

1st Reading

1 Kings 3:5.7-12 Solomon is granted an understanding heart.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:57. 76-77. 127-130. R.v.97

Lord, I love your commands.

2nd Reading

Romans 8:28-30 God makes all things work for the good of those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of
heaven and earth; you have
revealed to little ones the mysteries
of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52 Jesus describes the kingdom through images.

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



VOICE FROM THE PEWS

PUTTING THE GOOD IN BASKETS

Jesus' parables are about claiming what is of value and discarding what is not. We spend a lifetime choosing what is important to us—not just the physical things we own, but also those personal characteristics we call values. The foundation for this choosing begins in the home in our earliest years.

Unless a family consistently articulates its values, its members will assume the values of the culture around them. This can be a pretty scary thought today when we consider how society's values are portrayed on television, social media, and in movies. The truth is, if we want our children to grow up with Christian values, we need to name those values for them, talk about them, as well as live them. If we want our youngsters to identify themselves as Catholics (not just Christians), we have to articulate that, too. We need to talk about what it means to be Catholic. For example, make the Sign of the

Cross reminds your children that this is how Catholics often begin prayers.

Celebrate your favorite saint's day. Let youngsters know that saints are your heroes and heroines. They remind us of God's holiness.

Let them know that Catholics, like most families, have their own set of dos and don'ts. along with the example, Commandments and Beatitudes, we go to Mass every Sunday. We receive the sacraments, and during Lent we fast and abstain from meat on Fridays. Our Catholic family rules and customs distinguish us from other families (TV families included) and give us a reason to act differently from more prevalent, but not-so-Christian values. Make sure one of the don'ts firmly implanted in your family's values is "people don't have to be perfect." We don't want youngsters ever to think that mishaps or even big mistakes can separate them permanently from their family, and that includes their Catholic family.

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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:

Aaron Kelly, Anne Kirby, Michael Hay, Chelzee de la Cruz, Teresita de Jesus, Nenita Tobias, Michael Galea, Luz Molina, Dolie C Molina, Chuck Mario Clarito Manuyag, Thomas Funnell, Yvonne Funnell, Linda Allen, Andrew Boulos, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Brian Barnes, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Bill Lynch, Glen Root, Rosie Casha, Zephyr Morales, Anne Fidler, Hanna Rose Stewart, John Warne.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Nenita Tobias-Nool, Mavis Muslado, Romeo Ocampo, Beben Eduria, Ivan Cukman, Vilma D'Souza, Denham De Silva, Savio Fernandes, Gaye Zammit, Albino Reyonda.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Mena Paz, Doreen Herft, Carmen Felsinger, Bawady Rajasombat, Rodolfo Ferraris, Eusebio Maestrado, Katrina Mercia, Barry Pemberton, Michael Tham, Bienvenida and Virgilio Almario, Philomena Bartholomeusz, Mary & Archie Lanagan, Christino Giordmaina, Tony Cincotta, Pearl Francis, Lilly Farrugia, Ivan Cukman.

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



When a merchant finally finds a priceless, perfect pearl, he sells all he has and buys it. He does this because that pearl matters to him. It has significance and brings a depth of joy like none other. What matters and is of importance to you? When what matters to us has something to do with the kingdom of God, God is delighted. His exuberant happiness is hard to contain because He knows that we are happy stumbling upon this beautiful wisdom. Ask God to help you discover this pearl of great price. There are many things competing for our attention every day. But not all of these things are important. We focus too much energy on the unimportant, superficial stuff and neglect paying attention to the things that really make a difference and have the greatest impact. Things all too easily become more significant than people, and our agendas become more essential than God's. We do not have to empty our bank accounts and totally detach from everything we have in order to serve God. But, we are asked to prioritize our lives and make what matters to God what matters most to us. In doing so, when we rise each day, we will be able to see what really needs our attention and embrace it with great joy.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: As a young man and new king of Israel, Solomon asks the Lord for the gift of wisdom. How do you exercise the virtue of wisdom in your daily life?

Second Reading: How do you think Paul can assert with such certainty: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God"?

Gospel Reading: Jesus offers several "end of the age" parables to the disciples: buried treasure and fine pearls (a priceless discovery) and the large catch of fish (an inclusive invitation). What do you think Jesus is teaching his disciples about the kingdom of heaven?



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 8th August 7.00pm. Presenter Seaview Kama.



WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

Family reunions happen a lot during the summer months. You may have seen signs or notices in parks where families have reserved space to come together to catch up on news, share family stories and food and to celebrate their heritage. When we take time to nurture relationships and to support and celebrate our families, it is a blessing. Our families are the first places we learn about faith and what it means to be a part of God's family. There are some things we know about being a part of God's family: we must feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to those who thirst and visit those in prison. Our families help us do this good work. How has your family been a witness to you of being Christ in the world?

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THE SUNDAY FLOCK

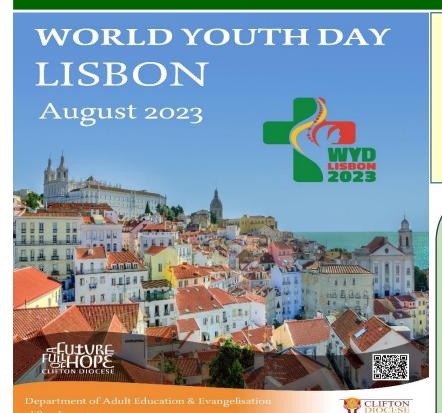


"Give your servant an understanding heart... to distinguish right from wrong."

Sheepish Question:

When was the last time I asked God to help me form my conscience? Where have I fallen short?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

Best wishes to Eleanor Stuart and Aaron Smith, Parish representatives traveling to World Youth Day in Lisbon. We wish them and the other pilgrims from the Diocese of Parramatta a safe journey and faith-filled experience in the weeks ahead. Special thanks to parishioners who generously supported fund-raising efforts to enable Eleanor and Aaron to attend. Please keep our pilgrims in your prayers.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fr Jepser, Our Parish Priest, will be on holidays from 17th July to be back on 9th Aug.

For important Parish matters please contact Fr Dave or our office.

Check Parish Bulletin page 7 for contact details.

TALKS ON FAITH AND MODERN SPRITUALITY 7:30 PM

2ND AUGUST - AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY
Fr Dave Austin

OPEN TO ALL - BRING A FRIEND!
HOSTED BY MEN'S BUSINESS

NOTICE FROM MET (MISSION ENHANCEMENT TEAM) from Diocese of Parramatta

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO TRAIN TO FACILITATE THE RETROUVAILLE (REDISCOVER) PROGRAMME

The Retrouvaille program is for couples that are struggling to stay together or perhaps are already separated or divorced but want to try again.

Retrouvaille programmes are regularly offered in 28 countries around the world and now the Diocese of Parramatta would like to offer this program to couples in the Diocese.

WANTED: 5 married couples who are willing to be trained to facilitate this programme together with a Diocesan Priest. **INFORMATION EVENING:** Friday 25th August at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion St, Blacktown **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:** To register and/or ask further information please email marriage@parracatholic.org

VISIT parracatholic.org/met

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



SAT 19TH AUGUST 2023, 7.30PM AT HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL HALL

Sausage Sizzle & Soft Drinks on Sale Free tea, coffee & biscuits

Donations for prizes are welcome
Organised by the Community and Cultural Commission





FUNERALS THIS WEEK:

Dear parishioner: we are reserving this space to announce funerals in our parish. Please don't hesitate in advise us details.



From: Parish Secretary

SYNOD 2023 - INVITATION TO PARTICIPANTS - URGENT!!

Bishop Vincent has officially invited baptised Catholics, 18 years and over, in the Diocese of Parramatta to consider applying to be a member of the first ever Synod gathering to be held 13-15 October 2023. Applicants should reflect the diversity of the People of God. Already a few parishioners have indicated interest and we hope more will do so. Synod members who are selected will have a consultative vote at the Synod on a range of issues raised from the submissions received through the listening stage of the process. The consultative votes will inform the decrees and declarations which the Bishop will officially sign and announce in early 2024. The outcomes of the Synod will directly impact the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan to be developed and launched next year.

The application portal is now live and available to access on the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/synod2023. Here you will find the selection criteria and requirements of a Synod member. This includes commitment to and availability to be present at all sessions of the Synod from 13 -15 October 2023, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, and CommBank Stadium. Please advise Fr Dave if you intend to apply. Applications close31 July 2023.

Please note that all <u>Synod Submissions</u> from individuals, families or groups must be submitted by this coming <u>Monday 31 July</u> – preferably online - <u>www.parracatholic.org/synod2023</u>.

From Fr Dave.

Fr John's Zhang Thanksgiving Mass

Sunday 13th August 9.30am



Please bring a plate to share for Morning Tea



RCIA Enquiry Evenings

Thursday, 24 August 2023, 7pm Thursday, 31 August 2023, 7pm

If you know anyone interested in the faith (either as enquirer or as sponsor), invite them to come to this session. If you are interested to know more about Jesus and the Catholic Faith, come and join us.

For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"Do not be afraid to dream of great things!"

St Augustine of Hippo

KIDS CORNER

Read the Gospel and Color picture



When you search for something, God will help you find it. When you look for a birthday present for your cousin, God may help you pick a good one. If you lose your lunch money, God may help you find it. When you need a new friend. God may send one. Whatever you ask for, he will listen to you. God does this for you because he loves you very much.

PRAYER

Lord, remind me to ask you for what I need.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will help my family find items that they have lost.

CREATION CARE TIPS

What policies does your local government have in place to reduce plastic use? Consider writing a letter or email, or speaking at a city council meeting to encourage passing policies limiting plastic waste such as plastic straws.



See https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/category/local-government/ for more ideas.

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

NEXT WEEKEND (6 AUGUST): 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Yr A

1st Reading

Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14

The ancient one takes his throne.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 96:1-2. 5-6. 9. R.w.1. 9. The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

2nd Reading

2 Peter 1:16-19 Peter tells of the glory of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him (Matthew 17:5). Alleluia!

GospelMatthew 17:1-9
The Transfiguration.

CLEANERS: Group 5 **BANNERS:** White

5 AUGUST, 6PM

*Minister at the Altar*Victor Brangwin

Eucharistic Ministers

Hazel Littlewood Sylvia Herft Jeanne Appleton

Reader 1

Dudley Littlewood

Reader 2

Sylvia Herft

Commentator

Sheila Francis

Music AMEN Choir

Powerpoint

Volunteers Needed

Junior Servers

Volunteers Needed

Welcomers

Selwyn Oliveira Sonia Oliveira Volunteer Needed 6 AUGUST, 8AM

Minister at the Altar Gloria Slade

Eucharistic Ministers

Louise Bucholtz Ron Brackett Lisa Brackett

Reader 1

Christine Younes

Reader 2

Sonia Sultana

Commentator Faye Aboghazaleh

Music

Manuel Fidow

PowerpointCarol Vella

Junior Servers

Volunteers Needed
Welcomers

Angela Pecnik Remia Morada

Volunteers Needed

6 AUGUST, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Nono Gacis

Eucharistic Ministers

Sina Carvalho Tina Fernandes Seaview Kama

Reader 1

Tess Barnes

Reader 2 Nilo Gajo

Commentator
Cathy Allen

Music

Luchie's Choir

Powerpoint

Ivan Fernandes

Junior Servers

Volunteers Needed

Welcomers
Jenny Kyd
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

6 AUGUST, 6PM

Minister at the Altar
Tony Cleary

Eucharistic Ministers

Esther Rose Lumen Decena Sue Oram

Reader 1Robert Lees

Reader 2

Romana Cunanan *Commentator*

Charlotte Smith *Music*

El Shaddai SG Choir

Powerpoint El Shaddai SG Choir

Junior Servers
Volunteers Needed

Welcomers
Esther Rose
Volunteer Needed

Volunteers Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 30 JULY:

Mon 31 July: Saint Ignatius Of Loyola, Priest

Tue 1 August: Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop And Doctor Of The Church **Wed 2 August:** Saint Eusebius Of Vercelli, Bishop, Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Priest

Thu 3 August: Saint Dominic, Priest Fri 4 August: Saint John Vianney, Priest

Sat 5 August: The Dedication Of The Basilica Of St Mary Major, Saturday Mass Of The Blessed

Virgin Mary

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

P 02 9670 8222 E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au W www.holyspiritstclair.com.au

Office Hours 9.00am to 5pm (Monday to Friday) Emergency after hours only M 0403 390 269

Priory 3 Peter Pan Glen, St Clair

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
Parish Council Chair: Ana Gregoriou • Asst Chair: Dominic Dimech • Secretary: Paola Dicenso

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)

Schools/College Holy Spirit Primary School (7 Todd Row St Clair P 02 8886 3200 W www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au

Fr Jepser Bermudez OSA, Fr Dave Austin OSA, Fr Peter Tangey OSA, Rev Hoang Huy Nguyen OSA

Trinity Primary School (61 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) P 02 8856 6200 W trinitykempscreek.catholic.edu.au

Emmaus Catholic College (87 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) P 02 9670 8300 W emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au

Pls support the advertisers that support us. Thank you.

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





P: 02 9623 6656 M: 0418 250 242

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

E: michelle@heavenlycelebrations.com.au

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PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

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



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

Account Name: Holy Spirit Parish St Clair

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

The 70% of the collection is for the regular running costs of the parish.

The remaining 30% is to provide for the household expenses of our priests and to support the ministry of the Augustinians.

If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Mila, accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au. Thank you so much for your support of our parish!

