Pan Glen, St Clair P 9834 2527							
Parish Staff	Parish Moderator: Fr Michael Belonio, OSA P 9670 8201 E mbelonio@holyspiritstclair.com.au							
	Asst Pastor: Fr Peter Tangey, OSA P 9670 8202 E ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au							
	Deacon: Rev Quang Tuyen Pham, OSA (Tuyen) P 9670 8203 E tpham@holyspiritstclair.com.au							
	Parish Secretary: Elisa Reynolds P 9670 8222 E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au (Tue-Fri)							
	Parish Bookkeeper: Mila Llamas P 9670 8205 E accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au (Mon and Wed)							
	SRE Coordinator (Catechists): Margaret Currie M 0411 468 921 E mmcurrie9@gmail.com							
	Sacramental Coordinator: Germaine Gil P 02 9670 8222 E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au							
	Parish Youth Contact: Patrice Moriarty M 0423 968 054 E pm12_88@hotmail.com							
Parish Council	Chair: Margaret Fono • Asst Chair: Sarah Cañete-Damole • Secretary: Bernadette Stevens							
	Members: Cathy Allen, Ana Gregoriou, Jamie Dowsett, Gus Morgan, Manuel Fidow, Paola Dicenso,							
	Margaret Portelli, Eleanor Stuart (BASIC GIFT Youth Representative)							
	Fr Michael Belonio OSA, Fr Peter Tangey OSA, Rev Quang Tuyen Pham OSA							
Schools/College	Holy Spirit Primary School (7 Todd Row, St Clair) P 02 8886 3200 W www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au							
	Trinity Primary School (61 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) P 02 8856 6200 W trinitykempscreek.catholic.edu.au							
	Emmaus Catholic College (87 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) P 02 9670 8300 W emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au							
Retirement Vill	Emmaus Retirement Village (85 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) P 02 8804 0200							