

1st Reading Isaiah 35:1-6,10 The desert will rejoice and blossom.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 146.6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10 (*R.* see Isa 35.4) *Lord, come and save us.*

2nd Reading James 5:7-10 Be patient, even in suffering.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 4.18 (see Isaiah 61.1) Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord now upon me has sent mem to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11 John asks, 'Are you the one who is to come?'.

LITURGY TIMES

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

Sunday Mass, 8am, 9.30am and 6pm Youth Mass, 2nd & 4th Sun, 6pm

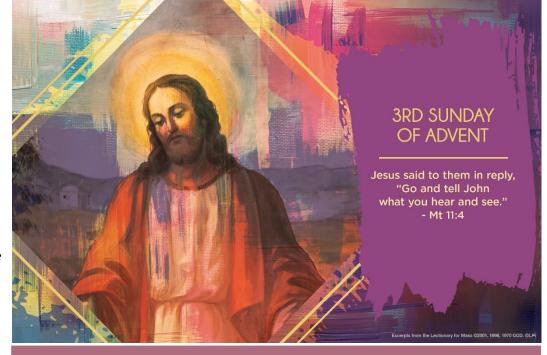
Monday and Wednesday Mass, 7am (except on Public Holidays which changes to 9.05am)

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

The Jews believe that the Messiah was the anointed one, the promised king of a new Israel. Jesus answers John's questions by talking about his relationship to the people he encounters. He lets John know that he fulfills Isaiah's messianic prophecies, but his kingdom is of a different sort. He is a healer, a reconciler. He brings good news to the poor.

The kingdom in which Jesus rules as the anointed one is not a set place or a particular country. The kingdom of God is wherever God's rule of love reigns. It is where greed and prejudice, selfabsorption and pettiness are not welcomed. Some find the kingdom in fleeting moments of quiet peace, others in the joyful celebration of life. For too many suffering people, the kingdom is a distant dream. However, one thing is certain; we know the kingdom can be found almost anywhere. Wherever there is healing or reconciliation, wherever the good news is proclaimed in word or action, we will find the kingdom of God. It can be shared around the kitchen table when we really listen to what each person has to say. It can be found as we bandage the scraped knee of a child and listen to the story of how she hurt herself.

The kingdom of God is not just in some far-off heaven or afterlife. It is also found in the present, in the here and now. We are called to be kingdom builders—to create a safe environment for our children where they can feel loved and valued and where they can learn to love and value others.

FAMILY RESPONSE: Ask family members to talk about a person who makes them feel good about themselves. Send a note or phone the person to let him or her know he or she is appreciated.

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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.

To know more about the life of the parish, you can grab a copy of our Welcome Newsletter available in the foyer or go to this link on our website:

https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/w p-content/uploads/2021/03/Holy-Spirit-Parish-Welcome-Newsletter.pdf

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*)

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:

Dawn, Yvonne Funnell, Linda Allen, Joel Dizon, Rita Ronaldson, Doreen Abela, Andrew Boulos, Emilia Rose Moya, Ousa Prakhamsay, Baby Amario Escubio, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Angela Cook, Tony Fagel, Rosie Casha, Anne Fidler, Isla Carbone, Mike Alvarez, Chris Crocker, Ted Uy, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Brian Barnes, Harry Young, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Bill Lynch.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Carmelo Mederos, Mario Miguel Sanchez, Louis Tham.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Raymond Ansell, Rita Attard, Michael Kinny, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Michael Rodrigues, Jovita Fernandes, Cosmas Joseph Pinto, Sheila Tham, Michael Tham, Feliciano Fernandes, Norma Lataquin.

Names submitted to Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

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 or go to the link provided below. 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.

Regular Parish Contribution Form and other ways to donate: <u>www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations</u>



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



We can often feel parched, desolate, lifeless, and dark. Even though we still engage in the business and demands of life, we find ourselves somewhat detached, disengaged, and removed. We lack joy, wonder, awe, and zest. Rather than being an experience of freedom and excitement, life holds us captive. We are tethered to systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, and expectations that go against the grain of what it means to be God's child. We find ourselves in a desert. Jesus came to release us from all of this negativity and desolation. John the Baptist announced the arrival of the One who embodies healing, reconciliation, freedom, and life. Stop complaining about what you don't have. Prepare for the arrival of the remedy to life's despair. Be strong, fear not! Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Be patient. With proper time and care, all will be well.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: Isaiah encouraged his community to "be strong, do not fear!" since God has planned a future restoration of both the land and the people. Who in your life needs to hear words of encouragement and support right now?

Second Reading: James urges his community to be patient and nonjudgmental with each other as we wait for the coming of the Lord. In what ways is this a challenge for you this Advent season?

Gospel Reading: In today's reading, Matthew offers a glimpse into the personal relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. Jesus has great respect for John yet counts him "least" in the kingdom of heaven. What do you think this tells us about those in the kingdom of heaven?



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 Tuesday 13th December 7.00pm, via Zoom. Presenter is Seaview Kama.



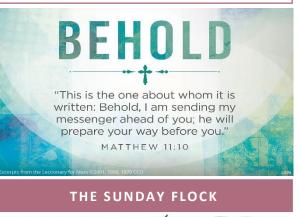
FE SALVACION (Daughter of Jose and Janice)

RILEY ALBERT DOWDS (Son of Ryan and Angela)



Sunday's Gospel has Jesus answering the question of who he is by stating: "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them" (Mt. 11:2-11). Jesus equates his very identity with care for the poor and marginalized. Your challenge this week is to identify the blind, the lepers, and the poor in your life. Discuss one particular person in need whom God is calling you and your family to serve. Select an action you can do for this person, just as Jesus did. And remember that Pope Francis said that having a friend who is poor is a pathway to heaven. So . . . just do it! ©Center for Ministry Development. Published by the Pastoral

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"Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!"

Sheepish Question:

This week, what do I need to practice in order to make a positive difference in the lives of people around me?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

FR MYK & DEACON JOHN'S FAREWELL AND PARISH'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Sat 17 December after the 6pm Vigil Mass

Please bring a supper type of food to share. All welcome!!!

If you would like to contribute to Fr Myk's and Deacon John's farewell gifts, we will be taking up a collection at the Piety Stall – cash or EFTPOS.

We will have two farewell cards to sign once you donate.

The gifts will be presented at the Farewell Dinner.

Fr Myk will be leaving St Clair on 25 December and Deacon John in mid-January. Both of them will be assigned at the Formation House in Brookvale and will be pastoring the North Harbour Parish in Manly Vale.



Support the Vinnies Christmas Appeal by donating gift cards, cash or food items.

Please return all vouchers to the parish office addressed in an envelope marked St Vincent De Paul St Clair Conference by <u>Monday 12th December</u>. Or drop them in the Vinnies Christmas box at the back of the church.

Remember if you choose to donate food and gifts they are stored before distribution so please consider the heat and don't include things such as chocolates or sweets which may melt.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish conference. We wish you and your families many blessings at this very special time of year.

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION AT CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

Children are kindly being welcomed and encouraged to dress up as angels and shepherds and participate in our annual Christmas Liturgy. Children are being asked to attend the rehearsals to prepare for the liturgy. The rehearsals will be held at the parish on **Thursdays 15 and 22 December from 5pm to 6pm**. If your child is interested, please complete a permission form available in the foyer and bring it to the first rehearsal.



Join the Christmas Midnight Choir

Warmly inviting singers/musicians to join the Alleluia Choir in celebrating the spirit of Christmas with Carols in Candlelight, Nativity Story, and Midnight Mass.

Practices (highly encouraged), 7:00pm to 8:30pm on the following evenings:

Wed, 21 Dec Thu, 22 Dec Sat, 24 Dec (10pm)

Thank you very much. May the Christ Child bless you for your generous service in spreading the true Christmas Spirit through the music ministry.

Queries: Joy Rulewski – 0425 264 642



"Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39) Inviting young adults 18 - 35 years old

Cost: AUD7500 (Approx)

Tour Includes:

- Return international flights including all transfers
- Hotel accommodations
- Holy eucharist Mass with Fr Saldie
 Professional Tour Director and Local Guides
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily



0405429988 - Susan Clark 0407686069 - Fr Saldie Resolado, OSA

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY The Book of WISDOM

Duration: 8 weeks Registration: 9 February 2023 Start: May 2023 Cost: \$50pp More details will be made available next year. An initiative of the Spirituality Commission



FOR CHRISTMAS SET UP

We need volunteers to help us set up the chairs for Christmas Masses on the school side and also help pack them away and clean up. If you can help us please come on the dates and times below.

Set-up the place on Sat 24 Dec 8am Clean-up on Sun 25 Dec, 10.30am



We need volunteers to regulate traffic in the carpark on Christmas Masses, especially for the Dec 24 6pm Mass, Dec 25 8am and 9.30am Masses. Brief orientation will be provided.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

BUY RAFFLE TICKETS AND WIN

this beautifully crafted **ROSARY CANDLE** (worth \$120). Raffle tickets are available at the Devotional Stall for \$1 each. Draw date will be on Sun 18 Dec after the 9.30am Mass.



This is for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. Enrolment forms are available in the foyer. Courses are free of charge.

St Joseph's Men's Choir

All males including youth and young adults, who wish to join St Joseph's Men's Choir to sing at the Vigil Mass on Sat 17 Dec and the 8am Mass on Christmas Day, are warmly invited to attend choir practice on Thu 15 Dec from 7:30pm to 9pm.



-CHOIR PRACTICE-

2023 Sacramental Preparation

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

FIRST RECONCILIATION (YEAR 3)

- Bookings available from 15 December 2022
- Parent Information & Catechesis Tuesday 7 February 5pm or Wednesday 8 Feb 6pm
- Preparation Sessions will be in February (3 weeks)
- First Reconciliation: 3, 4, 9 March all at 4pm

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



Phase One of the Priory renovations is done and we have moved back in the Priory. We thank the Diocese of Parramatta for all the support. Phase Two of the renovations will be completed in the next financial year.

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps."

St Augustine of Hippo

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CREATION CARE TIPS

"The wilderness and the parched land will exult; the Arabah will rejoice and bloom; like the crocus, it shall bloom abundantly, and rejoice with joyful song." —Isaiah 35:1-2



While parts of the world are parched by more frequent and prolonged droughts and others are flooded by hurricanes and superstorms, we are called to be ever-more conscious of our water usage. Fresh water shortages are predicted to become even more extreme in the coming years. While we are fortunate to have access to clean running tap water, let's not take it for granted. This week, be mindful of times when you run the water longer than necessary in the shower, bathroom, or kitchen sink. Strive to shorten those intervals and make using less water your norm

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Our prayer group is discussing ways we can change and strengthen our faith. What one thing could we change that would have the greatest impact on our faith?

Answer:

A famous coach once said that when the team is in trouble and things aren't going well, go back to the basics; when the team is winning and things are going well, go back to the basics! Any renewal program, faith development, spiritual or growth effort has to start with the basic core of what it means to believe. If the foundation is not strong, the house will not stand. So if you work on one thing, begin with the idea that God is love, who loves us and calls us to love one another. If we really take that belief to heart, it changes how we see God. ourselves, and one another. It would change how we pray, how we treat others, and how we understand and live our own life. Our sense of mission and purpose will be more focused on God's plan and our role in it. Love is the core of faith, the goal of life, and the hope of heaven. Whatever we do to strengthen and deepen our faith will begin and end with love.

NEXT WEEKEND (18 DEC): 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Yr A

1st Reading Isaiah 7:10-14 Prediction of Immanuel, born of a virgin.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 24.1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 (*R.7c+10b*) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

2nd Reading Romans 1:1-7 Paul spreads the news of the Son of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23 Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son: His name will be Emmanuel; God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24 An angel visits Joseph, who takes Mary as his wife.

FLOWERS:GroCLEANERS:GroBANNERS:Vio	Fri 16 Dec: Friday of the Third Week of Advent										
	Holy Spirit Parish St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek										
	Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995 Diocese of Parramatta www.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 02 9670 8222 E mbelonio@holyspiritstclair.com.au										
	Asst Pastor: Fr Peter Tangey, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au										
	Deacon: Rev. John Zhang, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E jzhang@holyspiritstclair.com.au										
	Augustinian Brother: Br. Hoang Huy Nguyen P 02 9670 8222 E ix.hoanghuy@gmail.com										
	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										
	Safeguarding Parish Support Officer: Elsa Roberto P 02 9670 8222 E safeguarding@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											
	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

17 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Jacob Fonseca **Eucharistic Ministers** Bernadette Stevens

> Fiona Ferreira Mary Fonseca Reader 1 Sylvia Herft

> > Reader 2 Fe Uy

Commentator Marinella Licuanan Music

St Joseph's Choir

Powerpoint Nanette I.

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Mon 12 Dec: Our Lady Guadalupe

Welcomers Selwyn Oliveira Sonia Oliveira **Corinne Cerdor**

Tue 13 Dec:

18 DEC, 8AM

Minister at the Altar Gloria Slade **Eucharistic Ministers** Pat Dowd

Celeste Lapid Elsa Roberto Reader 1 Carol Vella

Reader 2 Sarah Damole

Commentator Shirley Croning Music

Peter Mercia **Powerpoint**

Louise Bucholtz **Junior Servers**

Volunteers Needed

St Lucy, virgin and martyr

Welcomers Sarah Damole Jun Damole Volunteer Needed

18 DEC, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Nono Gacis

Eucharistic Ministers Michael Paulo Marie Sanosa Nida Hawley

> Reader 1 Derrick Pereira Reader 2

Joanne Staunton

Commentator Nida Hawley Music

Laudate Choir **Powerpoint** Ivan Fernandes

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Joe Duval Sue Oram Volunteer Needed 18 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Volunteer Needed

Eucharistic Ministers Lumen Decena Robert Lees Romana Cunanan

> Reader 1 **Corinne Brooker**

Reader 2 Sheila Francis

Commentator Joseph Valladores

Music Esther Rose Choir

Powerpoint Volunteers Needed

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Volunteers Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 11 DECEMBER



The 70% of the collection is for the regular running costs of the parish.

The remaining 30% is to provide for the household expenses of our priests and to support the ministry of the Augustinians.

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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