

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

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 24.1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 *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.

LITURGY TIMES

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

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

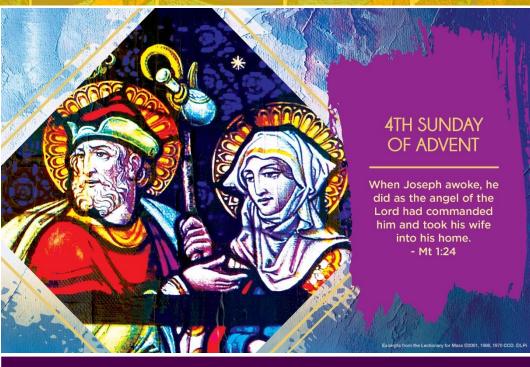
Monday and Wednesday Mass, 7am (except on Public Holidays which changes to 9.05am)

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

An infant is born, helpless and vulnerable. Mary and Joseph take turns holding this tiny swaddled mystery from God. He has captured their hearts. He is special and marvellous, and they would have known this even if an angel hadn't told them so because every child born is special and marvellous. But there must have come a point in all that joy and happiness when Mary and Joseph realized what an incredible responsibility they had been given.

Sometimes I get so wrapped up with Mary and Joseph's holiness that I forget they were ordinary people. They couldn't see the future, and while the baby was certainly a wonder to the new parents, not in their wildest dreams could they have imagined how this precious child would change the world.

It was only decades later, after he had died, that his followers realized how well the name Emmanuel fit Jesus. As Jews, they were familiar with the covenant between God and Abraham. Later they would understand that Jesus had come to make a new covenant with us. God was not just with us; God was in us: "On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

Like Mary and Joseph, we have held our own swaddled infants. They, too, captured our hearts, and we marvelled at how special they were. Like Jesus' parents, we were probably scared of the overwhelming responsibility we had been handed. It's good to remember the gift of the new covenant: God is with us and in us, and nothing can overcome or overpower us. They understood that God was a God of action; a God who was always with them. After they had a chance to look back on their walks and talks with Jesus, they realized that he himself was "God with us," Emmanuel.

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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 supplied remains (information These forms are confidential). 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, Linda Allen, Yvonne Funnell, Andrew Boulos, Emilia Rose Moya, Joel Dizon, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Brian Barnes, Harry Young Steven Johns, Bill Lynch, Rosie Casha, Anne Fidler, Isla Carbone, Chris Crocker Doreen Abela, Joseph Cushieri, Alice Grech, Craig Edwards, Jimmy Fletcher, Bob Oram.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Mario Miguel Sanchez, Reg Warn.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Lina Cushieri, Norma Hechanova Lataquin, Pauline Connell, William Connell, Shellie Becker, Feliciano Fernandes, Mario Reyes, Pedro Sealtiel, Ada Salmon, Bishop Joe Grech, Manfred Schwill.

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

PARISH COLLECTIONS & REGULAR CONTRIBUTION

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.

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

PORT OUR PARISH **GIVING ONLINE TODAY**

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

GOD BLESS YOU.



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

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the Week



"God is with us." This is the one constant in the unpredictability of life. The particulars of our lives can change, not only instantly but dramatically. People experiencing a time of peace can easily find themselves at war. Times of prosperity can rapidly become times of want. Our vision for the future can be destroyed, and our securities placed in jeopardy. These final days of Advent allow us to make final preparations. The true safety and security we seek can only come from God. The rest, harmony, and peacefulness we desire are found in God alone. How do we know this to be true? God Himself gave us a sign: Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving. Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. All we need to do is make sure that our hearts are in the proper place and seeking the right things!

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: Isaiah prophecies to King Ahaz of Judah the coming birth of Emmanuel, meaning "with us is God." When do you feel God's presence in your life?

Second Reading: Written about twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Paul's opening words in his Letter to the Romans provides one of the earliest testimonies to the divinity of Jesus Christ. And now as believers, Paul tells us we are "called to be holy." How has this season of Advent help you develop holiness?

Gospel Reading: In recounting the birth of Jesus, Matthew focuses on how Joseph came to terms with this miraculous event. Can you name a time when you had to discern how God is working in your life?



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 10th Jan, 7.00pm, at the church. Presenter is Michael Zammit.



WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

We celebrate the Incarnation on Wednesday— God taking on human flesh and becoming one of us. This is the ultimate act of solidarity. Jesus embraced humanity in all of its joy and in all of its suffering. He truly became "one of us." We are called to be one with each other as Jesus is one with us. Your challenge during this final (short) week of Advent is to ask yourself which part of God's community you are disconnected from. With whom does God *want* you to stand in solidarity—locally or globally? Say a prayer every night this week for this person or group of persons.

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SAVE "She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." MATTHEW 1:21

THE SUNDAY FLOCK



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"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us."

Sheepish Question:

Where have I recognized Christ coming into my life this week?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Thank Jou

to all those who have involved themselves in the Parish's Christmas Party and Farewell to Fr Michael and Deacon John. We are truly humbled by your generosity.

PARISH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR BULLETIN!

commencing 29 January 2023



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

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





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.





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.

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 second rehearsal will be held at the parish on **Thursday 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.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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 December Sat, 24 December (10pm)

Thu, 22 December

Queries: Joy Rulewski - 0425 264 642

Thank you

The Vinnies - St Clair Conference received a total donation of \$4300 in gift cards and cash which will go a long way towards helping our friends in need.

Through your act of generosity the lives of many families in our local community will be uplifted this Christmas. God Bless each and everyone of you. With much love and thanks from the Holy Spirit St Vincent De Paul Conference.



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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



"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

Save the Date

Bro. Huy's Ordination to the Diaconate will be on Friday 24 February, 6.30pm here at Holy Spirit Parish. Ordaining Prelate will be Bishop Vincent. All welcome!!!

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

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY

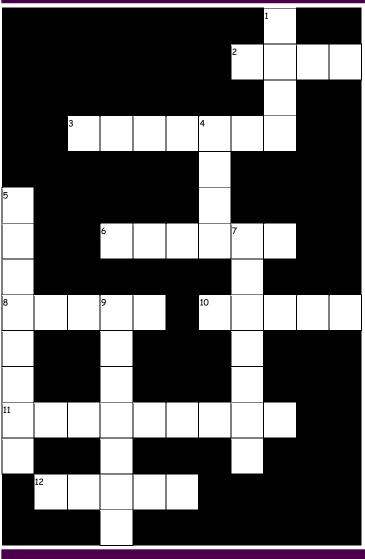


"In the material world, a foot is one thing, a ladder is another and wings still another. In the interior world, however, feet, ladders, and wings are the affections of a good will, with them, we walk, we climb, and we fly."

> Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.) Commentary on the Psalms, 38, 2

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us

CROSSWORD



CREATION CARE TIPS

As you wrap Christmas presents this week, see if you can wrap everything (or at least more than last year) with alternatives to wrapping paper. You can use newspaper (the comic page for kids' presents), old posters, cloth napkins, handkerchiefs, bandanas, or even re-use gift bags or grocery store bags. In this way, you won't

contribute to a market that requires cutting down tens of thousands of trees to make wrapping paper, some of which can't be recycled and gets thrown out soon afterward. Another benefit is that you'll raise other people's awareness of this environmental issue.

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the Hispanic Advent custom of "Las Posadas"?

Answer:

"Posada" is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. "Las Posadas" refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied bv children angels dressed as and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where thev sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighbourhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our "posada." As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.

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angel

DOWN

12: the

- 1: a newborn
- 4: the opposite of false

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God

10: not old

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to Mary

messenger

11: to make someone

uncomfortable

or self-conscious

2:

3:

6:

8: a

- 5: this name means 'God is with us'
- 7: to give someone your word
- 9: betrothed, to be married



NEXT WEEKEND (HE LORD, Yr A

1st Reading Isaiah 9:1-7 Isaiah foretells the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 96.1-2, 3-4, 11-12, 13 (R. Luke 2.11) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

2nd Reading

Titus 2:11-14 The grace of God has been revealed to all people.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2.10-11 Alleluia, alleluia! Good news and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

> Gospel Luke 2:1-14

The birth of Jesus.

	Wed 21 Dec:St Peter Canisius, priest and Doctor of the ChurchThu 22 Dec:Thursday of the 4th Week of AdventFri 23 Dec:St John of Kanty, priestSat 24 Dec:Saturday of the 4th 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, Rev 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		

END (25 DECE	MBER): NATI	νιτγ οf τ
24 DEC, 6PM	24 DEC, 9PM	25 DEC, 12
Min at the Altar	Min at the Altar	Min at the A
Jacob Fonseca	Carol Vella	Lorensz He
Euch Ministers	Euch Ministers	Euch Minist
Tina Fernandes	<mark>Volunt'r Needed</mark>	Louise Buch
Mary Fonseca	<mark>Volunt'r Needed</mark>	Martese Gri
Elsa Roberto	<mark>Volunt'r Needed</mark>	Reader 1
Bernadette S	Reader 1	Sheila Fran
Jan Salmon Patricia Dowd	Ray Zafra	
Michael Paulo	Reader 2	Reader 2
Reader 1	Genevieve L.	Dudley L
Janice Salmon		Commenta
· ·	Commentator	Fe Uy
Reader 2	<mark>Volunt'r Needed</mark>	Music
Derrick Pereira	Music	Alleluia Ch
Commentator	El Shaddai	Powerpoi
Candice Salmon	Powerpoint	Volunt'r Nee
Music	Volunt'r Needed	
Couples for Christ	Junior Servers	Junior Serv
Powerpoint	Volunt'rs Needed	Volunt'rs Nee
Nanette I.		Welcomer
Welcomers	<i>Welcomers</i> Sarah Damole	<mark>Volunt'r Nee</mark>
Terry Serrao	Jun Damole	<mark>Volunt'r Nee</mark>
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Mon 19 Dec: Monday of the 4th Week of Advent

Tue 20 Dec: Tuesday of the 4th Week of Advent

AM 25 DEC, 8AM Altar Min at the Altar Edward De Leon erft **Euch Ministers** ters oltz Dita Sy Lisa Brackett ima

Ron Brackett 1 Reader 1 ıcis Marty Facciol 2

Reader 2

Espy Sarno

Music

St Joseph's Choir

Powerpoint

Volunt'r Needed

Junior Servers

Volunt'rs Needed

Welcomers

Millie Perez tor Commentator

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Espy Sarno eded Volunt'r Needed eded <mark>Volunt'r Needed</mark> 25 DEC, 9.30AM

Min at the Altar Volunt'r Needed

Euch Ministers Esther Rose Aruna Heslop

> Reader 1 Nilo Gajo

Reader 2 **Joanne Stanton**

Commentator Carmen Marcelo Music

Luchie's Choir

Powerpoint Joseph Valladores

Junior Servers Volunt'rs Needed

Welcomers Joe Duval Volunt'r Needed Volunt'r Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 18 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!



Please 10