



# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, Yr B

25 December 2020



## LITURGY TIMES

### Saturday

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

### Sunday

Mass, 8am, 9.30am and 6pm  
Youth Mass, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun, 6pm

### Monday and Wednesday

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

### Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Mass, 9.05am  
Anointing Mass, 1<sup>st</sup> Fri, 9.05am

### 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Night Devotion

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,  
7.30pm

### Children's Liturgy

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

### Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals,

Anointing of the Sick  
*by appointment*



## 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)



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11

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

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[www.holyspiritstclair.com.au](http://www.holyspiritstclair.com.au)  
[admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au)



# Prayer & Worship

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## FIRST READING

Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7

*A child has been born for us; a son given to us.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2, 3-4, 11-12, 13 (R. Luke 2.11)

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

## SECOND READING

Titus 2.11-14

*The grace of God has appeared to all.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 2:10-11

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

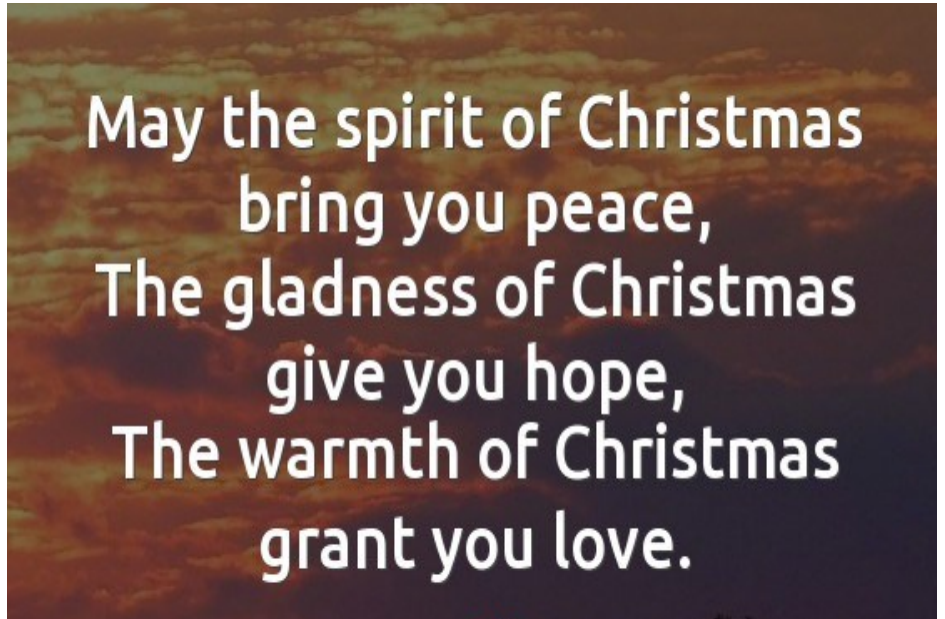
*Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

Luke 2.1-16++

*To you is born this day a Saviour, who is the Messiah.*



## *From the Parish Priest*

Dear Holy Spirit Family,

It's undeniably been a tough year and one many will be happy to move on from. But as we celebrate Christmas, however different it is this year, it is important to look up in hope. Even though there are many reasons to be afraid of, reminding that in the most difficult days of our life, we Christians have, time and time again, found consolation in the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ that begins with the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem.

Our celebration of Christmas in churches and families this year are tempered by the physical distancing and other restrictions brought on by our concern to protect each other from the Coronavirus.

The pandemic has torn everywhere the social fabric, causing massive unemployment, rending our connections to each other.

Despite the restrictions in place, we can glimpse in the birth of the child Jesus. As people of faith, we

know that in the Incarnation of Jesus, God draws near to us, loves us compassionately. As people of hope, we glimpse in the birth of Jesus God's "yes" to life, and the birth of new possibility and new life. As people of love, we are moved by Christ's love towards reconciliation and unity.

Christmas allows us to find consolation, lift our heads in hope, and glimpse in deep faith the triumph of life and love in the birth of Jesus. This is good news of great joy for all people. And so, despite everything, together with the angels we sing (with masks on ☺) through our traditional carols: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards people."

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace; the gladness of Christmas give you hope, the warmth of Christmas grant you love.

✠ Fr Myk Belonio, OSA



## COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES COMMENCING 7 DECEMBER

With the announcement of new easing of restrictions commencing Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, we are limited by the 2 square meter rule. However, the 1.5 meter social distancing per household still applies.

If you are planning to come to any of our masses, there is no need to book (except for Christmas Masses).

Congregational singing is now permitted, but 12 years or older are advised to wear a mask.

### **CONTACT TRACING:**

Because NSW Government still requires contact tracing, there are three ways to do this:

- Mass Attendance cards **MUST** be completed by each household per mass. Cards are available in the foyer. Feel free to take home a few cards so you can complete them before going to church to avoid delay. Drop the completed card on the day you are attending in the designated box provided in the foyer
- Sign-in using the QR code displayed in the foyer
- Online Mass Attendance card (Eventbrite) is available. To register, go to:

<https://holyspiritclair.eventbrite.com.au>

*Eventbrite registration will close 24 hours before the event*

Please print your cards/tickets and drop them on the day you are attending in the designated box provided in the foyer.

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In order to maximise the use of our liturgical space, please observe the following:

- Families and those living under one household sit together.
- Proceed to end of row if vacant.
- Leave 3 chairs empty between you and another household.

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*The elderly, those with health conditions, flu-like symptoms and low-immune system are still advised to stay at home. Catholics from Parramatta Diocese are still dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.*



### **WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained**

#### **Question:**

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

#### **Answer:**

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

## PARISH BULLETIN ADVERTISING



**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR BULLETIN!**

**commencing 7 February 2021**

For more information, contact the Parish Office, 02 9670 8222, [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au).

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

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

## 2021 Sacramental Preparation

Early bookings can be made online thru the Parish Website commencing mid December 2020  
[www.holyspiritstclair.com.au](http://www.holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**CONFIRMATION (Year 5)**

- Parent Information & Catechesis—online link will be provided
- Preparation Sessions will be in March/April
- Confirmation Masses: Sat 24th April, 2.30pm; Sun 25th April 11.30am, Sat 1st May 2.30pm; Sun 2nd May 11.30am

**FIRST RECONCILIATION (Year 3)**

- Parent Information & Catechesis—online link will be provided
- Preparation Sessions will be in May (3 weeks)
- First Reconciliation: 22, 24, 27, 29 May

**FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)**

- Parent Information & Catechesis—online link will be provided
- Preparation Sessions will be end July/August(3 weeks)
- First Communion Masses: 14-15, 21-22, 28-29 August

PLEASE NOTE : THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO ANY FURTHER COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

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

For all enquiries contact the Parish Office:  
E: [sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au) • P: 0451279934 • A: 5 Todd Row, St Clair



Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic?

R.C.I.A.

FLYERS AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER

INFORMATION MEETING

on the 1<sup>st</sup> week in February 2021

For more details, contact Raelene at [rjpirotta@gmail.com](mailto:rjpirotta@gmail.com) or the Parish Office



Pope Francis said:

## "Being a Catechist is a Vocation"

Is it Your Vocation? Join Us and Find Out...

For details, contact Ken and Cathy Allen [sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au)



## 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 ageing. For more information and to arrange receiving the sacraments, contact Parish Office at [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au) or 9670 8222.

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



# Please DONATE

Support the Parish by signing up to contribute online. Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Regular Church Giving is quick and easy. Visit: [www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations](http://www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations). Or thru bank transfer:

**FIRST COLLECTION: For the upkeep of our Augustinian Clergy**

Account Name: Augustinian Fathers  
Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 000 030 02

**SECOND COLLECITON: For the administration of the Parish**

Account Name: Holy Spirit Parish St Clair  
Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 000 005 78

If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Mila, [accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au). Thank you so much for your support of our parish!