

1st Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11 In the desert make ready the way of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84:9-14. R.v.8
(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

2nd Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14 The Lord shows great patience.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4. 6
Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of
God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptist proclaims the coming of the Messiah

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

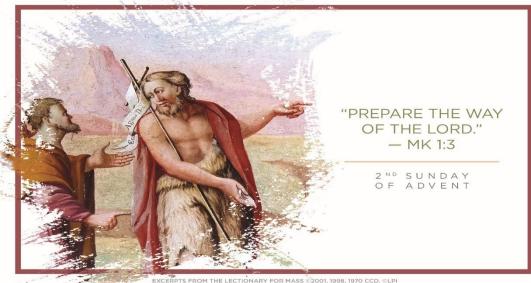
1st Friday Night Devotion Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 7.30pm

Divine Mercy Devotion 2nd Friday of the Month 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

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

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

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

with each other and with God. This is the love God wants us to share with our children.

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

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

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AUGUSTINIAN NEWS: Please remember in your prayers Serafin Bermudez, father of Fr Jepser Bermudez, who died suddenly in the Philippines on Wednesday. We offer our deepest sympathy to Fr Jepser, his mother Ruchin, and the family and assure them of a remembrance in our prayers and Parish Masses. Fr Jepser has gone to the Philippines to be with his family and to preside at his father's funeral in Bacolod on 16 December. He will return to St Clair on 3 January. Fr John Zhang OSA, who served at St Clair as a Deacon, will assist in the Parish during the busy Christmas period. May Serafin Bermudez rest in peace.

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:

Fe Uy, Joseph Valladores, Dot & Joe Gray, Ken Allen, Doreen Abela, Victor Abela, Jacqueline Cushcieri, Michael Galea, Sheila Glennon, Taylor Turczak, Brendan Sammut, Yvonne Funnell, Linda Allen, Andrew Boulos, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Bill Lynch, Brian Barnes, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Arcadio Villote, Rosie Casha, John Warne, Zephyr Morales, Anne Fidler, Salvador Espadilla, Efren Pattugalan, Bernadette Stevens.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Serafin Bermudez, Patrick Blake, Ligorio Lattao, Jaime Hernando, Tony Murphy.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Irene Kirby, Merilyn Scobie, Marina Paz, Jeanette Paz, Raymond Ansell, Rita Attard.

Names submitted to Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time.

Please let us know if any of the circumstances in the names above has changed or need corrections specially in the sick list.

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.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023

This year our conference has assisted our friends in need in St Clair, Erskine Park and Colyton.

It's that time of year again when we launch our **Annual Christmas Appeal for food and gifts.**

2023 has been an extremely difficult year for many and we have seen an increase in those seeking assistance - any donations are greatly welcomed.

Storing and distributing increased numbers of hampers has become a challenge for us. If you can find it in your heart to donate a gift card or cash rather than an actual gift, it would be beneficial to our mission. It would eliminate handling/wrapping and storage. Gift cards are easy to pop into a Christmas card, and our friends can choose something they would like, suggestions could be Visa, Hoyts, Kmart or Big W vouchers. This way each child in the family can choose an age-appropriate gift of equal value.

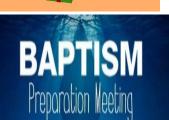
In previous years you have also generously supported with donations of food items. We will accept and distribute these food items but again we would prefer if you could assist with a food voucher instead (Coles, ALDI or Woolworths card), of any denomination. How nice would it be for our friends to receive a voucher to enable them to purchase fresh meat and vegetables for Christmas?

Please return all gift cards or donations to the parish office addressed in an envelope marked St Vincent De Paul St Clair Conference **by Monday 11th December**. Or drop them in the Vinnies Christmas box at the back of the church.

Remember if you choose to donate food and gifts they are stored before distribution so please consider the heat and don't include things such as chocolates or sweets which may melt.

Thank you so very much for your continued support of our parish conference. We wish you and your families many blessings at this very special time of year.





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 12th Dec** 7.00pm. Presenter will be Joyce McMahon.



WILLOW BROOKLYN SHEPPERD (Daughter of Brock and Nicole)

INDYANNA ELSA JOSIE JANE DIMANNO (Daughter of Adrian and Ebony)

THOMAS BROCK

(Son of Alain and Jemma)

LEWIS SEBASTIAN ESCALA (Son of Edd and Melissa)

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

The Responsorial Song for Sunday sings of justice and peace kissing when the Messiah comes. The psalmist proclaims, "Justice shall walk before him..." So many scripture readings remind us that one of the best paths to peace comes through achieving justice—making sure everyone has what he or she needs to live a life of dignity and hope.

The root of conflict can usually be found when people are denied their basic human rights. Your challenge this week is to discuss as a family or household what you think the connection is between justice and peace. Then choose one act of justice which you can do to bring more peace to our world. What is God calling you to do this week—in your immediate family, in your parish or school, in your community, or even in the world itself—to help someone secure the human rights they have been denied?

Remember that we Catholics believe they deserve these rights, not by earning them or buying them or even achieving them, but because they are part of the human family, just like you and me, created in God's own image and likeness.

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THE SUNDAY FLOCK





"Prepare the way of the Lord ... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sheepish Question:

How can I recognize and follow the urging of the Holy Spirit within me?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

This activity has been CANCELLED

VOLUNTEERS DAY 2023

Saturday, 16th December 10am – 1pm Talk, Mass and Fellowship

Please write your name in the sign-on sheet at the foyer for catering purposes.





Children are kindly being welcomed and encouraged to dress up as angels and shepherds and participate in our annual Christmas Liturgy. Children are being asked to attend the rehearsals to prepare for the liturgy. The rehearsals will be held at the parish on **Thurs 14 and Wed 20 December from 5pm to 6pm**. If your child is interested, please complete a permission form available in the foyer and bring it to the first rehearsal.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM PARISH OFFICE

As from this Monday 11th Dec our Parish Office will be opened from 9am to 4pm.

Office doors will be closed at 4pm.

This is to facilitate the review of work done without interruptions. We sincerely thank your kind understanding.

The Alleluia Choir warmly invites you to sing with them at the Carols and Christmas Eve Mass in CELEBRATION of the Birth of the Christ Child.



On 24 December 2023, At 8:30pm for Carols and 9:00pm for Christmas Eve Mass

Practices at the Church on

Thursday, 14th December - 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Tuesday, 19th December -7:00pm to 8:30pm
Thursday, 21st December - 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Saturday, 23rd December: 4:00pm to 5:45pm
Sunday Christmas Eve 24th December: 7:30pm to 8:15pm

For more info: please call Joy at 0425 264 642

Have a HAPPY HOLY CHRISTMAS!



FOR ENQUIRES **§** 8843 2506 | Thursday | 10:00 am to 12.00 pm



Saturday 16 December, 4.30 to 5.45 pm

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

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

BAPTISM PREPARATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Every Second Tuesday of the month from 7pm-8pm, parish volunteers prepare families whose children are to be baptised in our parish. **We need more volunteers** to facilitate these sessions and training will be provided. Volunteers will only get an average of 3 sessions a year to facilitate. This is a great way to know and welcome young families in our parish. If interested to know more, please contact Germaine Gil on Mob: 0451279934 or email her to sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au



Wedding Anniversary Mass 17 December 2023, 9.30AM MASS

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



CHRISTMAS MASSES:

SUN 24 DEC

6PM (Family Mass) 8.30PM (Carols) 9.00PM (Mass) 11.30PM (Carols)

MON 25 DEC

12 Midnight 8.00AM 9.30AM

No 6PM Mass on 25 Dec



We need volunteers to regulate traffic in the carpark on Christmas Masses, especially for the Dec 24 6pm Mass, Dec 25 8am and 9.30am Masses.

Brief orientation will be provided.

ST AUGUSTINE AND ST JOSEPH CHOIRS

Invites you to join the choir for Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December for:

CAROLS AT 11:30PM & CHRISTMAS

MIDNIGHT MASS

Practices will be in the Pioneers Room at Holy Spirit Parish Tuesday 12th and 19th Dec from 7:30pm to 9:00pm





FOR CHRISTMAS SET UP

We need volunteers to help us set up the chairs for Christmas Masses on the school side and also help pack them away and clean up. If you can help us please come on the dates and times below.

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

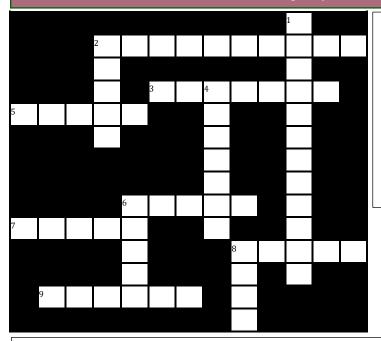
AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks. a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks. and a hand through which Christ helps."

Augustine of Hippo

CROSSWORD Make a straight path for the Lord



DOWN:

- 1: John ate these insects
- 2: food made by bees
- 4: a person who speaks on behalf of God
- 6: a large group of people
- 8: bad deeds

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ACROSS:

- 2: John told the people God would baptize them with the H_
- S_____ (two words)
- 3: John the _ _ _ baptized people in the Jordan River
- 5: people came from this place to see John
- 6: John's clothes were made of hair of this animal
- 7: what John used to baptize people
- 8: what we say when we apologise
- 9: John the Baptist baptized people in this river

CREATION CARE TIPS

"The tree was beautiful in its greatness, in the length of its branches." — Ezekiel 31:7

What kind of Christmas tree should you buy: artificial or natural? If you plan to keep the same artificial tree for at least 15 years, then having a reusable one can be a good idea. Otherwise, a cultivated natural tree offers the benefit of having absorbed CO2 during its lifetime and has not been removed from a forest, disturbing its ecological niche. Many cities will pick up these trees in early January and turn them into mulch. An even more environmentallyfriendly solution is to buy a small potted evergreen, dig up a volunteer tree in your yard that's in the "wrong" space, or trim a branch from a tree on your property instead. All can provide some greenery inside during the winter and potted evergreens can be transplanted outside in the spring for reforestation.



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?

Answer:

Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have "endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life." (Amoris Laetitia, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, "The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty." (AL, no 242) As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect," but "a powerful medicine nourishment" and (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

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NEXT WEEKEND 17th DECEMBER): 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Yr B

1st Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 Isaiah proclaims the goodness of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is. 61-10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

2nd Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 *Rejoice and pray always.*

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon
me; he sent me to bring Good
News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel
John 1:6:8. 19-28
The priests and Levites question
John's identity.

CLEANERS: Group 4 **BANNERS:** Green

16 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Jacob Fonseca

Eucharistic Ministers

Janice Stuart Fiona Ferreira Mary Fonseca

Reader 1Fe Uy

Reader 2 Marinella Licuanan

CommentatorMadeline Mostert

Music

St Joseph's Choir **Powerpoint**Nanette I.

Junior Servers Volunteer Needed

Welcomers
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

17 DEC, 8AM

Minister at the Altar Gloria Slade

Eucharistic Ministers

Pat Dowd Celeste Lapid Elsa Roberto

Reader 1Sarah Damole

Reader 2Shirley Croning

Commentator
Carol Vella
Music

Peter Mercia **Powerpoint**Louise Bucholtz

Junior Servers
Volunteer Needed

Welcomers
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

17 DEC, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Fred Harris

Eucharistic Ministers

Michael Paulo Marie Sanosa Nida Hawley

Reader 1 Joanne Staunton

Reader 2 Derrick Pereira

CommentatorTamara Richards

Music St Augustine's Choir

PowerpointIvan Fernandes

Junior Servers
Volunteer Needed

Welcomers
Joe Duval
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

17 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar
Peter Smith

Eucharistic Ministers

Lena Mackean Robert Lees Romana Cunanan

Reader 1Sheila Francis

Reader 2Joseph Valladores

Commentator Romana Cunanan

Music Esther Rose Choir

Powerpoint Volunteer Needed

Junior Servers
Volunteer Needed

Welcomers
Eleanor Stuart
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 10th DECEMBER:

Mon 11 Dec: Saint Damasus I, Pope

Tue 12 Dec: Tuesday Of The Second Week Of Advent
Wed 13 Dec: Wednesday Of The Second Week Of Advent
Thu 14 Dec: Thursday Of The Second Week Of Advent
Thursday Of The Second Week Of Advent
Sat 16 Dec: Saturday Of The Second Week Of Advent

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

Asst Pastor: Fr Joseph Aresseril Jacob "Saju" E saju@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)

Fr Jepser Bermudez OSA, Fr Dave Austin OSA, Fr Peter Tangey 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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encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!







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



Bateman Battersby

W

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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

Account Number: 000 Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950

The 70% of the collection is for the regular running of 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!

