

A GUIDE TO THE LIFE
OF THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF

holy spirit

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



Welcome



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

Children's Liturgy

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

Monday and Wednesday

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

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Mass, 9.05am
Reconciliation, 1st Fri, 8.30-9am
Anointing Mass, 1st Fri, 9.05am

Friday Night Devotion

1st Fri, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
7.30pm

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

by appointment
Baptisms, every Saturday, 11.30am

Holy Spirit Parish strives to be a loving and welcoming community. With love and hospitality as our foundation we extend a warm welcome to you as you join our parish family.

We truly believe that we are God's Family and, as such, like to get to know our brothers and sisters who come to celebrate God's love, in our Parish through the Mass. From the moment you step across the threshold, you will be greeted by a member of our Welcoming Committee and, most likely, by one of our friendly Augustinian priests. So please, don't be shy; take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself to other parishioners. Their smile and a kind word might just make your day!

This welcome pack includes a registration form which we invite you to complete and leave at the parish office or with one of our priests; it will help us get to know you and how to keep in touch.

At Holy Spirit we encourage you to become involved in our parish life as well as the liturgy at whatever level you feel comfortable. There are many different ministries that can give you an opportunity to share your God-given gifts. You will find an outline of these ministries later in this booklet.



Contact Information

PARISH OFFICE

5 Todd Row (PO Box 103)
St Clair NSW 2759
H Mon—Fri, 9am - 5pm
P 02 9670 8222
E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au
W www.holyspiritstclair.com.au
F facebook.com/holyspiritstclair

PRIORY

3 Peter Pan Glen, St Clair

PARISH PRIESTS

Parish Moderator
Fr Michael Belonio OSA
P 02 9670 8222
E mbelonio@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Assistant Pastor
Fr Peter Tangey OSA
P 02 9670 8222
E ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Augustinian Brother
John Zhang OSA
P 02 9670 8222
E jzhang@holyspiritstclair.com.au

PARISH STAFF

Secretary
Elisa Reynolds
Tuesday to Friday
P 02 9670 8222
E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Bookkeeper
Mila Lamas
Monday to Wednesday
P 9670 8222
E accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Sacramental Program Coordinator
Germaine Gil
P 9670 8222 / 0451 279 934
E sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Ana Gregoriou

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Elna Sandot

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ken & Cathy Allen
E sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Holy Spirit Primary School

7 Todd Row, St Clair
P 02 8886 3200
E HolySpirit@parra.catholic.edu.au
W www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au
Principal
Frances Garzaniti

Trinity Primary School

61 Bakers Lane, Kemps Creek
P 02 8856 6200
E Trinity@parra.catholic.edu.au
W www.trinitykempscreek.catholic.edu.au
Principal
Catherine Hey

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Emmaus Catholic College

87 Bakers Lane, Kemps Creek
P 02 9670 8300
E Emmaus@parra.catholic.edu.au
W www.emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au
Principal
Robert Nastasi

RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Emmaus Retirement Village

85 Bakers Lane, Kemps Creek
P 02 8804 0200
W www.catholichealthcare.com.au



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

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is that we seek to be a community who are:

- Welcoming, friendly and hospitable
- Open to change, willing to learn, grow and collaborate
- Served by the rich diversity of our talent and ethnic composition
- Paying particular attention to the needs of families and youth
- Used to celebrating both socially and liturgically
- Striving to be Christ-centred while reaching out to others

A Little Bit of History

There is really only a little bit of history because Holy Spirit is a young parish, having been established in 1981. The name 'Holy Spirit' was chosen by our first priest Fr Brian Rooney with the hope that "...we always live as a spirit-filled parish." Our first Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary in St Marys. Sunday Mass continued to be held in the hall of St Clair Primary School on Timesweep Drive. Fr Rooney also celebrated daily Mass in his rented home. In November 1983 the first stage of our own church was completed. We now had a parish centre and main hall. The presbytery, parish office, kitchen and meeting rooms were not completed until 1985.

Over the years, Fr Rooney was assisted by Fathers Paul Coleman, Wim Hoekstra, Paul Venticinque, and Don Griffin as well as deacons. A team of Mercy Sisters was appointed to the Parish to assist in parish work and establish a school - Sisters, Joan Keogh, Pastoral Associate in 1982, Patricia Bolster, the first Principal of Holy Spirit Primary in 1984 along with Noni Ball, working in the field of drama established the "Todd Row Players" and Mary Louise Petro to lead a youth team. Realising the need for employment opportunities for young people living in the area, together with the Sisters of Mercy, the Mamre Project was established operating out of Mamre Homestead providing valuable training and job opportunities.



As the Parish community grew committees and ministries were established, a high school, Emmaus College in 1988 and a second primary school, Trinity in 1993 were also built to meet the educational needs of the growing Catholic population in the area. However at the end of 1994, Fr Rooney resigned and the then Bishop of Parramatta, Bede Heather, negotiated with the Augustinians to pastor the parish. So in 1995 the first of the Augustinian Fathers arrived to join our community, Frs Brendan Quirke, Paul Maloney and Peter Wieneke (and Peter Tangey for a short stay). Many teams later we continue to be blessed with the presence and works of our Augustinian pastors who promote collaborative leadership with the Parish community. *"One mind and one heart on the way to God." St Augustine.*

Becoming Involved In Our Parish Community

BECOME A REGISTERED MEMBER OF OUR PARISH!

Registering with our Parish office gives you and your family a sense of belonging to our community. We can also keep in touch with you. A registration form is inserted in this pack for your convenience. It is also available at the church foyer.

As a member of the Parish you also have the opportunity to assist us financially with regular contributions. These are always welcomed and needed. Go to the Parish website www.holyspiritstclair.com.au and click on the Donate Now button to find out how contributions can be made.

CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN ONE OF OUR MANY MINISTRIES AND ACTIVITIES WE NEED YOU!

Three Simple Reasons

First, share your talents!

Second, participating in a ministry is a wonderful way of getting to know other members of the community and also a way of building up the parish.

Third, it will be a rewarding and a meaningful experience! Whatever you choose to become involved in you will receive more than you give.

HOW DO I BECOME INVOLVED?

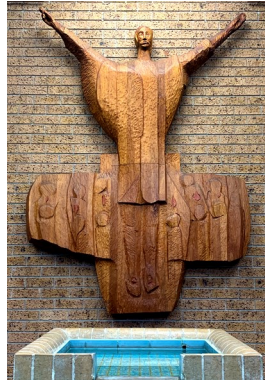
Consider the various options listed in these pages. Decide which best suits your interests, skills, talents and availability. Talk over the possibilities with other parishioners you know involved in the ministry in which you are interested. Consider the *New Parishioner Form* that is inserted in this pack. Complete the form and hand it to the parish office or to any of our priests. The coordinator of the ministry will be in touch with you to discuss your involvement.

Symbolisms in Our Church

Over the years some very creative people have been involved in designing and making the furnishings in the church and many of which portray special meaning.

The Cross

The cross on the wall of the sanctuary represents the risen Christ; no longer the victim of crucifixion, but risen to New Life. The Cross also contains the carving of people who represent the Pentecostal assembly with the Risen Christ as our teacher.



It rests on branches of metal. Pieces of red, yellow and orange glass intermittently crossing, when lit from within, signifies the burning bush of Mt Sinai.

The Sanctuary Furniture



The furniture of the sanctuary is made from Queensland maple and was donated to the church by Fr Paul Maloney OSA and his family trust.

The artist designed the furniture to represent the open arms of Christ - those strong and loving arms that support us through the most difficult times in our lives.

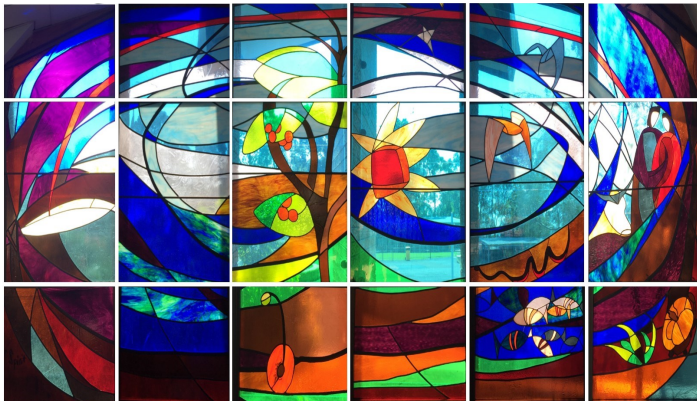
The curved legs of the altar depict those supporting arms, rooted to the earth, as Christ was in His humanity. The glass portrays the invisibility of the Holy Spirit who, together with Christ (the legs) raise up the Father (the altar top).

The arms of the presider's chair are also curved representing that our priest sits embraced by the arms of Christ.

The lectern shows the hands of Christ turned to embrace the reader as they proclaim the Word of God.

The Baptismal Font (in the background) is clearly visible through the altar representing an uninterrupted flow towards the people.

The Leadlight Windows



There are 6 windows in total giving an account of the Creation Story, and ending with the creation of man and woman. The artist has used vivid colours to depict the light, water and other elements of the story. The red swirl across the top representing the creative essence of the Holy Spirit.

The Tabernacle

The tabernacle is located in the chapel on the right hand side of the altar. It is made from wood and has the Hebrew words "I am who I am" carved into the doors.



The Mercy Cross

This symbol is the emblem of the Sisters of Mercy who had an essential role in the formation of our parish. It signifies the challenge to consider the role of the cross in God's plan for our redemption. It is a reminder of "how infinitely great is His mercy." (Eph. 2:8)



The Augustinian Emblem

The Augustinian emblem, as depicted on the left, incorporates an open book and a flaming heart pierced by an arrow.

The open book suggests a dedication to study and the pursuit of knowledge, both divine and earthly.



The flaming heart reminds Augustinian followers to practise and preach charity toward God and neighbour.

The arrow piercing the book and the heart, represents the Spirit of God piercing our minds and our hearts and calling us to a continual growth in faith, hope and love.

The Marian Chapel

The icon of Our Lady of Good Counsel can be found in the chapel and holds special significance for our parish:

- ◇ The image was given to our founding priest, Fr Brian Rooney, as a gift from his brother.
- ◇ The Sisters of Mercy, whose members have ministered to our parish, have a special devotion to Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- ◇ The Augustinian Order (our current pastors) is under the patronage of Our Lady of Good Counsel and honour Mary under this title.



The St Joseph Chapel

St Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal Church and the Protector of the Augustinians and now the patron saint of the men's group, *aka Men's Business*, here at Holy Spirit.

The shrine of St Joseph was made possible by the initiative and generosity of the *Men's Business*. The shrine was blessed on 19 March 2019, on the Feast of St Joseph.



Saints Ezekiel Moreno & Padre Pio Shrine

First Class relic of St Ezekiel Moreno, patron saint of cancer patients and the Second Class relic of Padre Pio, patron saint of adolescents and stress relief was enthroned on 23 August 2020. St Ezekiel (1848-1906) was a member of the Order of Augustinian Recollects and Padre Pio (1887-1968) was a member of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. We thank the Augustinian Nuns in Rome for gifting us these relics for public veneration.



First Class Relic of
ST EZEKIEL MORENO
Patron Saint of cancer patients



Second Class Relic of
ST PIUS OF PIETRELcina (PADRE PIO)
Patron Saint of adolescents & stress relief

Community & Liturgical Life

Holy Spirit Parish is committed to shared leadership and working together in partnership, as a means of empowering people to recognise their gifts and shared responsibility in a spirit of service to others. Commissions have been set up to foster the values of community and collaboration for the growth and spiritual life of the Parish.

Each commission is a team of parishioners within itself but they also guide and support the many groups and ministries within their commission to bring people together to celebrate, pray and carry on God's mission of love in the world. The Commissions include **Liturgy, Catechesis and Evangelisation, Social Justice, Spirituality, Community and Culture** and there are other groups and ministries which operate outside of the umbrella of a commission. You can read some information about some of these groups and ministries on the following pages and read more extensive information on our Parish website.

**All enquiries regarding any of the parish ministries can be referred to the Parish office -
admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au**



LITURGY COMMISSION

The members of the Liturgical Commission work together with the parish priest to oversee the liturgical life of the parish. This involves education programs and liturgical preparation for the various Church seasons. Overall, they endeavour to make the celebration of liturgy meaningful and inclusive for all.

Ministers at the Altar

In this ministry, altar servers are representatives of the worshipping community. Adult altar servers may be anyone over the age of 16. They receive

special training for their role and wear a white alb while serving at the altar.

Children can become altar servers around the age of 10 and must have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. This ministry can foster a child's spiritual growth.

Readers/Commentators Ministry

At each Mass, we require people to proclaim to the assembly the readings from the bible. It is the role of the reader to convey the message of the reading in a clear and precise manner. Training is required before a person joins the roster to read at Sunday Masses.

Music Ministry

Our liturgies are always made more meaningful by the inclusion of music. We have many choirs in the parish and all would welcome new members. All you need to do is approach them after Mass and introduce yourself or, if you're a little shy, ask one of the priests to introduce you. Remember, St Augustine said, *"He who sings well, prays twice."*

Eucharistic Ministers

The role of Eucharistic ministers is to help the priest distribute the Eucharist in a timely manner. There are usually 7 ministers rostered on each Sunday Mass - 3 for the bread and 4 for the wine. Training is required before this ministry can be undertaken.

PowerPoint Ministry

To ensure active participation in the liturgy, the PowerPoint ministers operate the PowerPoint slides that contain the hymns and other Mass responses.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

The people in this group aim to bring a touch of Christ's healing grace to others. They perform a variety of tasks depending on need, availability and skill. These caring people visit the sick, the aged and the lonely. They might offer to help with transport to Mass or visit the bereaved to show support. Those who are Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist receive specialised instruction so that they can take communion to the sick and homebound.

Welcomers & Collectors Ministry

Welcomers

Those who are in the Welcoming Ministry have a special role of greeting others with a smile and a kind word as they gather to worship. We invite you to continue this feeling of hospitality by introducing yourself to others; maybe gifting them with a smile or a kind word. In coming to know others with whom you celebrate, we can be more truly the Body of Christ.

Collectors

At the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass the parish collection is taken up. This is not a rostered

team, but volunteers may assist in this service during the Mass.

Devotional Stall

The devotional stall is run by volunteers and is open after most Masses. It is here that you might find gifts suitable for Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation. You can also find Sunday missals, holy cards and prayer cards.

Care of the Church Environment

Banner Ministry

The banners for our sanctuary space are created by a team of volunteers and help contribute to the prayerful atmosphere in our church, reflecting the theme of the readings or liturgical season of the Church.

Flower Ministry



A dedicated group of people make our worship space aesthetically pleasing and fragrant by providing fresh flower arrangements for Masses each week.

Linen Ministry

Cleaning altar linens involves taking care, washing and ironing of the vestments e.g. chasubles, albs, altar table cloths, purificators that are used when wiping the sacred vessels at communion, and the towels that are used at the altar by the celebrant. The linens are taken home once a week after Sunday Masses and then returned to the sacristy before the Masses for the following week.



Church Cleaners

Our wonderful band of cleaners endeavour to ensure that our church is a clean, comfortable and welcoming place for us to worship. These volunteers require no specialised training, just an hour or so to spare on Saturday mornings. The roster requires a group of volunteers to clean about once every five weeks.

Gardeners

On entering our church grounds you will be greeted by our garden which creates a tranquil space surrounding the building, inviting you into our worshipping space. If you enjoy gardening this group might be the group for you.

CATECHESIS & EVANGELISATION COMMISSION

The members of the Catechesis and Evangelisation Commission work to promote and educate our parishioners in the faith.

Sacramental Program

Each year volunteers offer to assist in a number of ways in the sacramental programs that run in the Parish; from the preparation for **Infant** Baptism, the preparation of children through the Sacramental Program, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) through to the Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children (RCIC). *(More information on the Sacraments in the following pages)*

Special Religious Education (SRE)

Catechists for State Schools

Jesus says to his disciples, “Go out into all the world and preach the Good News.” A catechist has the joy of spreading this Good News to the Catholic children attending the State Schools during the school hours. This rewarding form of discipleship does not require an in-depth knowledge of Catholic doctrine as resources are fully provided. The catechist brings a deep love of Jesus and love for children. It takes a little time to prepare and give your lesson once a week. It is also possible to attend classes once a week in a supportive role as an assistant to our catechist.

Children’s Liturgy

On the 2nd and 4th weekend of each month there is a children’s liturgy offered at the 6pm Saturday Vigil and Sunday 9:30 am Masses. Primary school-aged children participate in a Liturgy of the Word led by volunteers who break open the Gospel appropriate to the age of the children. The children rejoin the assembly in time for the Offertory.

Family Ministry

The family group aims to bring young families together in support. They organise regular activities such as film nights, Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day events and the annual family barbeque.


Men’s Business Ministry



The ministry is open to all adult men, the only prerequisite being that you are either a father, brother, husband or son (good news, you are!). Come to share, come to listen, or come to learn. Monthly meetings follow a loosely structured plan based on a group selected theme, chosen to help men with their real world challenges and to reclaim their true identities as men! ESTO VIR - “be a man”. We are colloquially called ‘Men’s Business’!

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

The members of the Social Justice Commission work to promote social justice in our society. They bring together two groups working within this commission providing opportunities for parishioners to be involved in making a difference to our society.



Social Justice Group



“Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

The Social Justice group meets on a monthly basis and has an open door invitation for anybody to join them. They choose a focus for each year - to become more educated about the issue and to endeavour to do something about it.

In today's world, there is a great deal of injustice and Jesus challenges us not to turn a blind eye but attempt to do something about it. “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.” (Mat 25:40) Will you rise to the challenge?

St Vincent de Paul

The members of St Vincent de Paul volunteer their time to help those who are less fortunate. They offer assistance with food, clothing, blankets and vouchers for gas and electricity bills. They also visit people in their homes to provide company, support and generally to let people know that they are not alone.

The St Clair chapter of St Vincent de Paul meets weekly on Tuesday evenings. New members are always welcome.

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

The members of the Spirituality Commission work to develop the spiritual life of the Parish through different celebrations and groups.

Youth Group

Our parish youth group is BASIC GIFT—an acronym for Brothers And Sisters In Christ Growing In Faith Together. They meet after the 6pm Mass on Sunday evenings and they celebrate a youth Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

Couples for Christ

Couples For Christ renew and strengthen couples in their Christian lives. They have a strong focus on being relevant to the life of the Church and help in supporting a vibrant Christian Community.

Friends of St Augustine

This is an Augustinian lay group who aim to foster the teachings of St Augustine. The group is based on community and friendship, prayer and a Gospel-centred life.

Divine Mercy

Divine Mercy devotion and adoration, is held at the parish centre currently on the 3rd Friday of the month from 7:30pm–8:30pm. All are welcome!

Bible Study

An opportunity to learn more about the stories in the Bible and how they relate to God. Different levels of study are conducted across the week throughout the year. Contact the parish office for more information and to book into a group.

Mother's Prayer Group

The Mothers' Prayer Group consist of mothers within the parish that meet at the church on Tuesdays after the weekday morning Mass for an hour, to pray for their children, grandchildren and spouses and reflection on the day's Gospel readings and songs of praise in thanksgiving for motherhood. If you are a mother and would like to join contact the parish office who can put you in touch with the co-ordinator of the group.



COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMISSION

The members of the Community and Culture Commission bring people together through celebrations within the Parish and social events.

Bingo Nights

Of course we all love our bingo. This fundraiser is held once a quarter in the school MPA.

It follows the 6:00 pm Mass on a Saturday night and is preceded by an Aussie sausage sizzle.

Pentecost Celebrations

With the feast of Pentecost being our parish feast day, we endeavor to do something out of the ordinary to celebrate it. Some of these have been distributing dove shaped cookies, free sausage sizzle and parish picnics on the church grounds.

Marian Fiesta

In October each year we hold a novena for Our Lady of the Rosary. This is concluded by a Marian Fiesta where all come together to celebrate with food and music. Each year, a cultural group takes responsibility for leading the organising committee

and the fiesta.

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Each month we celebrate with couples who have their wedding anniversary in that month at the 9:30 am Mass. After communion, the couples come up to the altar for a special blessing and afterwards we all join them for morning tea.

Filipino Catholic Association


This association is responsible for planning the monthly Filipino Mass on the first Sunday of each month at 3:30 pm. Additionally, they plan retreats, carolling during Advent and other activities.

OTHER GROUPS & MINISTRIES THAT SUSTAIN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

There are other groups and ministries that operate in the Parish and that you might be interested to learn more about.

Finance Committee

Members of the finance committee work in conjunction with the parish priest to ensure that our parish has the material and human resources needed to maintain the



running of the parish and allow us to spread the Good News. With the collections at Sunday Mass and the regular church contribution program, parishioners are enabled to take some responsibility for the financial well-being of the church.

Parish Pastoral Council

A team of parishioners nominated to represent the parish community for a period of two years, serve to facilitate an atmosphere of faith, hope and love within the community. Their role is to listen to the needs of the parishioners, discuss, consult, give advice and collaborate with the parish pastoral team led by the parish priest. All decisions made in collaboration and consultation are discerned through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Any parish concerns emailed to the parish office and addressed to the PPC will be forwarded to the PPC executive committee for consideration.

Work Health and Safety Committee

Care and safety of the parish community is paramount at Holy Spirit Parish.

Grants Committee

A small group of parishioners have over the years successfully received grants for outreach and local community projects.

Repairs and Maintenance Team

One of the challenges of any building is keeping up with the repairs that occur over time.

Collection Counters Team

Our parishioners generously contribute their financial resources to the operations and mission of our parish family through the second collection. Detail-oriented people carefully count and organise our weekly collections from the weekend Masses.

Fundraising Committee

Members of the Fundraising Committee work in conjunction with the Finance Committee to help our parish finance the various ministries and projects. They organise fundraising activities and tap respective networks for potential donors of money, time and in-kind support.

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Spirit Parish is lucky enough to have 3 Catholic schools, namely Holy Spirit Primary, which shares the grounds with the church, Trinity Primary School and Emmaus College. Trinity and Emmaus are located in Kemps Creek and share the grounds with Emmaus Retirement Village in a beautiful country-like setting.



Preparation of the Sacraments

FOR CHILDREN:

Baptism

When the time comes to have your baby baptised, contact the parish office to find out the availability of dates. You will be able to choose to have your child baptised on a Saturday at 11:30 am or at one of the weekend Masses. Once the date is confirmed you are required to attend a Baptism Preparation meeting, together with the godparents if possible. Finally, on the Sunday before the actual Baptism, bring your child to be presented to the community at one of the Masses.



First Reconciliation

When children are in Year 3, they can be enrolled in the Sacramental Program for Reconciliation. The child along with their parent is required to attend a series of lessons to prepare them to receive this sacrament. These lessons are conducted in the church led by volunteer catechists.

First Eucharist (Holy Communion)

After receiving the Sacrament of Penance, children in Year 4 can be enrolled in the program for First Eucharist. The child, accompanied by their parents, will be required to attend a series of lessons in preparation for receiving their First Eucharist.



Confirmation

Children in Year 5 & 6, are invited to complete their Sacraments of Initiation by enrolling for the Confirmation program. As with the other sacraments the child will be required to attend a series of lessons, accompanied by their parents in order to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Rite of Christian Initiation adapted for Children (RCIC)

Sometimes children miss out on receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the time when the parish is conducting them or have not been baptised. The RCIC is run to accommodate the children and is modelled on the Adult Rite of Initiation. Read the process for adults to gain an idea on what is involved.



Preparation of the Sacraments

FOR ADULTS:

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation is designed for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts.

This process is offered by our parish to all adults who would like to know more about the Catholic Church.

After an Inquiry Night, the participants meet on a weekly basis, joining in discussions and hearing talks on various aspects of the Catholic tradition & sharing their insights into the scriptures which are proclaimed at Sunday Mass.

From mid-February up to Easter these meetings are blended into the Sunday Mass so that various "Rites" (or ceremonies) can be performed that gradually introduce the candidates/catechumens to a fuller participation in our faith.

Then, on Holy Saturday night at the Easter Vigil those who have asked to join the Christian Community are Baptised, (or else they are received into the Catholic Church since their baptism has already taken place in some other Christian denominations) and they receive the other Sacraments of Confirmation and Communion which make them full participating members of the Catholic Church.

The third period of their formal formation lasts until Pentecost Sunday so that they can gain confidence in the fact that they are "newly planted" in the garden of faith and can now grow into the ordinary life and ministry of the Parish.



Confirmation

Each year, the Diocese of Parramatta arranges a special preparation for adults wanting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation and actual reception of the sacrament is usually during the winter season.



Our Parish Funding

As the saying goes, money doesn't grow on trees and therefore we rely on your generous offerings to help maintain our Parish and church. This is where we ask parishioners to make a commitment and be part of the **Regular Parish Contribution Program**. We do encourage parishioners to give electronically (deducted from either your bank account or your credit card), as this saves time at our end. This is your church and your Parish - we depend on your financial support to operate.

The collections taken during Sunday Mass are taken at the same time after the Prayers of the Faithful. The first collection supports the priests of our Parish and the ministry of the Augustinians.

The second collection covers the administration of the Parish, including remuneration of staff, support of ministries exercised by the Parish, maintenance of parish buildings, and the costs of electricity and insurance.

There are Tap and Go machines located in the church foyer. A donation of \$10 can be made each time a credit card is tapped on the machine. By making an offering of money, you are helping to fund the Parish to fulfil God's mission - to spread the Good News through the good works of the Parish.

Tap and Go machines are also located at the Marian Chapel and St Joseph Shrine for your convenience.

Annual Special Collections

Along with the two collections there may be a special collection for Catholic Foundation or some other charities.

Project Compassion

The funds raised as the result of almsgiving during the Lenten Season support Caritas Australia in their humanitarian works throughout the world. The monies are returned during the Easter Season - usually on Holy Thursday. The donations are tax deductible.

Catholic Foundation

This collection takes place three times each year and provides funds to help support the many ministries and works of the Diocese of Parramatta. Donations made to this fund are also tax deductible. *(February, May and December)*

Augustinian Seminary Appeal

Funds from this collection go to support the training of future Augustinians in the seminary at Brookvale. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. *(August)*

Good Friday Appeal

A collection is taken on Good Friday and the monies collected support the churches and significant

religious places in the Holy Land.

Peter's Pence

Contributions to the Peter's Pence collection unites us in solidarity with Pope Francis and his works of charity to those in need. It assists the Holy Father to support victims of war and natural disaster or any other people that are most in need of help. *(June)*

Retired (Diocesan) Clergy Appeal


The funds from this collection go to support the retired clergy of the Diocese. *(September)*

Catholic Mission

This highlights the work of Catholic Mission in remote and disadvantaged areas around the world. Programs are aimed to improve education for children and livelihood for families. *(October)*

Vinnies Winter *(June)* and Christmas Appeals

Emergency relief is provided to people at risk and experiencing homelessness. Donations received help them rebuild their lives.





HOLY SPIRIT PARISH ST CLAIR

PASTORED BY
THE AUGUSTINIANS



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Prayer to the Holy Spirit

(St Augustine of Hippo)

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
to defend all that is holy.
Guard me then, O Holy Spirit,
that I always may be holy.
AMEN.*

