

1st Reading

Acts 9:26-31 Saul joins the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22.25b-26, 27+29, 30-31 (R.25a)

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

2nd Reading

1 John 3:18-24 We are in God and God in us.

Gospel Acclamation Verse

John 15.4
Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you,
says the Lord; my branches bear
much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1-8 Jesus the vine, the Father, the vinegrower.

LITURGY TIMES

Saturday

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

Sunday

Mass, 8am, 9.30am and 6pm Youth Mass, 2nd & 4th 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, 1st Fri, 9.05am

1st Friday Night Devotion Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 7.30pm

Children's Liturgy

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

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



5[™] SUNDAY OF EASTER

-010

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

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

@LP

VOICE FROM THE PEWS

This reading gives us a clear picture of who we are as Christians and what is expected of us.

When Jesus tells us, "I am the vine, you are the branches," he offers us a strong metaphor regarding our relationship to him. Indeed, we will know how strong that relationship is by the fruit we bear. And what fruit do we look for in a Christian's life? Certainly not the same rewards and benefits offered in the secular world.

We don't count money, possessions or position as fruit on Jesus' vine.

The blossoms and fruit on Jesus' vine reflect the life force that feeds it.

The product of Jesus' vine is the reproduction of his life-giving love in kind acts, healing actions and our own loving relationships.

This is an important message to hand on to our children. Christians have a different gauge to judge success. It is not how much we have that marks us as a winner; it is how much we love.

We are the branches and Jesus is the vine, and as long as we stay connected to Jesus, his courage, his strength, his love will flow through us. Like all healthy fruit, our actions and relationships will bear their own seeds and new vines will grow and the branches will multiply.

Jesus wants us to know that he is our life force, and with him we are strong enough to overcome anything and accomplish everything.

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Published by the Pastoral Center

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:

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust in God."

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 at 9670 8222 or admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au.



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

SICK:

Harry Young, Noe Galan, Helen Noriega, Vivianne Vainikolo, Nympha Miller, Georgina Rastegorac, Lorna Lenchico, Puring Capili, Joanne Lenchicol, Vicente Litiatco Jr, Andrew Boulos, Louis Tham, Emilia Rose Moya, Linda Allen, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Deepa Mary Joy, Bienvenido Nepomuceno, Ramon Rivero, Dada Obsequio, Antonio Samson, Danilo and Emma Fulleros, Ramesh Hiramanek, Theresa Pereira, Anka Matic.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Stephen Saldanha, Pascasio Del Rio Vicario II, Winston Ano, Renie P. Avila, Oswald Movin D'Souza, Ricardo Liban, Baby Marcus Bienavides Allen, Peping Vanta, Lolito Aparicio, Luisito Nepomuceno, Lolo Ben, Fr Royce Macedo.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Alden Gajo, Jack Maloney, Michael Rodrigues, Georgina Briffa, Arthur Williams Harris, Ben Songco, Mariano Supan, Remedios Abacan, Theda Lau, Lourdes Acosta, Basil Middleton, Cesar Damole Sr, Regina Alviz Dabu, Benjamin Gonsalvez, Severina Pascual Leopoldo Pascual, Caji Gonsalves, Mato & Anka Marjanovic, Stephen Clarivette, Anne Meth.

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	\$ 477.85
2 ND COLLECTION	Loose plate	\$ 203.95
For the administration & maintenance costs of the	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$ 759.00
parish	Planned Giving Direct Debit & Credit Card	\$ 1,697.79
•	Total 2 nd Collection	\$ 2,660.74
Weekly Parish's Running Cos	\$ 4,216.31	
SHORTFALL/Over		\$ 1,555.57
SPECIAL COLLECTION	N/A	NIL

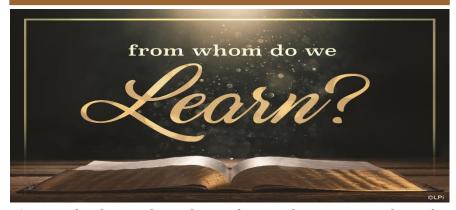


We're grateful to those who continue to financially support our parish.

GOD BLESS YOU.

www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations/

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the Week



Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: Luke tells us how the conversion of Saul (Paul) and the acceptance by the disciples of him helped facilitate peace in the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. What do you think is needed to bring about peace in our Church today?

Second Reading: John teaches his community that believing in Jesus and loving one another is the heart of God's commandment. How would you assess yourself in following this two-fold command?

Gospel: Using the metaphor of a vine and branches, Jesus urges his disciples to "remain in me" in order to bear good fruit and thereby glorify God. What would be some examples of "good fruit" that you have produced?

BAPTISMS

BAPTISM Preparation Meeting

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 11 May 2021, 7.30pm, at the Church. Presenter is Joyce McMahon.



FLORENCE JANE EDITH GONSALVEZ

(Daughter of Neil and Christine)

ZOE MAE ROBINSON

(Daughter of Timothy and Casey)

MINDAARA ADRIEL PERERA

(Daughter of Frank and Anishka)

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

On May 1st we honor St. Joseph as the patron saint of workers. Did you know that May 1 is also Holocaust Remembrance Day? That might sound grim; after all, who wants to remember something so unspeakably evil? But the maxim that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it has been proven true time and time again in human history. Remembering the holocaust is one way to ensure that we never again experience a similar event. Your challenge this week is to reflect on the holocaust which took place in Hitler's Germany. Discuss as a household what you know about it.

Research why it happened, and how Hitler got so many people caught up in trying to exterminate an entire race of people. Then ask yourself what little steps of prejudice and hatred led up to the big "Final Solution" of seeking extinction for the entire Jewish people. Commit yourself and your family to confronting one of the little steps towards racism or prejudice wherever you see it. This might be as simple as standing up to people who make jokes at the expense of a particular group of people; it could mean advocating to oppose regimes across the world which engage in genocide. Whatever you decide to do, hold all of the victims of the holocaust in your heart as you work to make sure that history does not repeat itself. Help insure that the victims did not die in vain.

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THE SUNDAY FLOCK



"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Sheepish Question:

What rewards of my relationship with God can I share with others?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES COMMENCING 29 MARCH

With the announcement of the easing of restrictions commencing Monday 29th March 2021, we are now limited by the 2 square metre rule. Hence, we can now accommodate 350 people in the church.

The wearing of face mask is encouraged if social distancing is not possible. Congregational singing is now permitted. Support 1.5m social distancing where possible.

CONTACT TRACING:

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

- Sign-in using the QR Code displayed near the entrance doors.
- Mass Attendance cards MUST be completed by each household per mass. Cards are available in the foyer.

We will now discontinue our Eventbrite bookings effective immediately.

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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.
- Support social distancing from one household to another where possible.

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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.

Mother's Day

Join us in any of our weekend Masses next weekend for a Mother's Day blessing.



32 Candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend (1 May, 2.30pm) (2 May, 11.30am) by Fr Michael. We thank the parents and children for their commitment to preparing for this Sacrament and also a big thank you to the Sacramental Team. Congratulations!

PLEASE HELP OUR FUNDRAISER

The Fundraising Committee of the Parish is organizing a Raffle as part of our 40th Year Foundation Anniversary celebrations. The aim of this fundraising activity is to help our parish cover the operating cost shortfall.

We thank our generous parishioners who have indicated to sponsor our major cash prizes. We also accept sponsors for our minor prizes:

WHITE GOODS OR VOUCHERS WITH A VALUE OF \$100 & OVER OR CASH TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF MINOR PRIZES

Bank: Westpac BSB: 732 278 Account Number: 556 381
Account Name: Corine Morgan & Milagros Llamas

A donation box is also available in the foyer at the end of each weekend Mass.

Selling of raffle tickets will now commence on 8-9 May 2021.

Draw date on 29 August 2021.

For more information, please contact the Parish Office.



We resume our Children's Liturgy this month. We are looking for volunteers to help us in this special ministry for the children of our parish. Children's Liturgy is on every 2nd and 4th Sunday at the Saturday Vigil and Sunday 9.30am Masses. Our aim is to have two people rostered every time Children's Liturgy is on. If interested, please contact the parish office.



Thank you for supporting our Food Drive. The donations went to the Jesuit Refugee Services and The House of Welcome. With thanks from the Social Justice Commission.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH 2021 Sacramental Preparation Early bookings can be made online thru the Parish Website commencing mid December 2020 www.holyspiritstclair.com.au 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.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH

Each week we will feature a parishioner. Our hope is that in the end we come to know and strengthen our friendship among each other.



Hi, my name is Elisa Reynolds and I am the Parish Secretary. Yes, I work for you and I am love doing it. It is a great way to do something valuable in Our Lord's field.

I was born in Chile, South America, in a city with the biggest snowy mountains, hmmm... it was very cold over there. I moved to live in Australia on the 2nd of June 1987.

I have never been back to my country for two reasons: I am a person who look forward.... I don't look back... I don't cry for what I lost but instead I get ready for what God has for me after that. He always has something good for each one of us and my heart fills up with faith, love and happiness with what he gives me. The other reason is that I love Australia and I always have many good things to do in here. I have my family here, husband, kids and grandkids, and they are the best gifts I could ever receive.

My life was never easy in the beginning. However, I know for sure that God was always looking after me, as before knowing Him and making Jesus the centre in my life I had a very dangerous and revolutionary youth and I didn't know that God was real. I am eternally thankful that He showed in my spiritual life as now my heart is rich with his presence.

I don't live in this area. That's the reason why you haven't seen me here on Sundays. But I am in the parish office whenever you need me to help you or guide you in anything. Come and see me.



All males including youth and young adults are invited to join the

ST JOSEPH'S MEN'S CHOIR

to sing every 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am Mass.

Practices:

Sat 22nd May & 29th May 2021, 2pm to 3.15pm

Contact: Lorensz Herft - 0426399502

The choir is scheduled to sing on Sun 30 May.





WORSHIP AT HOME

When we introduced last year during the lockdown the Sunday Liturgy resource "Worship At Home", we only expected it to last a month or two. Over a year later, we are now seeing a dramatic decrease in the number of families using it each week as easing of restrictions take place. Because of this, we will discontinue providing you this resource.

Thank you for being part of the Worship At Home community!



AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"Miracles are not contrary to nature, but only contrary to what we know about nature."

St Augustine of Hippo

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Z	A	M	Н	L	R	R	M	С	L	E	Α	N	F	R	Father
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R	R	N	В	S	T	E	Α	С	Н	R	F	W	E	G	mine
F	G	E	G	V	D	N	G	G	P	0	P	M	P	P	prayer
V	I	N	E	W	L	M	K	L	X	D	Z	R	M	M	produce stay
E	K	R	D	В	L	0	Q	F	V	U	Н	F	I	S	teach
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ON A LIGHTER NOTE





WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Is gossip a mortal sin?

Answer:

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."

In its reflections on commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

NEXT WEEKEND (8th MAY): 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YR B

1st Reading

Acts 10:25-26

The Holy Spirit descends on Jews and Gentiles alike.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 (*R.2b*) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

2nd Reading

1 John 4:7-10

One without love does not know God.

Gospel Acclamation Verse

John 14.23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:9-17 Live on in Christ.

FLOWERS: Group 1 (White)

CLEANERS: Group 3 **BANNERS:** White 2

8 MAY, 6PM

Minister at the Altar

Peter Moriarty

Eucharistic Ministers

Jeanne Appleton Mary Fonseca Svlvia Herft

Reader 1

Dudley Littlewood

Reader 2 Corinne Cerdor

Commentator

Florence Pusey

Music

Victor Brangwin

Powerpoint Nanette I.

Junior Servers Volunteer Needed

Devotional Stall

Lorensz Herft Welcomers

Terry Serrao Fiona Ferreira Volunteer Needed **9 MAY, 8AM**

Minister at the Altar

Carol Vella

Eucharistic Ministers Belen Leynes Louise Bucholtz

> Frances Flood Reader 1

Sally Banguis

Reader 2 Stephen Middleton

Commentator

Manuel Fidow

Music

Pierre D'Cunha **Powerpoint**

Volunteer Needed

Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed **Devotional Stall**

Louise Bucholtz

Welcomers Sarah Damole **Jun Damole**

Espy Sarno

Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter

9 MAY, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar

Anthony Bertumen

Eucharistic Ministers Sina Carvalho Ken Allen

> Cathy Allen Reader 1 Joy Rulewski

Reader 2 Uinise Blake

Commentator

Kelly Apikotoa Music

Mary Immaculate Choir

Powerpoint

Boy Sanosa Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

Devotional Stall Marthese Grima

Welcomers Jenny Kyd

Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed 9 MAY, 6PM

Minister at the Altar

Volunteer Needed

Eucharistic Ministers

Jan Manzanares Chloe Daley **James Pirotta**

Reader 1 Derrick Pereira

Reader 2 Candice Salmon

Commentator

Marty Facciol Music

BASIC GIFT Powerpoint

BASIC GIFT

Junior Servers Volunteer Needed

Devotional Stall Elsa Roberto

Welcomers Esther Rose **Eleanor Stuart**

Volunteer Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 2 MAY 2021

Mon 3 May: Saints Philip and James, Apostles Tue 4 May: Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter Wed 5 May: Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Easter Thu 6 May: Thursday of the Fifth Week of Easter Fri 7 May: Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter



Facebook

Holy Spirit Parish

St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Sat 8 May:

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)

5 Todd Row (PO Box 103) St Clair NSW 2759 **Parish Office**

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 P 02 9834 2527

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

> Asst Pastor: Fr Peter Tangey, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au Augustinian Brother: Br. John Zhang, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E jzhang@holyspiritstclair.com.au Parish Secretary: Elisa Reynolds P 02 9670 8222 E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au (Tue-Fri)

Parish Bookkeeper: Mila Llamas P 02 9670 8222 E accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au (Mon and Wed) SRE (Catechists) Coordinator: Ken & Cathy Allen P 02 9670 8222 E sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Germaine Gil P 02 9670 8222 E sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au Parish Youth Contact: Eleanor Stuart M 0431 639 895 E eleanor.stuart97@gmail.com

Parish Council Chair: Ana Gregoriou • Asst Chair: Paola Dicenso • Secretary: Bernadette Stevens

Members: Dominic Dimech, Jamie Dowsett, Gus Morgan, Sarah Cañete-Damole, Stephen Middleton

Michael Paulo, Vince Cachia, Eleanor Stuart (BASIC GIFT Youth Representative)

Fr Michael Belonio OSA, Fr Peter Tangey OSA, Br John Zhang, 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

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Support the Parish by signing up to contribute online. Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Visit: www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations. Or 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 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. Thank you so much for your support of our parish!