



### 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 and fullness of redemption.*

### 2nd Reading

Romans 8-8-11

*The Spirit of God dwells in us.*

### Gospel Acclamation

See John 11.25,26

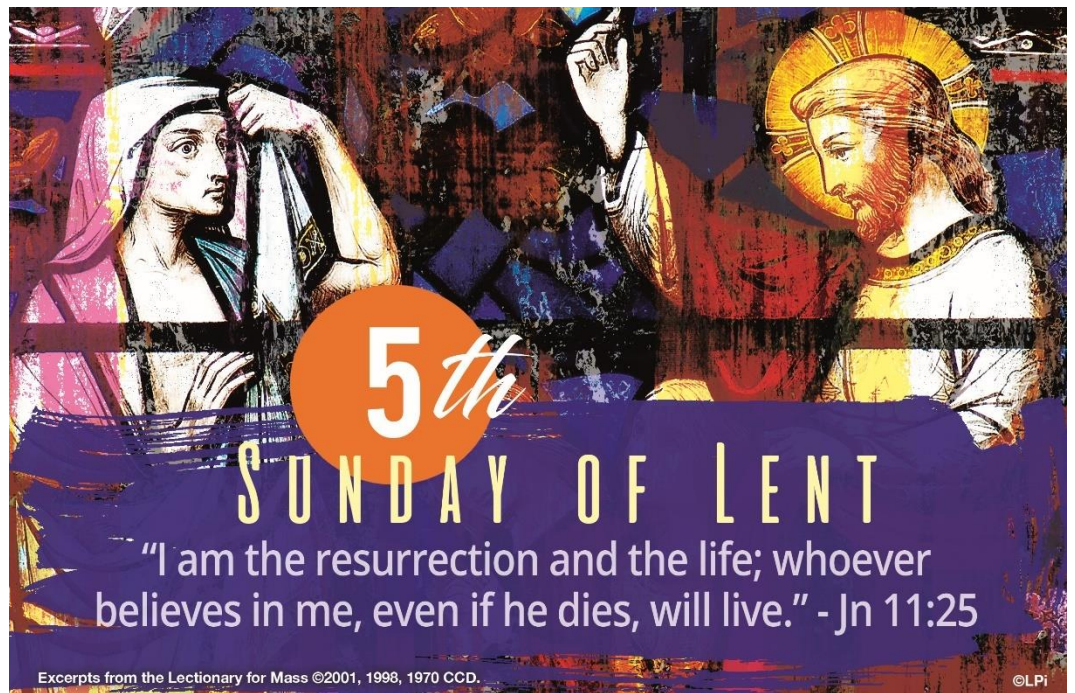
*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*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.*



### VOICE FROM THE PEWS

## LITURGY TIMES

#### Saturday

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

#### Sunday

Mass, 8am, 9.30am and 6pm  
Youth Mass, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Fri, 9.05am

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Night Devotion

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 7.30pm

#### Children's Liturgy

Sat 6pm Vigil Mass & Sun 9.30am  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of the month  
(during school term)

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

Even in Jesus' time, people questioned why they had to suffer. When Lazarus becomes deathly ill, Martha and Mary send for Jesus. When he does not arrive until it is too late, Lazarus's sister challenges Jesus, asking why he did not come sooner to save her brother.

I remember sitting at the bedside of a thirteen year-old girl who knew she was dying. She suffered for days before she finally died. At the funeral I listened to some of the comments. "God has his reasons," and "God is just testing us." I wondered who the God was they were talking about.

Don't we say, and believe, that God loves us even more than we love our own children? I could not imagine any reason I would cause a child of mine to suffer that much. And what kind of a parent uses the suffering of his own little girl to test some grown-ups?

Suffering happens. It is part of life. No one, not the richest person or poorest, not saint or sinner, can get through life without suffering. God doesn't cause it; God doesn't plan it. Suffering is a part of our fallen human nature. God is just there to see us through it.

When you say yes to God, accept your humanness, and ask for God's help through your pain, God's strength and life becomes your strength and life. Your yes opens you up to the peace, courage and perseverance that God's love offers. It is so much easier to endure suffering when you know that your good God is with you, as close as the next breath you take.

**FAMILY RESPONSE:** Ask family members to talk about the most difficult thing that happened this week. Pray to let go of any uncomfortable emotions that are left over. Ask them to close their eyes and slowly breathe in and out. Ask them to imagine that their breath is the Holy Spirit healing their hearts.

**PERSONAL RESPONSE:** What has caused you the most suffering in your life? If it is still with you today, how can you ease the pain? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

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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/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](mailto: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:

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

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Priscilla Amelia Machado, Dulcie Shrieves, Ofelia Tanjutco, Gloria B Bum, Kristoffer Stephen Tolentino, Beryl Turner, Mervyn Fernandez, James Joseph, Rafael Antonio Ambagan, Amy Machado.

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Daniel Cotte, Anthony Farrugia, Felix Martinez, Natividad Martinez, Birdie Fernandez, Sr Constance Tresham, Douglas Oliver, Dorothy Cather, Louis Tham, Carmelo & Mary Anne Avellino.

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](mailto: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](http://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



Mercy makes us attentive to the voice of truth. We do not know what ever happened to the woman caught in adultery, after her encounter with Jesus. It is hoped that she found what she needed to feel true sorrow. What we do know is that through his gentle and wise persuasiveness, Jesus puts the Pharisees in their place and opens the door to grace for this child of God. Being exploited and used to test and discredit Jesus, she who is publicly known to be a sinner is now the victim. Jesus never tolerates people being used and immediately rushes to her defense. As the author of mercy, Jesus became her advocate and opened the door for her to God's love. Jesus also stands between us and the harsh, judgmental, and often hurtful stance of our world. He invites us to grace, to leave the sin that binds us, and for which we are often criticized, and pursue a life of virtue and freedom.

### QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**First Reading:** Active during Israel's captivity in Babylon around 550BC, the prophet Isaiah reminds the Israelites of God's saving acts in their history and offers hope for a new future beyond exile. How does your faith in the Lord offer you hope in times of distress?

**Second Reading:** Paul speaks to the Philippians of his firm belief that what matters most in his life is his intimate connection to Christ Jesus. How do you think anyone develops this depth of passion for Jesus?

**Gospel Reading:** The scribes and the Pharisees tested Jesus' fidelity to the Mosaic Law by using a woman caught in the act of adultery. In reply, Jesus exposed the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and showed mercy on the sinful woman. When has someone shown you mercy over judgment?

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm, at the church. Presenter is Michael Zammit.



**We have no baptisms during Lent, will be resumed after 8<sup>th</sup> April.**

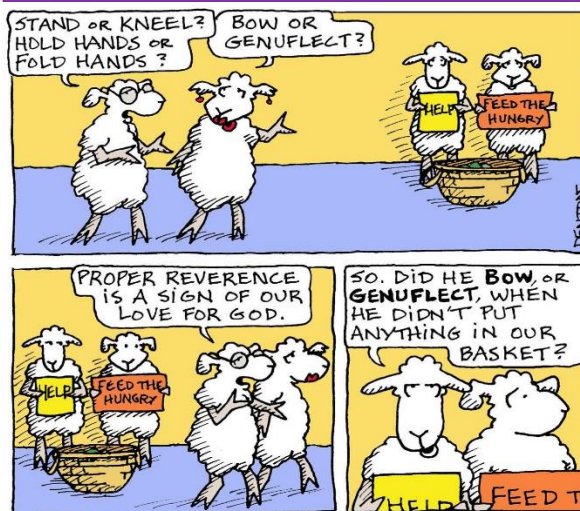
## WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

The Gospel Sunday recounts the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. It is eloquent to read that Jesus wept when he saw how devastated Lazarus' friends and relatives were about his friend's death. Jesus showed such compassion and human emotion. The word compassion is from the Latin words *com* (meaning with) and *pati* (to suffer). Compassion, then, is suffering with others who are hurting. Your challenge this week is to show compassion to someone who is suffering. You might donate money to CRS or another organization helping hurting people. Or you might give a sandwich to a homeless person in your community. Whatever you do, remember that compassion means entering into that person's human condition, not with condescension, but with a genuine sense of walking with them in their experience. ©Center for Ministry Development. Published by the Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

## With the Lord there is mercy and redemption.

PSALM 130

### THE SUNDAY FLOCK



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

"I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world ... and I have been glorified in them."

### Sheepish Question:

How have I acted (or not) recently in a way that glorifies my savior Jesus?



## 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.



## CALLING FORTH CATECHISTS

catechistsjourney.com

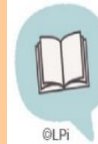
Our Parish is in need of people who would like to take a role as Catechist. Catechists are needed especially at James Erskine, Blackwell and Clairgate Primary Schools. Please give your prayerful consideration to respond to this worthwhile invitation. If you need more information how to become a catechist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

## 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 THURSDAY MASS



## BIBLE STUDY

## HEBREWS

Duration: 8 weeks

Registration will be on:

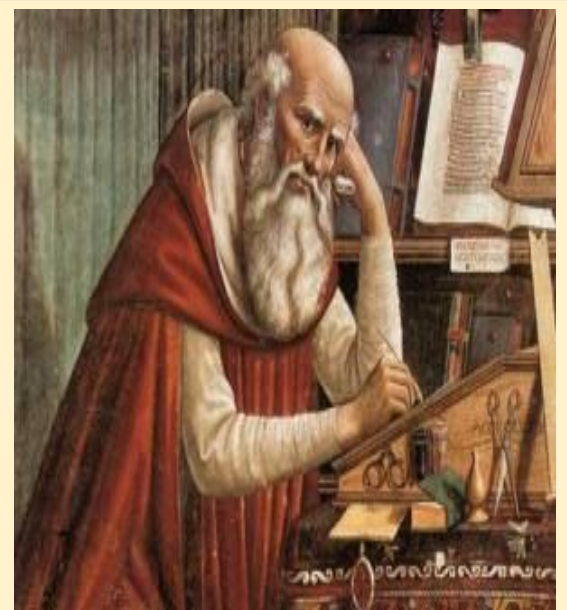
7pm on 27 April 2023

Start: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023

*More details will be made available soon.*

**An initiative of the Spirituality Commission**

*(Contact: Fleur on 0414838705)*



## FRIENDS OF ST AUGUSTINE

WILL MET ON

THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

7:00PM IN THE PIONEERS ROOM.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN  
ATTENDING

WILL BE MOST WELCOME



## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS


PARRAMATTA  
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

# Support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community.

**"God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called."**  
— recently ordained priest, Father Matthew Dimian.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal  
[yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)



## DEVOTIONAL STALL

ITEMS FOR SALE – DROP BY AND SEE MORE!!!!

- Scapular green & brown
- Crucifixes (only wood)
- Rosaries
- First Missal
- Three fold wooden frame with Virgin Mary
- Chaplet of Immaculate Conception



**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.*

### 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 Easter Sunday



# AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



*"Love -- love of God, love of neighbour -- is the centre of Christian life. The Rule of Augustine is one of the oldest monastic rules in the Church."*

St Augustine of Hippo



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

### Answer:

The practice of making a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him."

Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin.

This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

©LPi

## CROSSWORDS

## Lazarus comes back to life

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| P | S | P | I | P | M | N | V | G | T | O | M |
| D | Z | C | L | G | C | M | M | B | H | X | F |
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### Try to find these words:

Bethany  
cloth  
cry  
face

Lazarus  
Martha  
Mary  
out

sick  
sister  
stone  
tomb



## CREATION CARE TIPS

*Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves" —Ezekiel 37:12*

As we near the end of Lent, the readings remind us that although something may appear dead, God can bring new life to it. We may be fearful about the direction things are going when we hear about species extinction, polluted waterways, or wildfires ravaging forests.

This week, keep your eyes and ears open for stories and examples of the regenerative power of nature. Look for reminders of new life coming from what seems like death: a seed planted that will sprout, a cocoon that will bring forth a butterfly, or an egg that will crack for a bird to be hatched.



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# NEXT WEEKEND (2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL): PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD, Yr A

## 1st Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

*Despite rejection, Isaiah does not abandon his call.*

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:7-8, 16-17, 22-23 (R.1)

*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

## 2nd Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

*The Spirit of God dwells in us.*

## Gospel Acclamation

See Philippians 2:8-9

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Christ become obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.*

## Gospel

Matthew 27:11-54

*The Passion and death of Jesus.*

### 1 APRIL, 6PM

**Minister at the Altar**  
Lorensz Herft

### Eucharistic Ministers

Hazel Littlewood  
Sylvia Herft  
Jeanne Appleton

### Reader 1

Moirra Rebello

### Reader 2

Sylvia Herft

### Commentator

Sheila Francis

### Music

AMEN Choir

### Powerpoint

Volunteer Needed

### Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

### Welcomers

Sonia Oliveira  
Selwyn Oliveira  
Volunteer Needed

### 2 APRIL, 8AM

**Minister at the Altar**  
Gloria Slade

### Eucharistic Ministers

Ron Brackett  
Lisa Brackett  
Volunteer Needed

### Reader 1

Christine Younes

### Reader 2

Michael Hay

### Commentator

Faye Aboghazaleh

### Music

Manuel Fidow

### Powerpoint

Carol Vella

### Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

### Welcomers

Angela Pecnik  
Volunteer Needed  
Volunteers Needed

### 2 APRIL, 9.30AM

**Minister at the Altar**  
Fred Harris

### Eucharistic Ministers

Sina Carvalho  
Tina Fernandes  
Seaview Kama

### Reader 1

Tess Barnes

### Reader 2

Joy Rulewski

### Commentator

Cathy Allen

### Music

Children's Choir

### Powerpoint

Ivan Fernandes

### Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

### Welcomers

Jenny Kyd  
Volunteer Needed  
Volunteer Needed

### 2 APRIL, 6PM

**Minister at the Altar**  
Tony Cleary

### Eucharistic Ministers

Esther Rose  
Lumen Decena  
Sue Oram

### Reader 1

Robert Lees

### Reader 2

Sue Oram

### Commentator

Charlotte Smith

### Music

El Shaddai S/G Choir

### Powerpoint

El Shaddai S/G Choir

### Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

### Welcomers

Esther Rose  
Volunteers Needed  
Volunteer Needed

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 26 MARCH

**Mon 27 Mar:** Monday Of The Fifth Week Of Lent

**Tue 28 Mar:** Tuesday Of The Fifth Week Of Lent

**Wed 29 Mar:** Wednesday Of The Fifth Week Of Lent

**Thu 30 Mar:** Thursday Of The Fifth Week Of Lent

**Fri 31 Mar:** Friday Of The Fifth Week Of Lent

**CLEANERS:** Group 1  
**BANNERS:** Purple

## 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](http://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](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au) **W** [www.holyspiritstclair.com.au](http://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](mailto:pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au)
**Asst Pastor:** Fr Dave Austin, OSA **P** 02 9670 8222 **E** [daustin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:daustin@holyspiritstclair.com.au)
**Asst Pastor:** Fr Peter Tangey, OSA **P** 02 9670 8222 **E** [ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au)
**Augustinian Brother:** Rev. Hoang Huy Nguyen **P** 02 9670 8222 **E** [ix.hoanghuy@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:ix.hoanghuy@holyspiritstclair.com.au)
**Parish Secretary:** Elisa Reynolds **P** 02 9670 8222 **E** [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au) (Tue-Fri)

**Parish Bookkeeper:** Mila Llamas **P** 02 9670 8222 **E** [accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au) (Mon and Wed)

**SRE Coordinator (Catechists):** Peter Moriarty **P** 02 9670 8222 **E** [sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au)
**Sacramental Coordinator:** Germaine Gil **M** 0451 279 934 **E** [sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au)
**Safeguarding Parish Support Officer:** Elsa Roberto **P** 02 9670 8222 **E** [safeguarding@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:safeguarding@holyspiritstclair.com.au)
**Parish Youth Contact:** Eleanor Stuart **M** 0431 639 895 **E** [eleanor.stuart97@gmail.com](mailto:eleanor.stuart97@gmail.com)

### Parish Council

**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](http://www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au)

Trinity Primary School (61 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) **P** 02 8856 6200 **W** [trinitykempscreek.catholic.edu.au](http://trinitykempscreek.catholic.edu.au)

Emmaus Catholic College (87 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) **P** 02 9670 8300 **W** [emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au](http://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.



**Heavenly Celebrations**  
Celebrate a loved one's life

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


P: 02 9623 6656 M: 0418 250 242  
E: michelle@heavenlycelebrations.com.au  
186 Queen Street (Star Arcade), St Marys NSW 2760

**Picaluna**  
Beautiful Funerals

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



**Ube/Yema**  
\$65.00

**Yema cake**  
\$60.00

**Ube Cake**  
\$75.00

**Sans Rival**  
\$75.00

**Semi Naked**  
\$170.00

Cathy  
Mob: 0418664861  
Pick up Address  
26 Caley St  
Ropes Crossing



**Bateman Battersby**  
LAWYERS

*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

**Ph: 02 4731 5899**

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

*Advertising Space Available*

email Parish Office at admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au

*Advertising Space Available*

email Parish Office at admin@holyspiritstclair.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 one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Visit: [www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations](http://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](mailto:accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au). Thank you so much for your support of our parish!

