

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.*

LITURGY TIMES

Saturday

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

Sunday

Mass, 8am, 9.30am and 6pm Youth Mass, 4th Sun, 6pm

Monday and Wednesday

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

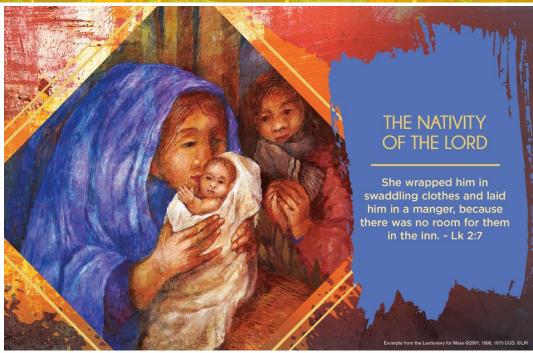
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mass, 9.05am Anointing Mass, 1st Fri, 9.05am

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

I wanted to take this opportunity to send a note of thanks and appreciation to you all as I move on to my next assignment.

If I could write a letter just filled with the words "thank you" over and over, it seems that I would never be able to write enough of them to truly express how I feel about the time I spent here serving as your Parish Priest for eight years.

From the joy of baptisms, weddings, first communions, confirmations, welcoming our new Catholics, visiting your homes, listening to your stories of how Christ has touched your lives, meditating together on the word of God, and our celebration of the Eucharist together, to the sadness of praying by the bedside of a loved one and anointing them with the oil of God's tenderness, or sharing in the grief of laying a loved one to rest in the hope of eternal life – these and so many more have helped me to grow closer to Jesus and lead you closer to Christ and His Church.

I thank the Augustinians and the Parramatta Diocese for the opportunity, privilege of being able to serve as your priest for the last eight years.

Thank you, dear parishioners, for your faith, your love, and your devotion to Jesus. Thank you for accepting me as your brother in Christ. I appreciate your faith, commitment, generosity, prayers, and support. I am grateful to you for your kindness and generosity, which you have shown me in so many ways.

I am humbled by the commitment and enthusiasm of those involved in the different parish groups and ministries, especially all the coordinators and parish staff. You are indeed a wonderful community of family and faith, and I treasure each of you. Even as I go forth to my new assignment, I will always hold you all in my heart, especially at the altar of God.

It's hard to leave Holy Spirit because I really had a great time here. But life isn't about this parish or me as your parish priest. We priests come and go. We priests have to thrive wherever we are sent.

I would like to close with this beautiful line from a song: I thank my God, each time I think of you. When I pray for you, I pray with joy.

Merry Christmas to all!

🗻 Fr Myk Belonio, OSA



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

There is strength and peace that comes from when we pray for one another. If you have a prayer request or want to offer a Mass for a special intention, go to: https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/mass-prayer-requests/
We ask you to please submit your prayer intentions a few days before preferred Mass.

SICK

Dawn, Linda Allen, Yvonne Funnell, Bob Oram, Andrew Boulos, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Brian Barnes, Harry Young, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Bill Lynch, Anne Fidler, Isla Carbone, Rosie Casha, Chris Crocker, George Issa, Joanne Buckey.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Eddie Grasso, Colleen McCunnie, Renato Casal Sr.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Sylvester Miranda, Michael & Rose Spiteri, Shellie Becker, Pauline Connell, William Connell, Ada Salmon.

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.

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



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



The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the night time of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

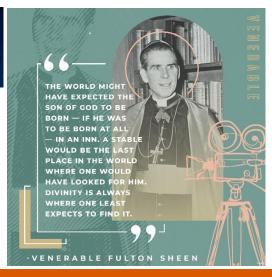
First Reading: Isaiah prophesied of God's promise to send "a child to us" who will be "a great light" and bring us "abundant joy and great rejoicing." How will you show to others today your joy at the birth of **Iesus?**

Second Reading: Paul teaches Titus that Jesus is "the grace of God" who has come to save all people. In response, we believers are called "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age." What makes this challenging to do in our time?

Gospel Reading: We hear Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. Luke tells us how the message of the angel of the Lord frightened the shepherds. In response, the angel said, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people ..." How will your family celebrate today the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Messiah?

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 session is on Tue 10 Jan, 7.00pm, at the church. Presenter is Michael Zammit.



WEEKLY JUSTICE

The first week of January is National Migration Week. Mary and Joseph and Jesus were refugees when they fled to Egypt to escape the persecution by Herod. They know what it is like to be strangers in another land. Your challenge this week is to honor those who migrate by educating yourself on the reality and reasons for migration. Go to the Australian Catholic and Refugee Office website Migrant (https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/) and learn about migration through the lens of faith. Then choose one concrete recommended on the Bishops' website which you can do to stand with refugees in today's world. Or, if you have migrants or refugees in your own community, determine one thing you as a family can do to support them.

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PROCLAIN

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.

LUKE 2: 10-11

THE SUNDAY FLOCK









© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman ... so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Sheepish Question:

As an adopted child of God, how do I relate to the maternal care of Jesus' mother?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



"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!!!







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.



The Book of WISDOM

Duration: 8 weeks Registration: 9 February 2023 Start: May 2023

Start: May 2023 Cost: \$50pp

More details will be made available next year.

An initiative of the Spirituality Commission

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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

CONFIRMATION (Year 5)

- Bookings available from 1 March 2023
- Parent Information & Catechesis Tuesday 2 May 5pm or Wednesday 3 May 6pm
- Preparation Sessions will be in May (3 weeks)
- Confirmation Masses: TBC

FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)

- Bookings available from 1 June 2023
- Parent Information & Catechesis Tuesday 25 July 5pm or Wednesday 26 July 6pm
- Preparation Sessions will be August (3 weeks)
- First Communion Masses: 20 August 11.30am, 26 August 3pm, 27 August 11.30am

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

For all enquiries contact the Parish Office:

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



ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

Invite your family & friends to join Trinity, they can register their interest via the QR code.

We can't wait to meet them



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.





Trinity Tribe is an inclusive space that is designed to welcome the tiniest members of our community into our school. Each week the children will have the opportunity to engage in play based activities that promote creativity, curiosity and a love of life long learning. Tiny Tribe also provides a safe and welcoming space for parents and carers to have a cup of tea and connect with other adults tool

Term 1 weekly focus:

Thursday 9th February - Red
Thursday 16th February - Orange
Thursday 23rd February - Yellow
Thursday 2nd March - Green
Thursday 9th March - Blue
Thursday 16th March - Purple
Thursday 23rd March - Pink
Thursday 30th March - Rainbow
Thursday 6th April - Easter

Please join us on the Trinity playground every Thursday morning from 9 – 10:30am. All are welcome, please register your interest on this code.



AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"God became a man so that by following a man, which you can do, you will reach God, which you could not do."

St Augustine of Hippo

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CREATION CARE TIPS

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." —John 1:5

Some of us have so much excess on Christmas Day: presents, food, family, a big house, electricity, heat, and running water, while billions of others worldwide don't have the basics. On a day when we celebrate Jesus coming as a light into the darkness, find some time to tone down the excess. Turn the lights down (or out) and spend a few minutes of quiet with only the light from some candles or the Christmas lights. Be more conscious about your use of electricity and your heating source and celebrate that there is still light and warmth in the darkness.

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Giftgiving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods. customs. decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

©LPi

NEXT WEEKEND (I JANUARY): SOMEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Yr A

1st Reading

Numbers 6:22-27 Aaron is instructed on how to bless the Israelites.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67.1-2, 4-5, 6-7 (R.1a) May God bless us in his mercy.

2nd Reading

Galatians 4:4-7 We are children of God in the spirit that cries out 'Abba!'

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1.1-2 Alleluia, alleluia! *In the past God spoke to our* ancestors through the prophets; now God speaks to us through the Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:16-21 The shepherds arrive at the manger.

FLOWERS: Group 5 (White)

CLEANERS: Group 4 White **BANNERS:**

31 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Peter Moriarty

Eucharistic Ministers

Hazel Littlewood Sylvia Herft Jeanne Appleton

Reader 1

Moira Rebello

Reader 2 Eileen Baena

Commentator Sheila Francis

Music

AMEN Choir

Powerpoint Volunteer Needed

Junior Servers

Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Sonia Oliveira

Selwyn Oliveira Volunteer Needed 1 JAN, 8AM

Minister at the Altar Gloria Slade

Eucharistic Ministers

Louise Bucholtz Ron Brackett Lisa Brackett

Reader 1

Christine Younes

Reader 2 Michael Hav

Commentator Stephen Middleton

Music

Manuel Fidow

Powerpoint Carol Vella

Junior Servers

Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Angela Pecnik

Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed 1 JAN, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar

Nono Gacis **Eucharistic Ministers**

> Sina Carvalho Tina Carvalho Seaview Kama

Reader 1 Tess Barnes

Reader 2 Jov Rulewski

Commentator

Cathy Allen

Music Luchie's Choir

Powerpoint

Ivan Fernandes

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Welcomers

Jenny Kyd Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed 1 JAN, 6PM

Minister at the Altar

Volunteer Needed

Eucharistic Ministers Esther Rose

> Lumen Decena Sue Oram

Reader 1 Robert Lees

Reader 2

Bonnie D'Cunha

Commentator Charlotte Smith

Music

El Shaddai Syd Gospel

Powerpoint

El Shaddai Syd Gospel

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Welcomers

Esther Rose Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 25 DECEMBER

Mon 26 Dec: St Stephen, the first martyr Tue 27 Dec: St John, apostle, evangelist Wed 28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, martyrs Thu 29 Dec: St Thomas Beckett, bishop, martyr

Fri 30 Dec: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sat 31 Dec: St Sylvester I, pope



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

Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park • Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry • BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry) **Facebook 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 Priory

9.00am to 5pm (Monday to Friday) 3 Peter Pan Glen, St Clair

Parish Staff

Parish Council

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 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

Pls support the advertisers that support us. Thank you.

If you wish to advertise your business, contact Parish Office. See contact details on page 7.





Contact Michelle for-**Pre-Planning & Pre-Paid Funerals**

P: 02 9623 6656 M: 0418 250 242 E: michelle@heavenlycelebrations.com.au

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- Business Law
- Negligence Law
- Wills & Estates Court Appearances

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www.batemanbattersby.com.au enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au





PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



Support the Parish by signing up to contribute online. Setting up a onetime or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Visit: www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations. Or thru bank transfer:

Account Name: Holy Spirit Parish St Clair

BSB: 067 950 Bank: CBA Account Number: 000 005 78

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!

