

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Acts 1:1-11 Jesus is taken up into heaven.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 47.1-2, 5-6, 7-8 (R.5a) God mounts the throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

**2nd Reading** Ephesians 1:17-23 Christ is head of the church.

Gospel Acclamation Verse Matthew 28.19, 20 Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel; I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

# Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus sends forth the apostles with the promise to be with them always.

# LITURGY TIMES

If you wish to come to Mass ring 9834 2527 to book. Booking is necessary. Please ring between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

Sunday (commencing 24 May) Mass, 9.30am and 6pm

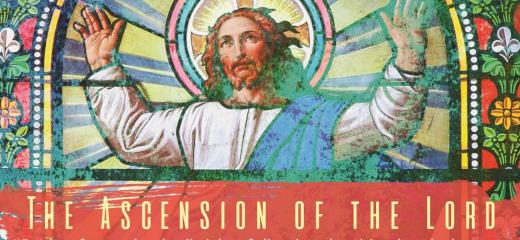
Monday and Wednesday Mass, 7am (except on Public Holidays which changes to 9.05am)

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mass, 9.05am

**Reconciliation** Saturday, 3-5pm Weekdays – contact the Parish Office

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick by appointment

Church is open for private prayer and devotions on Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.



"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." - Mt 28:19

### **VOICE FROM THE PEWS**

We are thankful for the easing of restrictions. Most of us, if not all, have been looking forward to the day when we can go back to church to pray and celebrate together the Eucharist as a community. Finally, our parish is open after 7 weekends (48 days) of closure due to Covid-19 pandemic. But let us always be conscious to still observe the NSW government regulations to stop the spread of the virus.

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

I was delighted to say Mass again with a few parishioners last Monday. To those who cannot join us in the church, I ask you to continue hearing Mass online or in any available platform. Our Worship At Home liturgy resource is still available for download on our parish website and Facebook page.

Next Sunday, 31 May, is Pentecost Sunday. It is our Parish's Feast Day. Although we cannot have a big celebration this time, I invite you to pray with your family the 3-day Novena (Triduum) and Chaplet of the Holy Spirit. This resource is available on our website and Facebook page. The 3-day Novena will commence on 28 May until 30 May.

Last 11 May I received a very sad news about the passing of my brother in the US – the eldest of the 6. All of us were caught by surprise and was shocked of his sudden death. Although he has been sick for a few months, no one ever thought that he was going to leave us, and his family (his wife and two boys in their 20's) so soon.

His sudden death intensified our faith and our bond as a family. We are in a very difficult time with all the restrictions around us and it taught us a lot – not just to remain strong and united in prayer, but also to always think of our family first. Indeed, life is so ironic. It takes sadness to know what happiness is, noise to appreciate silence and absence to value presence.

🛸 Fr Myk Belonio, osa

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:**

Let's ask the Lord for the grace of giving all of us the wisdom to trust only in him, not in things, in human strength, only in him.

# PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

In this time of pandemic, our clergy bring the sacraments of reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members of the community who are very ill. For more information and to arrange receiving the sacraments, contact Parish Office, 02 9670 8222, or email admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au.



# PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

### SICK

Andrew Boulos, Louis Tham, Emilia Rose Moya, Linda Allen, Giulia Caruana, Joseph Caruana, Angela Cook, Harry Young, Emily Michel, Ruby Ellis, Amanda Young, Bella Tasone, and all who tested positive from Coronavirus

### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Ester Perez, Jose Marde Belonio, Florence Mary Oliveira, Leo Pereira, Glen Bouche, Larry O'Connell, Indrani Perera, John McMahon, Delia Farrales, Barry Warren Lewis, Audrey Atkinson, Marlon Jimenea, and all who died from Coronavirus

### **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:**

Oscar Bertumen, Arthur Falleiro, Jane Croning, Anthony Scott, George Herft, Elvira Puyat, Lionel Batcho, Sofia Falcatan

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 <sup>ST</sup> COLLECTION	For the care of our Augustinian clergy	\$ 395.00	
2 <sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION	Loose plate		
For the administration & maintenance costs of the parish	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 510.00	
	Planned Giving Direct Debit & Credit Card	\$ 1,823.06	
Average Weekly Operating Expenses		\$ 4,342.96	
SPECIAL COLLECTION	N/A		

# THIS WEEK IN SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY:

Mon 25 May:	Beginning of Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	
Tue 26 May:	World Communications Day; Nat'l Sorry Day	
Wed 27 May:	Beginning of Nat'l Reconciliation Week	
Fri 29 May:	Int'l Day of UN Peacekeepers; 1992, Launch of Torres Strait Islander Flag	



### REFLECTION

### Historical Context - To the ends of the earth

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.

### Scriptural Context - Not the only Ascension

The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.

### Living the Gospel - You will be my witnesses

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.

### **Questions for Adults**

How might this passage have contributed to the teaching of God as Trinity? In what ways did Jesus fulfil the role of a paraclete or advocate? What are the commandments that Jesus refers to as 'his commandments'? What does this passage tells us about Jesus' vision of what it is to be a disciple?

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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 9<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm, Pioneers Rm. Presenter will be Michael Zammit.



You can send your donations by electronic funds transfer or visit www.lent.caritas.org.au.

Call 1800 024 413 for details.



2020 marks the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si', which was signed on 24 May 2015.

Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home, Laudato Si', is an inspiration during moments of difficulty. It encourages us to reflect on the values we share and create a more just and sustainable future.

The theme of Laudato Si' Week is "everything is connected."

During 'Laudato Si' Week, we come together as one people around the world to prayerfully discern the lessons of this moment. While the world experiences a historical crisis, we reflect and prepare to build a better world.

The Social Justice Office of the Diocese of Parramatta has prepared a video message from Bishop Vincent to mark the occasion:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LLWjANWHzc



# THE SUNDAY FLOCK



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

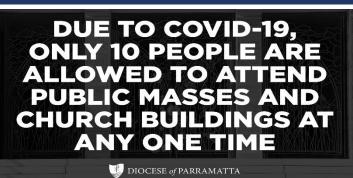
"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Sheepish Question: What am I waiting for?

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Parish Office is now OPEN every Tue-Fri 9am-5pm. If you wish to contact the Parish Office:

02 9670 8222 • 0451 279 934 admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au



# UPDATE ON THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCH

As required by NSW Government, those who enter the church must complete the sign-in form available in the church foyer. Physical distancing must be strictly observed.

- Holy Spirit Church is open for **private prayer and devotions**, Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation is every Saturday from 3pm to 5pm. If you wish to come on weekdays, contact the Parish Office.
- Weekday Masses. Regular Weekday Masses will resume on Monday 18 May. If you wish to come to Mass, ring 9834 2527 to book. Booking is necessary. Please ring between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday.
- Sunday Masses. Sunday Masses will commence on 24 May, 9.30am and 6pm. If you wish to come to Mass, ring 9834 2527 to book. Booking is necessary. Please ring between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday.
- **Baptisms.** One family is allowed to have their child baptised with only 10 attendees. Contact the Parish Office for details.
- Anointing of the Sick. Contact the Parish Office.
- Weddings. Up to 10 persons plus the couple, the celebrant and assisting ministers are permitted.
- Funerals. 20 mourners indoors or 30 mourners outdoors are permitted for funerals, in addition to clergy and funeral directors.
- The elderly, those with health conditions and lowimmune system are still advised to stay at home.
- Touch-free hand sanitiser dispensers are available near the holy water fonts.
- Please disinfect the chair where you are seated before leaving the church with the disinfecting wipes provided in the foyer.

# PARISH FEAST DAY 2020 Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2020

We invite you to pray with your family the 3-day (Triduum) Novena and Chaplet of the Holy Spirit (from 28 to 30 May) as part of our unique celebration of our Parish's Feast Day. Available for download on our parish website and Facebook page.





# WORSHIP @ HOME

We invite parishioners to use this liturgy and pray together with your family. Available on our parish website (under Parish News) and Facebook page. It will be made available every weekend while Mass attendance in the church is still limited.

# #HolySpiritStClairWorshipAtHome

# Jesuit Social Services- Ignite Food Store

The Jesuit Social Services has been connecting with and offering service to the people of Emerton and wider Mt Druitt. Ignite Food Store has become the point of hope for so many people. However, as a result of the COVID19 virus, they are in short supply and currently require donations of groceries to provide to local residents.

If your family would like to donate groceries please email *Claire.Thomas@jss.org.au* or contact Claire on 0417 269 623. If you would like to make a financial donation to the Ignite Food Store to assist in purchasing wholesale goods, please go to: *http://www.ignitefoodstore.com.au/*.

Your contribution and generosity make such a wonderful impact on the lives of so many. On behalf of the Ignite Food Store team and the Emerton and broader Mt Druitt communities a huge thank you!

# **TOP 14 GROCERY ITEMS:**

- 1. Coffee/Milo
- 2. Breakfast Cereals
- 3. Honey/Vegemite/Nutella
- 4. Cake Mixes/Sugar/Flour
- 5. Assorted long life milk
- 6. Muesli Bars/LCM Bars
- 7. Savoury biscuits/Rice cracker/Crackers
- 8. Pasta Sauce/Simmer sauces
- 9. Rice
- 10. 2 minutes noodles/noodles
- 11. Mayo/salad dressings
- 12. Canned goods Baked Beans/Spaghetti/Canned Vegies
- 13. Baby needs formula and nappies (toddlers- junior)
- 14. Toilet Rolls



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained: Being Godparent to a Child

## **Question**:

As the godfather for my niece, what must I do as she grows up? Are there specific responsibilities I have?

### Answer:

The biggest responsibility you have as a godparent is to set a good example of practicing faith. Receiving the sacraments and taking an active part in your parish teaches by deed and shows your godchild how to live a life of faith. Next to the child's parents, your role can be one of great influence in her religious formation and education.

What else can you do? A special remembrance on the day the child was baptized can highlight its importance. As the child grows older, discussions about God, Jesus, matters of faith, and the parish provide opportunities to share your own beliefs and practices. Celebrate first Penance, first Communion, and Confirmation as key moments in your godchild's faith journey. Parents and godparents share in this responsibility in a unique and special way. Your obligations do not end with the ceremony of Baptism, but are just the beginning.

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

As you can imagine, our main source of income is greatly depleted with the suspension of public Masses, and now with very limited numbers. Please know you can still support Holy Spirit by signing up to contribute online. Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to:

# www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations

You can also send your offerings/donations thru bank transfer:

FIRST COLLECTION: For the Augustinian Clergy

Account Name:	Augustinian Fathers
Bank:	CBA
BSB:	067 950
Account Number:	000 030 02
SECOND COLLECITON	: For the Parish
Account Name:	Holy Spirit Parish St

Account Name:Holy Spirit Parish St ClairBank:CBABSB:067 950Account Number:000 005 78



If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Mila at accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au.

Or drop off your Planned Giving envelopes at the Parish Office. Thank you so much for your support!

# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH 2020 Sacramental Preparation

Bookings can be made online thru the Parish Website www.holyspiritstclair.com.au

Registration for First Reconciliation is ongoing

Registration for First Communion will commence on 1st July 2020 DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON GOVERNMENT'S DIRECTIVES

# 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

# FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)

- Parent Information & Catechesis Meeting
  - Mon, 24 August @ 9.30am (1 hr)
  - Wed, 26 August @ 7pm (1 hr)
  - Preparation Sessions will be in September (3 weeks)
    - First Communion Masses: 17-18, 24-25, 31 October, 1 November

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: sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au M: 0451 279 934 • P: 02 9670 8222 • A: 5 Todd Row, St Clair 2759 NSW

### AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



Better to have fewer wants than greater riches to supply increasing wants.

St Augustine of Hippo 354-430 AD

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#### **TRY TO FIND THESE WORDS:**

Galilee	authority	doubted
earth	eleven	end
everything	heaven	mountain
nations	teach	worshiped

### ON A LIGHTER NOTE

A really huge muscular guy with a bad stutter goes to a counter in a department store and asks, "W-w-w-where's the m-m-men's dep-p-p-partment?"

The clerk behind the counter just looks at him and says nothing.

The man repeats himself: "W-w-w-where's the m-m-men's dep-p-p-partment?"

Again, the clerk doesn't answer him.

The guy asks several more times: "W-w-w-where's the m-m-m-men's depp-p-partment?"

And the clerk just seems to ignore him.

Finally, the guy storms off in anger.

The customer who was waiting in line behind the guy asks the clerk, "Why wouldn't you answer that guy's question?"

The clerk answers, "D-d-d-do you th-th-th-think I w-w-w-want to get b-bb-beat up?!!"

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

### SAINT PHILIP NERI

Patron Saint of Rome, US Special Forces, Humour and Joy - Feast Day : 26<sup>th</sup> May



St. Philip Neri was a Christian missionary and founder of the Congregation of the Oratory, а community of Catholic priests and lay brothers. He was born in Florence on July 21, 1515 as one of four children to Francesco Neri. Philip was cheerful and obedient and received his early teachings from friars at the Dominican monastery in Florence, San Marco. At 18-years-old he experienced a mystical vision, which he eventually spoke of as his Christian conversion. This event was an encounter with the Lord and it dramatically changed his life. He felt a call from the Holy Spirit to radically live for and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. So, Philip set out for Rome. During his first two years in Rome, Philip spent his time in a solitary life, prayer, visiting the sick and fasting. In 1535, Philip began studying theology and philosophy at St. Augustine's monastery, before setting out to help the poor people of Rome and to re-evangelize the city.

He whole-heartedly desired the reform of the Catholic Church and worked towards that with a sense of gentleness and friendship. He easily caught others' attention with his warm personality and incredible sense of humor. He encouraged groups of people to gather for discussions, studies, prayer and the enjoyment of music.

In 1548, with the help of his confessor, Fr Persiano Rossa, Philip founded the Confraternity of the Most Holy Trinity. At 34-years-old, Philip, guided by Fr Rossa, was ordained to the diaconate and then to the priesthood on May 23, 1551. He became a trusted advisor to popes, kings, cardinals and to the poor. Philip suffered poor health for 10 years, and on the Feast of Corpus Christi, May 25, 1595, he realized his time had come to pass on to the Lord. Before heading off to bed, Philip stated, "Last of all, we must die." He died around midnight on May 26th 1595. St. Philip Neri was beatified by Pope Paul V on May 11, 1615 and canonized by Pope Gregory XV on March 12, 1622.

An initiative of Evangelization and Catechesis Commission



	Under the Pastoral Care of the AugustiniansDiocese of Parramattawww.parra.catholic.org.au						
Facebook	Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park • Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry • BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry)						
Parish Office	5 Todd Row (PO Box 103) St Clair NSW 2759 P 02 9670 8222 E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au W www.holyspiritstclair.com.au						
Office Hours	9.00am to 5pm (Monday to Friday)						
Priory	3 Peter Pan Glen, St Clair						
Parish Staff	Parish Moderator: Fr Michael Belonio, OSA P 8416 1633 E mbelonio@holyspiritstclair.com.au						
	Asst Pastor: Fr Peter Tangey, OSA P 8416 1634 E ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au						
	Deacon: Rev Quang Tuyen Pham, OSA (Tuyen) P 8416 1636 E tpham@holyspiritstclair.com.au						
	Parish Secretary: Elisa Reynolds P 9670 8222 E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au (Tue-Fri)						
	Parish Bookkeeper: Mila Llamas P 8416 1637 E accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au (Mon and Wed)						
	SRE Coordinator (Catechists): Margaret Currie M 0466 412 223 E mmcurrie9@gmail.com						
	Sacramental Coordinator: Germaine Gil M 0451 279 934 E sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au						
	BASIC GIFT Youth Ministry: Eleanor Stuart M 0431 639 895 E eleanor.stuart97@gmail.com						
Parish Council	Chair: Ana Gregoriou • Asst Chair: Sarah Cañete-Damole • Secretary: Bernadette Stevens						
	Members: Cathy Allen, Dominic Dimech, Jamie Dowsett, Gus Morgan, Manuel Fidow, Paola Dicenso,						
	Margaret Portelli, Michael Paulo, 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						

#### 24 May 2020

