



1st Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse. Peace and justice will triumph.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72.1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

2nd Reading

Romans 15:4-9

Live in harmony with one another.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3.4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist begins to preach in the desert.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist appeared...saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" - Mt 3:1a, 2

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

VOICE FROM THE PEWS

John's baptism promoted a turn away from sin. The baptism Jesus offers not only turns us away from sin, it propels us into loving action. Our baptism into the Body of Christ empowers us to carry Christ's love to the world. If it doesn't do that then we are like the chaff of wheat, the useless husk covering the seed that John the Baptist talks about in this reading.

Our baptism marks us as children of God, a people of love. Not just the hearts-and-flowers-love that musicians sing about or even the platonic love between really good friends. As a matter of fact, we don't even have to like someone in order to love him or her in Christian love.

The love we share as God's children is more like a bond. It is the God-glove that links us to one another, binding us in a relationship closer than brothers and sisters or husband and wife. It makes all people, all creation, one with each other and with God.

This is the love God wants us to share with our children. It may not have the same euphoric feeling we felt for our children when they were born, but it is no less honest or deep. Somehow in those first few years of their lives we have to help our youngsters carry the familial love they experience at home to the whole family of God.

We can do this by introducing them early to the community of faith: bringing them to Mass as babies, enrolling them in the parish preschool program, taking them as they grow older to serve at the soup kitchen or sort food for the Thanksgiving baskets. If we get involved in our parish community, our children can meet and interact with their peers as well as adults and experience the love that binds God's community. Healthy seeds can be planted to bear all sorts of good fruit in their futures.

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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

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/wp-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, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Brian Barnes, Harry Young, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Bill Lynch, Rosie Casha, Anne Fidler, Isla Carbone, Romeo Prieto, Amy Basco, Doreen Abela, Rita Ronaldson, Rae Ansell, Matthew Cuschieri, Ramia Jajo, Ousa Prekhamsay, Tony Fagel, Baby Armario Escubio, Ted Uy, Mike Alvarez, Chris Crocker.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Carmelo Mederos, Eliseo Banguis, Jomar Antonio, Gloria Lim, Jim Fenech, Rafael Ambagan, Lorraine Assey, Marilou Peña Ramirez, Eliseo Banguis, Lorna Hall.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Michael Kinny, Ricardo Herft, Donstan Herft, Leslie Kiss, Rebecca Herft, George Herft, Douglas Brohier, Cecil Enos, Larry O'Connell, Michael Rodrigues, Jovita Fernandes.

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 God in whom we believe is “the God of endurance and encouragement.” Have you ever thought about God in those terms? Our sight can become limited by the concerns of the world and our individual lives. We can look to the past and see what is happening in the present, but the future is primarily left to our imaginations. God has a clear vision for the future. It is one where the “wolf shall be a guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.” It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one. We can see the complete picture of life in God. We see what we may be, what may come, and who we can become. Preparing the way for the Lord means moving beyond the limitations of ideology, time, space, preference, and self-focused concern so that we can see as God sees. God will give us what we need to endure whatever comes, and the encouragement we need to get where we can be.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: About two hundred years after the death of King David, the prophet Isaiah in around 760 BC prophesied the arrival of a new and ideal ‘King David’ (“a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse”) that would bring about peace among people and animals. How can any of us today help make this promised future a reality?

Second Reading: Paul taught the Roman Christians that being a welcoming and unified community of Jewish and Gentile believers was one way to glorify God. Do you think your group of friends are welcoming to others?

Gospel Reading: John the Baptist taught the people that repenting of sins and producing “good fruit” was essential for preparing for the kingdom of heaven. What good works are you doing for your family and friends as we continue through the season of Advent?

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

The first reading for the 2nd Sunday of Advent is from the prophet Isaiah. It includes these words: “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together...There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy land; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord...” (Isaiah 11:1-10). Isaiah portrays a powerful image of cooperation and peace in this reading. Your challenge this week is to go to the Vinnies website, read a real-life story of people helping people, research the work which Vinnies is doing to bring peace and justice to our world, and choose one action you can take as a family or household to support the work of this great organization (www.vinnies.org.au).

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CRY OUT

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

MATTHEW 3:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

THE SUNDAY FLOCK



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

“He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land’s afflicted.”

Sheepish Question:

How can I enhance my feelings of compassion with a deeper sense of justice?

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 Tuesday 13th Dec, 7.00pm, via Zoom-platform. Presenter is Seaview Kama.



- LILI LOUISE OWEN**
(Daughter of Brenden and Lisa)
- SIENNA GRACE VARNAM**
(Daughter of Mitchell and Brianna)
- REIGN PONTERES**
(Son of Renante and Genalyn)

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.

For those who would like to be part of the Planning Committee for the Farewell, please come to a meeting on Tue 29 Nov 6:30pm at the Pioneer Room. For more info, contact Sarah 0405 756 752 or Dudley on 0408 700 880.

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.



Wedding Anniversary Mass

11 December 2022, 9.30AM MASS

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

SPENDING ADVENT WITH

MARY

An Advent Reflection
led by Fr Jumbim Torres, OSA



**THU 8 DEC
7PM**

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
1-5 TODD ROW, ST CLAIR 2759 NSW
WWW.HOLYSPIRITSTCLAIR.COM.AU



Saturday 10 December, 4.00 to 5.45 pm

Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. Like all religious experiences, it takes preparation. Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God's forgiveness and love.

**THIS CHRISTMAS,
YOUR SUPPORT**

**CAN MAKE WISHES
COME TRUE.**



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 **Monday 12th December**. 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.

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, 7 December Wed, 21 December
Thu, 22 December Sat, 24 December (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



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.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH ST CLAIR

Join us as we celebrate
Christmas Masses

SAT 24 DEC
6PM (FAMILY MASS)
9PM
11.30PM (CAROLS)

SUN 25 DEC
12 MIDNIGHT
8AM
9.30AM
NO 6PM MASS ON 25 DEC

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BIBLE STUDY

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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

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

Liturgical Ministry Course

Beginning February 2023

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.

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



“For how could there be peace on earth unless Truth has arisen from the earth, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And he is our peace who made the two into one: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.”

St Augustine of Hippo



**WHY DO WE DO THAT?
Catholic Life Explained**

Question:

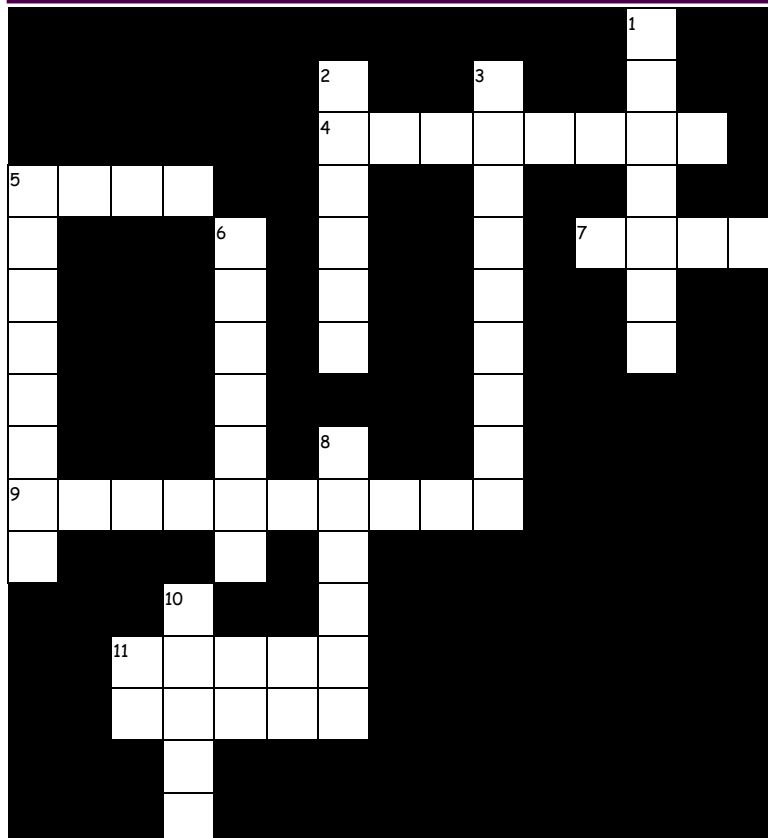
Why do Catholics make the sign of the cross?

Answer:

The sign of the cross is a devotional practice that dates back to the first Apostles. When making the sign of the cross, we remember Jesus Christ who died for us and also bear witness to the fact that we belong to him and are called to share the Good News to all the world. At our Baptism, we were signed with a cross and marked for Christ. That mark remains on us throughout the entirety of our lives. We remind ourselves of that mark every time we make the same gesture over our bodies. We also remind ourselves that to be a Christian means we are to “put on Christ” and be Christ for a world that needs to know him. In a way, this devotional gesture covers us with Christ so that others may see him in us.

Catholics are not the only ones who make the sign of the cross. Orthodox, Lutheran, and Anglicans are examples of other Christians who maintain this same ancient tradition.

CROSSWORD **Make a straight path for the Lord**



DOWN:

- 1: popular footwear in biblical times
- 2: The prophet who spoke of a man who would prepare the way for Christ's coming
- 3: assessment of someone's actions
- 5: not crooked
- 6: John was known as the ...
- 8: where John baptised people
- 10: John wore clothes made of camel's...

ACROSS:

- 4: yelling, speaking loudly
- 5: bad deeds
- 7: a route for travel
- 9: during baptism God is present in this form (2 words)
- 11: a baptism symbol

CREATION CARE TIPS

“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.” —Isaiah 11:1



As Pope Francis urged in *Laudato Si'*, one thing we can do as we work to care for creation is to see the beauty already present around us. How often do we see stumps instead of sprouts or seemingly lifeless roots instead of buds? Yes, there are many sobering signs of how our earth is hurting, many “stumps” we can focus our attention on, but this week pray to keep your eyes open for where sprouts and buds are present in the world. As we go into the winter season in the northern hemisphere, chances are we won't see actual plant sprouts or buds coming up, but pay attention to the news for signs of life and regeneration in the fight against climate change.

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NEXT WEEKEND (11 DECEMBER): 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Yr A

<p>1st Reading Isaiah 35:1-6,10 <i>The desert will rejoice and blossom.</i></p> <p>Responsorial Psalm Psalm 146.6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10 (R. see Isaiah 35.4) <i>Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading James 5:7-10 <i>Be patient, even in suffering.</i></p> <p>Gospel Acclamation Luke 4.18 (see Isaiah 61.1) <i>Alleluia, alleluia!</i> <i>The Spirit of the Lord now upon me has sent me to bring good news to the poor.</i> <i>Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel Matthew 11:2-11 <i>John asks, 'Are you the one who is to come?'</i></p>	<p>10 DEC, 6PM</p> <p>Minister at the Altar Peter Moriarty</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers Dita Sy Moira Rebello Janice Salmon</p> <p>Reader 1 Dudley Littlewood</p> <p>Reader 2 Volunteer Needed</p> <p>Commentator Florence Pusey</p> <p>Music Victor Brangwin</p> <p>Powerpoint Nanette I.</p> <p>Junior Servers Volunteers Needed</p> <p>Welcomers Terry Serrao Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>11 DEC, 8AM</p> <p>Minister at the Altar Carol Vella</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers Belen Leynes Celeste Lapid Lisa Brackett</p> <p>Reader 1 Sally Banguis</p> <p>Reader 2 Dawn Timmins</p> <p>Commentator Manuel Fidow</p> <p>Music Pierre D'Cunha</p> <p>Powerpoint Christine Younes</p> <p>Junior Servers Volunteers Needed</p> <p>Welcomers Sarah Damole Jun Damole Espy Sarno</p>	<p>11 DEC, 9.30AM</p> <p>Minister at the Altar Anthony Bertumen</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers Ken Allen Cathy Allen Jenny Kyd</p> <p>Reader 1 Uimise Blake</p> <p>Reader 2 Blanca Dowsett</p> <p>Commentator Ray Zafra</p> <p>Music Mary Immaculate Choir</p> <p>Powerpoint Boy Sanosa</p> <p>Junior Servers Volunteers Needed</p> <p>Welcomers Jenny Kyd Sue Oram Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>11 DEC, 6PM</p> <p>Minister at the Altar Volunteer Needed</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers Kate Blasco Esther Rose Robert Lees</p> <p>Reader 1 Kate Blasco</p> <p>Reader 2 Candice Salmon</p> <p>Commentator Mary Facciol</p> <p>Music Aleluia Choir</p> <p>Powerpoint Volunteer Needed</p> <p>Junior Servers Volunteers Needed</p> <p>Welcomers Esther Rose Eleanor Stuart Volunteer Needed</p>
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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 4 DECEMBER

- Mon 5 Dec:** Monday of the 2nd Week of Advent
- Tue 6 Dec:** St Nicholas, bishop
- Wed 7 Dec:** St Ambrose, bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Thu 8 Dec:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Fri 9 Dec:** St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, hermit
- Sat 10 Dec:** Our Lady of Loreto

- FLOWERS:** Group 4 (Violet)
- CLEANERS:** Group 1
- BANNERS:** Violet



Holy Spirit Parish

St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek

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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

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



Please DONATE

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:

Account Name: Holy Spirit Parish St Clair
Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 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!

