

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.

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)

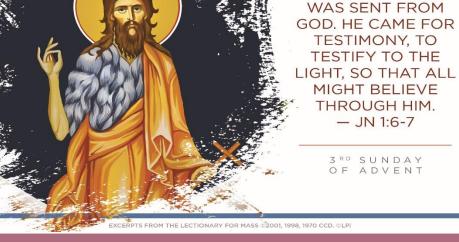
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mass, 9.05am Anointing Mass, 1st Fri, 9.05am

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



From Fr Dave...

Dear Friends,

At this time in our lives and in our Church, we need the message of joy proclaimed so enthusiastically in today's Scripture readings, especially in the prophecy of Isaiah and St Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians – good news to the poor, healing broken hearts, freedom to hostages, joy in the Lord for all. Reflecting on this day, the late Fr Russell Hardiman once described the holy joy of the believer:

> 'Such joy cannot be so self-contained. It must become a shout, a loud one at that, a heart-exulting rejoicing that would wake up anyone who had fallen asleep in a world gone sadly awry. This is no put-on-a-happy-face joy that denies the past or masks the truth, but a grace-inspired joy, joy inspired by God...' (Pastoral Liturgy Vol 43,1).

The Season of Advent is in fact a season of joy and we continue to sing Alleluia. This Third Sunday, traditionally known as **Gaudete Sunday**, takes its name from the Latin word for 'Rejoice!' When we celebrate the Birth of Jesus we celebrate the Crucified and Risen One, so Advent is linked with Lent and Easter. God's Advent word to us is not the heavy word of Lent but the gentle word reminding us of the gift we have been given in Christ. So let's not make hard work of being joyful! God expects us to be joyful and grateful at this time – alert to the heart moments that change us and the people we meet. Advent is such a short season and comes at a busy time of the year, yet it is so important that our preparations for Christmas speak to our hearts. We may have presents, cards, tree, food, drink, bonbons, invitations and other things in hand, but we need to find some stillness and openness in our hearts to the unknown and unexpected.

MAN NAMED JOHN

Advent is about opening the doors of our hearts, our homes and our churches. Do we know someone, perhaps a member of our own family or a close friend, who may be ready to 'come home for Christmas'?

As the Church, Christ's own Body, we are responsible for the message of joy and hope to our world. Let us be confident in our ability to bring unity and reconciliation to our families and communities and recommit ourselves to helping Christ be born in our hearts and in our world every day!

Fr Done

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: <u>https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/mass-prayer-requests/</u> We ask you to please submit your prayer intentions a few days before preferred Mass.

SICK:

Fe Uy, Bernadette Stevens, Dot & Joe Gray, Ken Allen, Doreen Abela, Victor Abela, Jacqueline Cushcieri, Michael Galea, Sheila Glennon, 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, John Casser.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Serafin Bermudez, Patrick Blake, Thuy Le, Christopher Dowsett.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Cosmas Leung, Marina Paz, Jeanette Paz, Merilyn Scobie, Shellie Becker, Natividad Martinez, Fermin Espinola, Marlene McMullen, David Wallace, Michael Rodrigues, Victor Fernandez.

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.

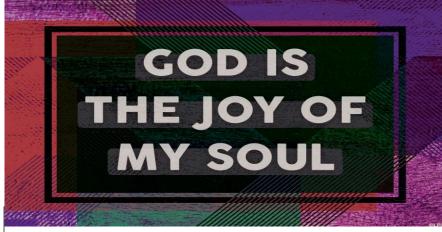
Regular Parish Contribution Form and other ways to donate: <u>www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations</u>



We're grateful to those who continue to financially support our parish. GOD BLESS YOU.



LIVE THE LITURGY



What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

First Reading: Isaiah shares his understanding of his prophetic call and his experience of the Lord as a God of justice and compassion. As we continue in the season of Advent, what new spiritual insights are you discovering?

Second Reading: Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be thankful to God and be active in their newly found faith in Christ by following his moral imperatives. How are you putting your faith into practice during this Advent? **Gospel Reading**: John tells us that the religious leaders in Jerusalem questioned the identity of John the Baptist, wondering if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet who Moses prophesied would come. John the Baptist responds in humility, with a clear sense of his own call. Do you humbly accept God's call in your life.



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 9th Jan 2024** 7.00pm. Presenter will be Michael Zammit.





December 15 is our national celebration of the Bill of Rights. December 18 is the Islamic New Year. The Bill of Rights protects some of our most sacred freedoms, among them freedom of religion. Our Catholic faith calls us to practice our faith and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others while showing respecting for the faith of others. This week's challenge is to advocate for someone who is denied freedom of religion. This can be done through political action, prayer, or supporting the right of Muslims to worship God in their particular way.

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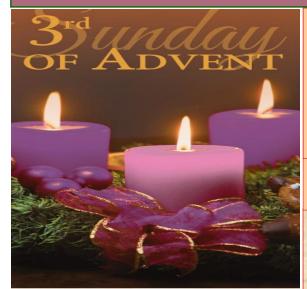
"He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted..."

Sheepish Question:

What worldly concerns hold me back from the freedom Christ offers?

17 DECEMBER 2023

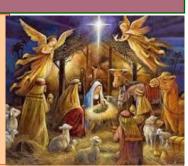
PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



The desire for God is written in the

human

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

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!

catholic care

FREE MAMRE SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP

COMMENCING 1ST FEBRUARY 2024

LOCATED AT MAMRE HOUSE & FARM 181 MAMRE ROAD, ORCHARD HILLS

OPERATES DURING SCHOOL TERMS

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

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.

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION AT CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY

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 rehearsal will be held at the parish on **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 rehearsal.

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



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

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

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





FOR CHRISTMAS SET UP Saturday 23rd Dec at 9am

AND TO CLEAN UP Monday 25th Dec at 10.30am

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



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. Please advise to the Parish Office.

Brief orientation will be provided.

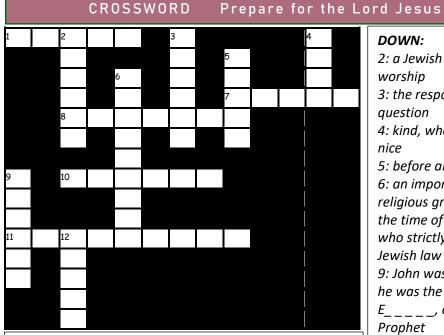


AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



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

Augustine of Hippo



2: a Jewish place of worship 3: the response to a auestion 4: kind, wholesome, nice 5: before all others 6: an important religious group at the time of Jesus who strictly obeyed Jewish law 9: John was asked if he was the Messiah, *E*____, or the Prophet 12: a large body of



"And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.""—Luke 3:10-11

Are you ever at a loss for what gift to buy a person who has everything? This Christmas season, why not use the money you would spend on them to donate to a charity in their name? Pick a charity or a cause that is important to them and then let them know what you have done. Such a gift will have no negative environmental impact, and it can be your version of sharing a coat or food with someone who has none, rather than giving more to someone who already has plenty. Besides, not buying something is the first step in the "refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle" continuum.

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

Ouestion:

Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

Answer:

The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the "Precepts" of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the Code of Canon Law. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 2042):

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life ... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (Dies Domini, no. 7). **©LPi**

NEXT WEEKEND 24th DECEMBER): 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Yr B

1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16 *The Lord speaks to Nathan.*

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2 (*R.*) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

2nd Reading Romans 16:25-27 God strengthens the Gentiles in their understanding of the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38 Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel visits Mary, who responds willingly to God.

CLEANERS:
BANNERS:Group 5
WhiteWed 20 Dec:
Thu 21 Dec:
Fri 22 Dec:
Sat 23 Dec:Wednesday Of The Third Week Of Advent
Friday Of The Third Week Of Advent
Sat urday Of The Third Week Of Advent

Holy Spirit Parish St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek

inory spirit	and an st club • Erskine runk • runs of Kemps creek
	Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995 Diocese of Parramatta www.parra.catholic.org.au
Facebook Parish Office	Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park • Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry • BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry) 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, OSAP0296708222Epp@holyspiritstclair.com.auAsst Pastor: Fr Dave Austin, OSAP0296708222Edaustin@holyspiritstclair.com.auAsst Pastor: Fr Peter Tangey, OSAP0296708222Eptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.auAsst Pastor: Fr Joseph Aresseril Jacob"Saju" P0296708222Esaju@holyspiritstclair.com.auParish Secretary: Elisa ReynoldsP0296708222Eadmin@holyspiritstclair.com.au (Tue-Fri)Parish Bookkeeper: Mila LlamasP0296708222Eaccounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au (Mon and Wed)SRE Coordinator (Catechists): Peter MoriartyP0296708222Esre@holyspiritstclair.com.auSacramental Coordinator: Germaine GilM0451279934Esacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.auSafeguarding Parish Support Officer:Elsa RobertoP0296708222Esafeguarding@holyspiritstclair.com.auParish Youth Contact: Eleanor StuartM0431639895Eeleanor.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, Fr Saju OSA
Schools/Colleg	e 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

23 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Madeline Mostert Eucharistic Ministers Lea Jadraque Fe Uy Aruna Heslop Reader 1 Romeo Prieto Reader 2

> Lea Jadraque *Commentator* Janice Salmon

Music Couples for Christ

> *Powerpoint* Nanette I.

Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Terry Serrao

Olga Esguerra Volunteer Needed Minister at the Altar Victor Brangwin Eucharistic Ministers Gloria Slade Fiona Ferreira Chris Younes

24 DEC, 8AM

Reader 1 Millie Perez **Reader 2**

Espy Sarno Commentator

Louise Bucholtz *Music*

Peter Mercia **Powerpoint** Manuel Fidow

Junior Servers Volunteer Needed

Welcomers Espy Sarno Angela Pecnik Volunteer Needed

Mon 18 Dec: Monday Of The Third Week Of Advent **Tue 19 Dec:** Tuesday Of The Third Week Of Advent

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 17th DECEMBER:

24 DEC, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Alice Zafra

Eucharistic Ministers Nilo Gajo Marthese Grima

Anabel Jader *Reader 1* Michael Paulo

Reader 2 Carmen Marcelo

Commentator Tina Fernandes

Music Children's Choir *Powerpoint*

Jamie Bertumen Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

Welcomers Joe Duval Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed 24 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Victor Brangwin

Eucharistic Ministers Lumen Decena Peter Smith

> Robert Lees *Reader 1*

Jodie Donlan *Reader 2* Robert Lees

Commentator Genevieve Luangratt

> *Music* BASIC GIFT *Powerpoint*

BASIC GIFT Junior Servers Volunteer Needed

Welcomers Eleanor Stuart Esther Rose Volunteer Needed

18 DECEMBER 2023



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS - Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring our bulletin every week without them, and they need your help too. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!





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!



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