

1st Reading

Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13 *Samuel anoints David king.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R.1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2nd Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14 *Live in the light.*

Gospel Acclamation

See John 9.1-41 Alleluia, alleluia! The man who was blind washed his eyes and came back able to see.

Gospel

John 9:1-41

On the Sabbath, Jesus cures a man who was blind from birth.

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

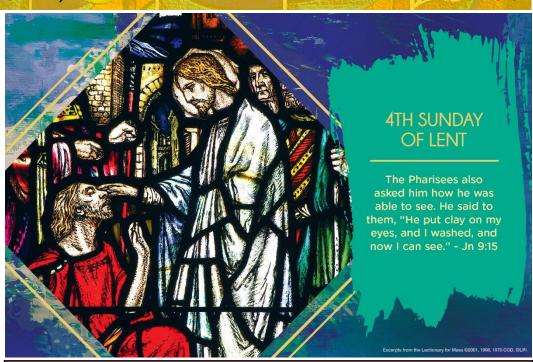
Mass, 9.05am Anointing Mass, 1st Fri, 9.05am

1st Friday Night Devotion Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7 30pm

Children's Liturgy Sat 6pm Vigil Mass & Sun 9.30am 1st & 3rd Sun of the month

(during school term)

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals,
Anointing of the Sick
by appointment



VOICE FROM THE PEWS

Today's gospel reading is the second in a series of three quite lengthy readings from the gospel of John that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A of the liturgical cycle. The three readings address three significant themes and images: water; light; and new life. Although today's passage is about the healing of a blind man, the event takes place as part of a longer section of the gospel dealing with the image of light and specifically the image of Jesus as Light of the World.

The question asked by the disciples at the opening of this event is an interesting one. They ask, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' In Jewish culture at the time, any physical affliction was deemed to be punishment from God for sinful behaviour. As the man had been born blind, the suspicion falls on his parents as having committed such a terrible offence against God that their son is born blind. Jesus immediately rejects this interpretation of the man's affliction. Physical and mental illnesses or disabilities are in no way punishment from God.

Although the man's physical sight is restored by Jesus simply enough, his journey from darkness into light is a more complicated affair. He faces disbelief, ridicule and even abuse from the Jewish authorities as they try to discredit Jesus and diminish the impact of the miracle. In fact, their treatment of the man is what drives him along the road from recipient of an act of mercy to a confirmed believer. Furthermore, the Jewish authorities, despite their physical capacity for sight, are shown to be the ones who are truly blind and trapped in darkness because they deny the light that is before their very eyes.

The events of today's gospel passage occur within an extended passage of the gospel of John in which Jesus attends Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn 7:1 following). A feature of the feast was the illumination of the Temple. Pilgrims would cover the Temple with lights and torches so that it shone out over the entire city. It was during this feast that Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the World and, a few verses later, healed the blind man and brought light into his world.

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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

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:

Benjie Santiago, Yvonne Funnell, Linda Allen, Ramia Jajo, Elinor Ortiz, Sean, Rosario Ribay Hutching, Nympha Miller, Maria Sloan, Rosie Casha, Joel Dizon, Ann Fidler, Hanna Rose Stewart, Bill Lynch, Andrew Boulos, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Brian Barnes, Harry Young, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Edna Studdert.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Vicenta Avila, Kristoffer Stephen Tolentino, Mark Constantine, Gloria B Bum, Beryl May Turner, Margaret Fernandes, Lolita Rontale, Mervyn Fernandez, James Joseph.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Brendan Quirke OSA, George Paz, Sr Constance Tresham, Xavier Carvalho, Anthony Alfonso, Anna Severna Alfonso, Lorraine Assey, Pat Shelley, Emmanuela Cachia, Henry Carlyle Blake, Milton Fernandes, Lily Abreo, Feliciano Fernandes, Doris Carabott, Jose & Victorina Teodoro, Terry Teodoro, Birdie Fernandez, Douglas Oliver, Dorothy Cather.

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.



LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the Week



Have you ever given thought to the fact that you are an "ambassador for Christ?" An ambassador is an accredited diplomat and official representative. We are asked to be ambassadors for Christ and his message of reconciliation. Within each one of us is a prodigal son who realizes the need to return home, an elder brother who struggles with entitlement and self-pity, and a forgiving father who simply wants to celebrate love. Realizing that all of these things are operative in our hearts, we can bring credibility to God's ministry of reconciliation. Genuine witnesses are those who not only recognize their need for wholeness, mercy, and forgiveness but also their tendency to be over self-focused and stubborn. Then, discovering freedom from all that binds them, they can then extend the love they have received to others. These ambassadors embody unity, mercy, and reconciliation and can look on others with deep compassion because they know what it is to walk in their shoes. Can God count on you to deliver this message?

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: After the Israelites settled into the land of Canaan (the Promised Land), no longer was there any need for the "manna" from heaven. As the season of Lent continues, what have you been able to let go of?

Second Reading: Paul emphasized to the Corinthians the importance of reconciliation with God. Why do you think reconciliation is so key to our relationship with God?

Gospel Reading: In Jesus' parable of the lost (prodigal) son, which character do you most resonate with, and why?

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 11th April 7.00pm, at the church. Presenter is Michael Zammit.

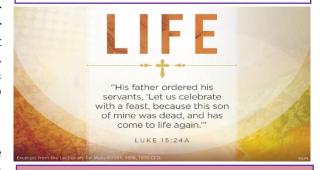


We have no baptisms during Lent, will be resumed after 8th April.

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

Sunday's Gospel addresses the story of the man born blind. The Jews blamed his parents and their sins for his condition, but Jesus taught a different message—that God doesn't punish people for things which aren't their fault. Your challenge this week is to look at how you judge others and yourself. Do you look at people's actions through the lens of a loving God? Do you give others the benefit of the doubt? And are you gentle with yourself? Do you forgive yourself when you mess up, trusting in a God who forgives infinitely? God is the arbiter of justice, and we are called to trust in God's judgment, which ultimately is so much more merciful than human judgment. Place the world in God's hands this week, and stop yourself from judging.

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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



STATIONS of the CROSS

Men's Ministry is inviting **everyone** for the Stations of the Cross every Wednesday Evening (6 Wednesdays of Lent) at 7:30pm at the Church Foyer. Booklets will be provided.

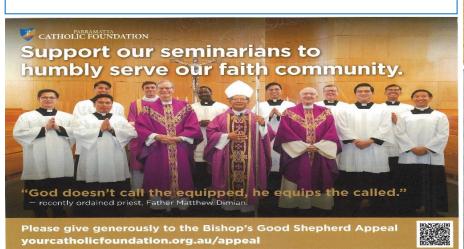
HOLY SPIRIT PRIMARY SCHOOL - Kindergarten 2024

We will be hosting an Information Evening on Tuesday, 28 February, at 6:30 pm, where parents and carers can join us to find out about our school, as well as being provided with the opportunity to ask questions about our school.

Please visit our website and our facebook page to learn more about our school and to complete an Expression of Interest form.

Across the following 3 weeks we will host a number of sessions where parents can take a tour of our school to see learning in action. Please share this link with anyone you know who has a child ready to start Kindergarten in 2024.







The Letter to the HEBREWS

Duration: 8 weeks
Registration will be on:
7pm on 27 April 2023
Start: 11th May 2023
More details will be made
available soon.

An initiative of the Spirituality Commission

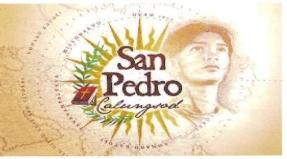
(Contact: Fleur on 0414838705)

ALLELUIA CHOIR

Is inviting you to join this group to thank, serve and glorify Our Lord with songs and music.

PLEASE CONTACT JOY RULEWSKI MOB: 0425264642

JOIN OUR PRACTICE FOR HOLY THURDAY MASS



12th FIESTA CELEBRATION IN HONOUR OF ST. PEDRO CALUNGSOD (2nd Filipino Saint)

NOVENA/FIESTA SCHEDULE
6th Day Tuesday, 28 March

6th Day Tuesday, 28 March Holy Spirit Parish – St. Clair at 7:00pm

Saturday, 01 April 2023 - FEAST DAY 11:30 AM - Concelebrated Mass ST. AIDAN'S PARISH CHURCH 9 Adelaide St., Rooty Hill

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2023 - 6.30 - 7.30PM

Register your interest via link or QR code.







Wedding Anniversary Mass 26 March 2023, 9.30AM MASS

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

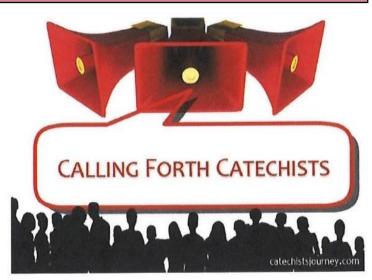
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

6 April, Holy Thursday Morning Prayer, Church, 9am Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm Night Prayer, 10pm

7 April, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, Church, 10am Passion of the Lord, 3pm

8 April, Holy Saturday Morning Prayer, Church, 9am Easter Vigil Mass, 6:30pm

9 April, Easter Sunday Mass, 8am and 9:30am NOTE: No 6pm Mass on Sun 9 April



Our Parish is in need of people who would like to take a role as Catechist. Catechists are needed especially at James Erskine, Blackwell and Clairgate Primary Schools. Please give your prayerful consideration to respond to this worthwhile invitation. If you need more information how to become a catechist please contact our SRE Coordinator Peter Moriarty at sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au or 0452079043

Do good anyway

FOOD DRIVE FOR JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES

Weeks: 18/19 of March and 25/26 of March.

The food needed by the service are:

Basmati Rice (1kg) Dry Chickpeas

Cooking Oil Dry Red and Green Lentils

Long Life Milk Coconut Milk

A box will be provided in the foyer for collection.



Palm Sunday is on 1-2 April 2023.

This year we ask you to bring your own palms. The church will not provide palms for parishioners.

Thank you.

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"The truth is like a lion. You don't have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself."

St Augustine of Hippo

I put my faith in you Jesus CROSSWORDS Down: 1. look 2. grass grows out of the 3. we see through these 4. a place where you can swim 5. not able to see 7. to clean with water 9. dirt mixed with water

Across:

- 1. Mother is to daughter as father is to _ _ _
- 5. someone who begs
- 6. singular
- 8. Jesus told the bling man to wash off the mud at
- ____Pool
- 9. an adult male human



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CREATION CARE TIPS

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul."—Psalm 23:1-3

Sometimes as people who are fighting to save the environment we can get so caught up in our efforts that we forget that God calls us to take a weekly Sabbath to rest, be still, and be rejuvenated. Sabbath time is essential to remind ourselves that we are not the Creator. It is not up to us to keep creation ticking.

The fate of the world does not rest in our hands. In fact, God wants us, invites us, and even commands us, to take time to rest and be renewed. This week, build in some time to relax in nature and relish its beauty, power, and peacefulness. Take a nap under a tree, get out some binoculars to watch birds at the shore, go for a walk, and simply appreciate the beauty in your neighborhood, even if it's just a dandelion growing out of a crack in the sidewalk. Do something that's your version of lying down in green pastures and resting beside still waters.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do priests wear a Roman collar?

Answer:

The practice of priests wearing the Roman collar developed in the mid-nineteenth century as an alternative to wearing the cassock which in some places was seen as impractical or which was even outlawed by anti-Catholic legislation. Since its introduction, it has taken different forms, and if you visit different countries today, you will see variation in what priests wear.

The Code of Canon Law simply observes that priests wear "suitable ecclesiastical garb" according to the judgments of the national bishops conferences and local custom (no. 284).

The Australian Bishops have instructed that outside of liturgical functions, a "black suit and Roman collar are the usual formal attire for priests. The use of the cassock is at the discretion of the cleric." Priests who are members of religious communities are to follow the rules of their institute regarding the habit or other approved clothing.

In the end, whether a priest wears the Roman collar, a religious habit, or, as is the case in many European countries, a suit and tie (to distinguish them from Protestant clergy who wear a collar) the goal of their clerical clothing is to serve as a sign of their commitment to guide and to serve, and to also allow them to be truly public figures because they are ordained for the service of all. ©LPi

NEXT WEEKEND (26th MARCH): FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, Yr A

1st Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14 The Lord promises to raise his people from the dead.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7b-8 (*R.7b*) With the Lord there is mercy an

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

2nd Reading

Romans 8-8-11 The Spirit of God dwells in us.

Gospel Acclamation

See John 11.25,26
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Gospel

John 11:1-45 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

CLEANERS: Group 1
BANNERS: Purple

Parish Council

25 MARCH, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Carol Vella/Madeline Mostert

Eucharistic Ministers

Lea Jadraque Fe Uy Aruna Heslop

Reader 1Romeo Prieto

Reader 2 Lea Jadraque

Commentator Janice Salmon

Music Couples for Christ

Powerpoint
Nanette I.

Junior Servers
Volunteers Needed

Welcomers
Terry Serrao
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

26 MARCH, 8AM

Minister at the Altar Victor Brangwin

Eucharistic Ministers

Gloria Slade Fiona Ferreira Ron Brackett

> **Reader 1** Millie Perez

Reader 2 Espy Sarno

CommentatorLouise Bucholtz

Music Peter Mercia

Powerpoint Manuel Fidow

Junior Servers
Volunteers Needed

Welcomers

Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteers Needed 26 MARCH, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Alice Zafra

Eucharistic Ministers

Nilo Gajo Marthese Grima Anabel Jader

Reader 1Michael Paulo

Reader 2Carmen Marcelo

CommentatorTina Fernandes

Music Children's Choir

Powerpoint Joseph Valladores

Junior Servers
Volunteers Needed

Welcomers
Joe Duval
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

26 MARCH, 6PM

*Minister at the Altar*Victor Brangwin

Eucharistic Ministers

Lumen Decena Peter Smith Robert Lees

Reader 1 Jodie Donlan

Reader 2
Robert Lees

CommentatorGenevieve Luangratt

Music BASIC GIFT

Powerpoint

BASIC GIFT
Junior Servers

Volunteers Needed

Welcomers
Eleanor Stuart
Volunteers Needed
Volunteer Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 19 MARCH

Mon 20 Mar: Saint Joseph, Spouse Of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Tue 21 Mar: Tuesday Of The Fourth Week Of Lent
Wed 22 Mar: Wednesday Of The Fourth Week Of Lent
Thu 23 Mar: Saint Turibius Of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Fri 24 Mar: Friday Of The Fourth Week Of Lent

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

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 TBA

Parish Staff Parish Moderator: Fr Jepser Bermudez, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Asst Pastor: Fr Dave Austin, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E daustin@holyspiritstclair.com.au Asst Pastor: Fr Peter Tangey, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Augustinian Brother: Rev. Hoang Huy Nguyen P 02 9670 8222 E ix.hoanghuy@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): Peter Moriarty 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, Michael Paulo, Vince Cachia, Carol Vella, Andrea Bouche,

Seaview Kama, Benjie Santiago, Eleanor Stuart (BASIC GIFT Youth Representative)

Fr Jepser Bermudez OSA, Fr Dave Austin OSA, Fr Peter Tangey OSA, Rev Hoang Huy Nguyen 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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If you wish to advertise your business, contact Parish Office. See contact details on page 7.



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

Picaluna

As a long-time member of the Parish, it would be my honour to guide you and your family through this challenging time, helping you create a beautiful and meaningful ceremony to honour and celebrate your beloved departed according to your spiritual and cultural values.

Picaluna will donate 5% of its profit to a project of Holy Spirit Parish or to a charity of your choice.

PRE-PAID FUNERALS AVAILABLE

Joy Rulewski - Celebrant & Funeral Director 0425 264 642 / 02 9191 5006 joy.rulewski@picaluna.com • picaluna.com



Sans Rival

\$75.00



Cathy Mob:0418664861

Pick up Address 26 Caley St Ropes Crossing



Bateman Battersby

We invite members of the parish to take advantage of our legal services specialising in:

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

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





PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Ube/Yema

\$65.00

\$75.00

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

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!

