

1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28 Hannah gives thanks for the birth of Samuel.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 84.1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 10 (R.4a) Blessed are they who dwell in your house, 0 Lord.

> 2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 We are children of God.

Gospel Acclamation See Acts 16.14b Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:41-52 Jesus is found in the Temple.

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



VOICE FROM THE PEWS

As we come together at this time of year - a time for family and friends - it is good for us to also spend some time reflecting on the "reason for the season" - Jesus Christ, the Lord! It is important that we welcome Him to our homes and to our celebrations. remembering that, as Christians, we celebrate Christmas not as a secular holiday, but as a proclamation of our faith that God so loved the world He sent His only Son....and that the Word became flesh of the Virgin Mary and dwells among us. In a world that wants to make Christmas only about presents, and food and Santa Claus and selfindulgence, we, as Catholics are not ashamed to profess our Faith: Christmas is about the Incarnation of the Lord and our salvation history. We are not ashamed to say "Merry Christmas." We are not ashamed to send out "religious" Christmas cards, which celebrate his birth to our friends

and family members. We are not ashamed to have the "Manger Scene" in front of our homes, in our homes and in our streets. We are not ashamed to give witness to Jesus in the midst of so many counter-testimonies. We are proud to be disciples of Jesus and we want all to rejoice with us as we celebrate His birth!

To all of you and your families, I extend the greetings of each of us here at Holy Spirit. Be sure that each of you is in our prayers and thoughts in this holy season, and our wish is that your hearts may know the joy of the presence of the new Born King. May the Virgin Mary and her Infant Son, Jesus, the King of Peace, fill your hearts and lives and homes with the choicest of blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Grace-filled New Year! Stay safe and God bless you!

🖎 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:

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."

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

Jacqueline Cuschieri, Wendy Bosden, Anna Backo, Joyce Mackenzie, Nympha Miller, Basile Karamoschos, Graham Bucholtz, Andrew Boulos, Louis Tham, Emilia Rose Moya, Linda Allen, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook Bella Tassone, Deepa Mary Joy, Ramon Rivera, John Warne, Brian Barnes, Christine Young.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Nap Cardenas, Varghes Joseph, Joyce Ugainis, Frederick 'Rocky' J Balao, Maria Teofina Zuñiga Latorre, Alice Smith, Diana Young, Baby Francia, Francis Francia, Phillip Miller, Catherine Anne Roche, Jesus Villanueva, Betty Gibson, Ray Kelaart.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Bernard Lourey, Rita Attard, Raymond Ansell, Josephine Cachia, Simone Blanche, Teresita P Daez, Mario P Allayban, Jason D de los Reyes, Cirilo D Calimag, Robert Dirk Sn.

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 Regular Parish Contribution, 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*. 30% of the collection is for the care of our Augustinian clergy and the 70% is for the administration and maintenance costs of the parish.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

For the care of our Augustinian clergy			811.23
For the administration & maintenance costs of the parish	Loose plate		805.77
	Planned Giving Envelopes Collected	\$	1,087.10
	Planned Giving Direct Debit & Credit Card	\$	752.00
	Total 2 nd Collection	\$	2,644.87
Weekly Parish's Running Costs		\$	4,301.96
SHORTFALL/OVER		\$	1,657.09
SPECIAL COLLECTION	N/A		NIL



LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the Week



It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

FIRST READING: Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?

SECOND READING: John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, "we may be called children of God." How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family?

GOSPEL READING: Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with "great anxiety" as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. How do you seek God's help for the anxious moments in your family?



Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to contact the Parish Office prior to attending a preparation evening. Next Baptism Preparation session is on Tue 11 Jan, 7.00pm, in our parish. Presenter is Michael Zammit.





During the Christmas season, we reflect on the images of peace that the prophets said would come when the Messiah arrived on earth. We hear about lions and lambs lving down together and of swords being beaten into plowshares. January 1st is World Day of Peace. Yet we live in a world in which war and violence shatter the peace for which the Old Testament prophets yearned. All of us as one global family are called to do our part to bring peace to our world. Your challenge this week is to be a peace-maker—in your family, with your friends and colleagues at work or school, in your community. How can you bring people together, encourage others to settle disputes without resorting to violence, or advocate for global peace?

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THE SUNDAY FLOCK





© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com "We are God's children now; ... we shall be like him."

Sheepish Question:

Recognizing my own shortcomings, how can I strengthen--and be strengthed by--God's holy family?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES COMMENCING 15 DECEMBER

NSW Health has updated the COVID-19 guidelines effective Wednesday 15 December 2021.

- · No more density limits
- Wearing of mask is encouraged if social distancing is not possible
- Congregational singing and social gatherings are permitted

CONTACT TRACING:

NSW Government still requires contact tracing. There are two ways to do this:

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

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, last year Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta were dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation. From 15 December 2021 this Decree is now revoked and the Sunday obligation is now imposed once again given that public health orders no longer require adherence to density limits in our church buildings.



The Office for Worship of the Diocese of Parramatta is offering once again the

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES

This is for those who would like to become a:

- READER
- COMMUNION MINISTER
- MINISTER AT THE ALTAR/ACOLYTE
- COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND DYING

Enrolment forms are available in the foyer. Please complete and return the completed form to any of our priests or to the parish office before Fri 4 February 2022.





Wedding Anniversary Mass 30 January 2022, 9.30AM MASS

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



SPECIAL MASSES FOR 31 DECEMBER & 1 JANUARY Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God & New

Year's Day

Friday 31 December, 7pm Saturday 1 January, 10am All welcome!





Brother Huy is finishing his Pastoral Placement with us and is going back to Brookvale (Augustinian Formation House) on the 26th of December. Thank you for being with us in the past 6 weeks. We are praying for your holy perseverance.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

2022 Sacramental Preparation

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

FIRST RECONCILIATION (YEAR 3)

- Bookings available from December 2021
- Parent Information & Catechesis Tuesday 8 February 4pm or 7pm
- Preparation Sessions will be in February (3 weeks)
- First Reconciliation: 5, 9, 10, 12 March

CONFIRMATION (Year 5)

- Bookings available from 1 March 2022
- Parent Information & Catechesis Tuesday 3 May, 4pm or 7pm
- Preparation Sessions will be in May (3 weeks)
- Confirmation Masses: Saturday 28th May 3pm, Sunday 29th May 11.30am; Sunday 12th June 11.30am

FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)

- Bookings available from 1 June 2022
- Parent Information & Catechesis Tuesday 26 July 4pm or 7pm
- Preparation Sessions will be August (3 weeks)
- First Communion Masses: 20 August 3pm, 21 August 11.30am,
 - 3 September 3pm, 4 September 11.30am

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

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

For all enquiries contact the Sacramental Coordinator: W: www.holyspiritstclair.com.au • E: sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au P: 02 9670 8222 or 0451 279 934 • A: 5 Todd Row, St Clair 2759 NSW

PARISH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR BULLETIN!

commencing 30 January 2022



For more information, contact the Parish Office, 02 96708222, <u>admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au</u>.

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



Congratulations to the winners for our Parish Raffle Fundraiser: 1st Prize, \$3,000 Orlando Zafra Jr 2nd Prize, \$2,000 Corine Morgan 3rd Prize, \$1,000 Jonathan Mendes

Thank you for all your support!



Friday 7 Jan, 9.05am Reconciliation available before Mass from 8.30-9am

ROSTER: 31 DEC '21 & 1 JAN '22

31 DEC, 7PM

Minister at the Altar Gloria Slade

Eucharistic Ministers Fiona Ferreira Moira Rebello Lumen Decena

Reader 1 Sarah Damole

Reader 2 Stephen Middleton

Commentator Sue Oram

Music Pedro Calungsod Choir

Powerpoint Carol Vella

> Welcomers Sarah Damole Jan Damole

1 JAN, 10AM

Minister at the Altar Lorensz Herft Eucharistic Ministers

Carol Vella Esther Rose Volunteers Needed

Reader 1 Corinne Cerdor

Reader 2 Dudley Littlewood

Commentator Derrick Pereira

Music Anglo-Indian Choir

Powerpoint Volunteers Needed

> Welcomers Sarah Damole Jun Damole



WELCOME FR. JOHN!

Fr Michael will be away from 26 December til 10 February. While he is away, Fr John Sullivan OSA, will be assisting Fr Peter. Fr John is the Prior of the Augustinian Community in Brookvale (Northern Beaches).

Welcome Fr John to Holy Spirit!

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"His Mother carried Him in her womb; let us carry Him in our hearts. The Virgin was heavy with the incarnate Christ; may our hearts be heavy with the belief in Christ. The Virgin brought forth the Saviour; may we bring forth his praise. Let us not be sterile; let our souls be fruitful for the Lord."

St Augustine of Hippo, Sermon 189.3

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CREATION CARE TIPS

On this day when we celebrate the Holy Family, consider doing something simple and/or nature- based that doesn't create any more material trash or use extra natural resources. Go for a walk together outside, play cards or board games in the candlelight as a family, or sit around the table and make art while you create thank you cards for Christmas gifts. If there

were people you wanted to send Christmas cards to but you didn't get to it, you can take the time to write to them today to let them know they are on your heart.

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

NEXT WEEKEND (2 JANUARY): THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR C

1st Reading Isaiah 60:1-6 Jerusalem is exalted.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72.1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (*R*. see 11b+Ps 98.3c) *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

2nd Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6 Paul declares the Gentiles co-heirs to the Kingdom.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 2.2 Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the east; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12 The Wise Men journey to the infant Jesus.

LOWERS:	Group 5 (White)
LEANERS:	Group 2
BANNERS:	White

1 JAN, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Jacob Fonseca Eucharistic Ministers Hazel Littlewood Mary Fonseca

> Jeanne Appleton **Reader 1** Sheila Francis

Reader 2 Moira Rebello

Commentator Eileen Baena Music

AMEN Choir **Powerpoint**

Volunteers Needed Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

> *Welcomers* Sonia Oliveira Selwyn Oliveira

Minister at the Altar Gloria Slade

2 JAN, 8AM

Eucharistic Ministers Louise Bucholtz Ron Brackett Lisa Brackett

> **Reader 1** Dawn Timmins

Reader 2 Christine Younes

Commentator Michael Hay Music

Manuel Fidow

Powerpoint Christine Younes

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

> *Welcomers* Frances Flood Angela Pecnik

2 JAN, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Fred Harris

Eucharistic Ministers Sina Carvalho Tina Fernandes Seaview Kama

> Reader 1 Cathy Allen Reader 2

Sue Oram **Commentator** Ken Allen

Music Luchie's Choir

Powerpoint Ivan Fernandes

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Sue Oram Jenny Kyd 2 JAN, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Volunteers Needed

Eucharistic Ministers Esther Rose Lumen Decena Kate Blasco

> **Reader 1** Kate Blasco

Reader 2 Robert Lees

Commentator James Pirotta

Music El Shaddai Syd Gospel Choir

Powerpoint El Shaddai Syd Gospel Choir

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Esther Rose Volunteers Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 26 DECEMBER 2021

Mon 27 Dec:St John, apostle, evangelistTue 28 Dec:The Holy Innocents, martyrsWed 29 Dec:5th Day in the Octave of the NativityThu 30 Dec:6th Day in the Octave of the NativityFri 31 Dec:7th Day in the Octave of the NativitySat 1 Jan:Mary, Mother of God

	Holy Spirit ParishSt ClairErskine ParkParts of Kemps CreekUnder 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 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 Coordinator (Catechists): Ken & Cathy Allen P 02 9670 8222 E sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au Sacramental Coordinator: Germaine Gil M 0451 279 934 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



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



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