

1st Reading

Genesis 12:1-4
Abram leaves home receiving promises
from the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33.4-5, 18-19, 20+22, (R.22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

2nd Reading

Timothy 1:8b-10
God called us to be holy and gives us
life and immortality through the
gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

See Luke 9.35
Alleluia, alleluia!
From the shining cloud the Father's
voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9 Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John.

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 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

Like Peter, James and John, we, too, sometimes have mountaintop experiences. It is easy to pray at those times—to praise God or just sit in quiet meditation. In those brief, personal encounters with the divine, our prayers can become deeply private and powerful. However, as this Scripture reminds us, we can't stay on the mountain.

More common are our valley experiences with prayer: times when we are plugged into every distraction around us, and God feels an eternity away. Spiritual masters tell us that those prayers that seem empty and monotonous can be even more valuable than a mountaintop experience.

Those same masters remind us that while alone time with God is valuable, often Christians pray best together. Christians are not theists who believe in a totally personal, one-on-one relationship with God. We are a

covenant people who believe that together we are the body of Christ. We believe in the Incarnation—God is with us and in us. We don't have to go to mountaintops or valleys to encounter God, because we find God all around us in everyone we meet.

We find God in other people, in our parish church and in our homes. This is why communal and family prayer is so important. Every Sunday, we gather to pray together with our parish family. And so it should be with our immediate family. Choose a prayer space in your home, and gather on a regular basis. You may be surprised to find how this not-so-quiet family time can provide transfiguring moments when a kitchen or living room can seem like a mountaintop.

<u>PERSONAL RESPONSE</u>: Are you comfortable praying with others? With whom do you pray? How often?

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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:

Edna Studdert, Elinor Ortiz, Sean, Benjie Santiago, Tony Fagel, Rosie Casha, Jan, Anne Fidler, Anna Rose Stewart, Yvonne Funnell, Linda Allen, Andrew Boulos, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Michael Galea, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Brian Barnes, Harry Young, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Bill Lynch.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Jasmin Campano (baby), Renato Hidalgo, Mercy Knight, Shirley Palomares, Beryl May Turner, Priscilla Amy Machado, Margaret Fernandes.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Brendan Quirke OSA, Ellaine Estrallado, Ernie Adique, Emilia Iniguez, Bishop Bede Heather, Francis Oliveira, Lorraine Assey, Dorothy Marcieca, Cajetin Gonsalves, Josette Sultana, Glenn Bouche, Kulyanic Toni, Rita Oliver, Piedad Gonsalves.

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

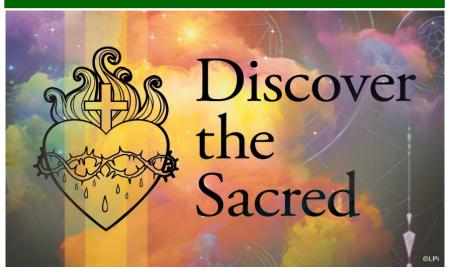


We're grateful to those wh continue to financially support our parish.

GOD BLESS YOU.



LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the Week



While we have to be cognizant of our societal and personal responsibilities in this world, we can never lose sight of where our true citizenship lies — heaven. When we become too immersed in earthly things and too preoccupied with our temporal responsibilities, we can actually become numb to our faith. Becoming ambivalent about our faith, our belief in Jesus Christ and the promises of heaven become more a source of agitation rather than a source of promise and hope. It is easy to become an enemy of Christ without even knowing it is happening. God has given us a very clear destiny. We are definitely not meant to conform ourselves to this world but to the transfiguration and glorification of our bodies to come. It is here where we can see clearly not only who God is but who we are. The way many conduct the daily business of their lives suggests that such a promise or hope is of little importance. What does the way you live your daily life say about you?

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

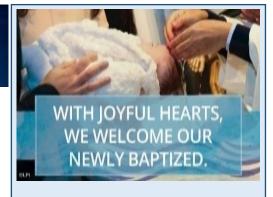
First Reading: In the covenant established between God and Abram (Abraham), the trust and faith of Abraham is described as "an act of righteousness." As we continue the season of Lent, what do you need to trust in from the Lord?

Second Reading: Paul urges the believers in Philippi to stay focused on Jesus and on our "citizenship" in heaven. How do you think Christians today can succeed in living out this task?

Gospel Reading: Peter, John, and James witness the transfiguration that revealed Jesus' divinity. Why do you think the three apostles "fell silent" from this encounter?

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 14th March 7.00pm, at the church. Presenter is Joyce McMahon.



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

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

Sometimes we think about making big plans for Lenten sacrificing, only to fall behind with work, family, and other responsibilities. We find ourselves in the Second Week of Lent with no commitment to better prayer lives, doing good deeds, or practicing acts of self-denial. But it is never too late. Catholic Relief Services offers a great resource to parishes and families for praying, fasting and charitable giving—all in one simple project. What is so great about this project, known as Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), is that it makes all the right connections. When you put the money you would have spent on a CD or that mocha latte you crave into your Rice Bowl box, you participate in Jesus' sacrifice. CRS provides prayers to accompany your giving. And it uses the money you would have spent on yourself to help people in need across the world. Participating in ORB is an act of solidarity standing with your brothers and sisters as one human family. Your challenge this week is to adopt Operation Rice Bowl (go CRSRiceBowl.org if you parish doesn't do ORB). Give up the extra energy drink, candy bar, movie, or trip to the mall. Put the money in your Rice Bowl, knowing it will be sent to CRS. You will be walking with Jesus while making a difference in the lives of others.

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THE SUNDAY FLOCK





"This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Sheepish Question:

Where, recently, have I seen or experienced the glory (Godliness) of Jesus? How can that bolster me when times get tough?

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.

24-Hour for the Lord Event at Schoenstatt, Mulgoa

Come and spend some time with Our Lord and Our Lady in the Schoenstatt Shrine: Mass on Friday, 17 March 6pm Mass, then Reconciliation 7:15pm-10.00pm; Saturday Reconciliation 10am-12pm, and 3:00pm-4.45pm with a Vigil Mass at 5:00pm. The Shrine will be welcoming people for prayer for the full 24 Hours. Groups to lead prayer are welcome. Contact paulandramani@gmail.com

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



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Second Sunday of Lent 4 & 5 March



Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. Through the Baabayn Young Mums and Bubs Group, Tereesa was able to reconnect with her culture and create a better future for her children.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <u>caritas.org.au/project-compassion</u>, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Health Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

NSW Health Nepean and Blue Mountains Local District will build a new community centre to provide assistance in the area. To help design the facility the agency is conducting a survey to get feedback from the community. The agency is aiming to provide a modern and family friendly facility that is easily accessible to the residence of the district. Survey form is available at the foyer. Please get one and return them next weekend.

signup for information in foyer







FAITH, FOOD, FRIENDS, FUN

March 12th

Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

- You will re-ignite your professional passion as you share skills with colleagues abroad;
- You will strengthen individuals and organisational processes and procedures so that generations of people will have opportunities for growth long after you return home.
- You will Learn. It is a life changing opportunity to work with and live amongst some of the most
 appreciative and resilient people you will ever meet.
- You will be Supported. Since 1961, <u>Palms Australia</u> has supported qualified and experienced Catholics motivated to undertake this Mission.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

RING: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567. WEB: <u>www.palms.org.au</u>





AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."

St Augustine of Hippo

CROSSWORD Jesus was taken up to heaven 10

ACROSS

3: lifted up 5: Jesus had scars on his

feet and __

- speaking highly of another
- our Saviour
- 11: glad
- 12: praised God

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DOWN

- a clock tells the _
- before ascending into heaven, Jesus led his disciples to this town
- the place where the disciples went to pray
- 6: followers of Christ
- 7: the disciples returned to this city
- to have been given a blessing

CREATION CARE TIPS

During the Lenten season, we traditionally focus on three aspects of our faith: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Consider how these could be oriented toward care for creation. Pray for those impacted by pollution, drought, and other negative impacts on the environment. Fast from some behaviors that contribute to these kinds of impacts. Give alms to an organization that works for the care of the environment or serves those in need because of environmental changes.

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

Question:

Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer:

The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Iewish tradition.

In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine. priest celebrant, congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts.

To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

©LPi

NEXT WEEKEND (12th MARCH): THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, Yr A

1st Reading

Exodus 17:3-7 The Israelites complain to Moses in the desert.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95.1-2, 6-7ab, 7c-9, (R.7c.+8a)If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

2nd Reading

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8 Christ laid down his life for us.

Gospel Acclamation

See John 4.42, 15 Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Gospel

at the well.

John 4:5.42 Jesus meets the Samaritan woman

CLEANERS: Group 4 **BANNERS:** Purple

11 MARCH, 6PM

Minister at the Altar **Peter Moriarty**

Eucharistic Ministers

Dita Sy Moira Rebello Janice Salmon

Reader 1

Corinne Cerdor

Reader 2

Florence Pusey

Commentator **Dudley Littlewood**

Music

Victor Brangwin

Powerpoint Nanette I.

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Terry Serrao Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Needed

12 MARCH, 8AM

Minister at the Altar Carol Vella

Eucharistic Ministers

Belen Leynes Celeste Lapid Lisa Brackett

Reader 1

Dawn Timmins

Reader 2 Manuel Fidow

Commentator Sally Banguis

Music

Peter Mercia

Powerpoint Christine Younes

Junior Servers

Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Sarah Damole Jun Damole Espy Sarno

12 MARCH, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Anthony Bertumen

Eucharistic Ministers

Ken Allen Cathy Allen Jenny Kyd

Reader 1

Bianca Dowsett Reader 2

Ray Zafra

Commentator Uinise Blake

Music

Mary Immaculate Choir Powerpoint

Boy Sanosa

Junior Servers

Volunteers Needed

Welcomers Jenny Kyd Sue Oram

Volunteer Needed

12 MARCH, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Edward De Leon

Eucharistic Ministers

Kate Blasco Esther Rose Robert Lees

Reader 1

Candice Salmon Reader 2

Marty Facciol

Commentator Kate Blasco

Music

Alleluia Choir

Powerpoint

Volunteers Needed

Junior Servers Volunteers Needed

Welcomers

Esther Rose Eleanor Stuart Volunteer Needed

www.parra.catholic.org.au

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 12 FEBRUARY

Diocese of Parramatta

Mon 6 Mar: Monday Of The Second Week Of Lent Tue 7Mar: Saints Perpetua And Felicity, Martyrs

Wed 8 Mar: Saint John Of God, Religious **Thu 9 Mar:** Saint Frances Of Rome, Religious Fri 10 Mar: Friday Of The Second Week Of Lent Sat 11 Mar: Saturday Of The Second Week Of Lent

Holy Spirit Parish

St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995

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

Facebook

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

Parish Staff

Parish Council

Priory

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: Br. 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

186 Queen Street (Star Arcade), St Marys NSW 2760

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

\$75.00



Cathy Mob:0418664861

Pick up Address 26 Caley St Ropes Crossing



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

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

Ph: 02 4731 5899

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

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!

