

#### 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.

#### **LITURGY TIMES**

#### Saturday

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

#### Sunday

Mass, 8am, 9.30am and 6pm Youth Mass, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun, 6pm

## Monday and Wednesday Mass, 7am

(except on Public Holidays which changes to 9.05am)

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mass, 9.05am Anointing Mass, 1<sup>st</sup> Fri, 9.05am

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

**Divine Mercy Devotion** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the Month 7.30pm

#### Children's Liturgy

Sat 6pm and Sun 9.30am 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun of the month (during school term)

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



From Fr Dave...

#### Advent and Christmas - 'Our Experiences of Longing - Good and Us?'

Dear Friends.

'Come, Lord Jesus!' is both our Advent mantra and our Christmas mantra too as Advent flows into Christmas. Both seasons offer us the opportunity of remaining open to grace and the action of God in our lives, times of refreshment and new hope in our spiritual journey.

In both our personal lives and our hopes for the community, we hunger for Peace – not in some vague, romantic sense but as a reality in everyday living across the world. We are justifiably frustrated at the inability of people, organisations and nations to achieve respectful and peaceful coexistence – in costly conflicts between and within nations, in disputes among members of our Church on matters doctrinal and liturgical, in our own families as we seek harmony and love at Christmas, in society where a rising road toll often reflects thoughtless and costly behaviour.

The weekly Advent themes, named each time we lit a new candle in our Advent Wreath – *Hope, Peace, Joy Love* – are energizing gifts for our lives in family and community but by no means easy gifts as we contemplate the many challenges of our

living. I often find the biggest impact on our understanding of the Christmas event comes from the simplest of sources – such as the Saviour named in Isaiah 7:14 as 'God-with-us' and quoted in the Gospel passage from Matthew 1:23, describing the angel of the Lord's message to Joseph. 'God-with-us' sums up the profound mystery of God's engagement with us.

Spiritual writer Fr Richard Rohr OFM shares a favourite Franciscan statement about the coming of Christ - 'Incarnation is already Redemption!' - and explains it this way:

'Henceforth humanity has the right to know that it is good to be human, good to live on this earth, good to have a body, because God in Jesus chose and said "yes" to our humanity' (Preparing for Christmas p 92).

How does each of us describe the magnitude of this extraordinary event that defines our beauty and human dignity? Simply trust the wisdom of our personal faith as others have done. We conclude with a Christmas Greeting from Saint Mary Mackillop (December 1899):

'With all my heart, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a bright and happy New Year!'

Fr Dome

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

#### SICK:

Joseph Valladores, Fe Uy, Bernadette Stevens, Dot & Joe Gray, Ken Allen, Nena Valladores, Doreen Abela, Jacqueline Cushcieri, Michael Galea, Efren Pattugalan, 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, John Casser, Leitu Saena, Matija Grguric, Elise Smith, Dave Smith, Juliat Gonsalez.

#### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Victor Abela, Thuy Le, Christopher Dowsett, Reymundo 'Rex' Balao, Les Kaminski, Marlene McMullen, Raphael Smith, Evita Smith, Philomena Smith, Mr Peter Smith.

#### **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:**

Sylvester Miranda, Bienvenido Dabu, Eduardo Dabu, Cosmas Leung, Shellie Becker, Malcolm Howse, Valeria Licuanan, Tomasa Dabu, Robert Dirk Sr., Tomas Decena Sr, Jefferson Decena de los Reyes, Victor Fernandez, Ferdice D'Costa, Fermin Espinola, Iris Warne, Manfred Schwill, Brishop Joe Grech, Josefina Revilla, Joseph Mifsud.

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

#### 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: <a href="https://www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations">www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations</a>

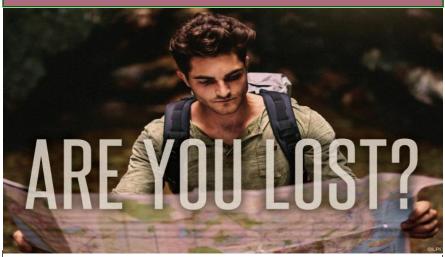


We're grateful to those who continue to financially support our parish.

GOD BLESS YOU.



#### LIVE THE LITURGY



#### *Inspiration for the week*

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?

#### **OUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:**

**First Reading:** Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"

**Second Reading**: Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

**Gospel Reading**: Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?

## 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 9 Jan, 7.00pm, in our parish. Presenter is Michael Zammit.



# WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

During the Christmas season, we reflect on the images of peace that the prophets said would come when the Messiah arrived on earth. We hear about lions and lambs lying down together and of swords being beaten into plowshares. January 1st is World Day of Peace. Yet we live in a world in which war and violence shatter the peace for which the Old Testament prophets yearned. All of us as one global family are called to do our part to bring peace to our world. Your challenge this week is to be a peace-maker—in your family, with your friends and colleagues at work or school, in your community. How can you bring people together, encourage others to settle disputes without resorting to violence, or advocate for global peace?

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#### THE SUNDAY FLOCK





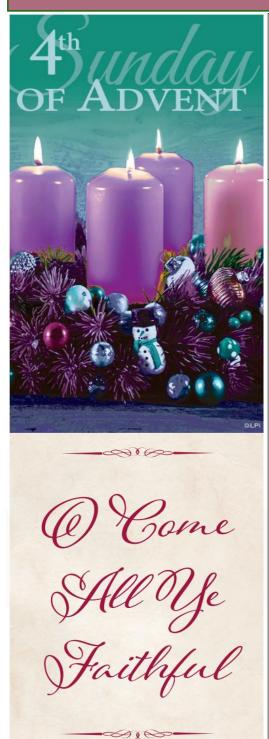
© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

"We are God's children now; ... we shall be like him."

#### Sheepish Question:

Recognizing my own shortcomings, how can I strengthen--and be strengthed by--God's holy family?

#### PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



#### **IMPORTANT:**

There will be a Second
Collection for the
Augustinian's Christmas
Appeal on this weekend
Masses.

Please be generous. Thank you



Christmas is a time to say *Thank You!* Over a year on from COVID restrictions and our Parish and ministries are returning to greater normality. There are still reminders of that experience and precautions needed, but our community is beginning to function more effectively again. Thank you to our Commissions for their attentive service and to our PPC and Finance Committee for their leadership and service. We acknowledge the commitment to Catholic Education of our school leaders Frances Garzaniti (HSP), Cathy Hey (Trinity) and Rob Nastasi and Greg Malone (Emmaus), their leadership teams and staff.

We are blessed to be part of a community for whom giving is a way of life, in generous, financial support of the Parish, as willing volunteers who are ready to help our community grow through sharing their talents in hospitality, home visiting and Communion ministry, pastoral outreach to fellow parishioners in need, many working quietly behind the scenes as liturgical ministers, musicians, hospitality, coordinators, flower ministry, banner ministry, decoration, church cleaning, grounds and plants maintenance. Faith formation is a high priority - Sacramental Program, RCIA, Children's Liturgy, Youth, Catechist Ministry, the Fiesta, prayer groups, pastoral care, outreach to the needy through Vinnies, and our Augustinian groups – Friends of St Augustine and the Augustinian Formation Association. Thank you for your witness to Jesus' practical love.

We thank our Parish Staff and Team - Parish Secretary Elisa Reynolds, Parish Bookkeeper Mila Llamas, SRE Coordinator (Catechists) Peter Moriarty, Sacramental Coordinator Germaine Gil, Safeguarding Officer Elsa Roberto, and the host of other people who support the team and the Parish Community

The Augustinians – Frs Jepser, Peter, Dave, Saju, and John – thank you for your loyalty and support in their liturgical and pastoral ministry during the past year and in particular your generous and very thoughtful gifts at Christmas.

We pray that we will be an even stronger community in 2024 and we pray too for the welfare and good health of all in our community and across our world, *Come Lord Jesus! Maranatha!* 

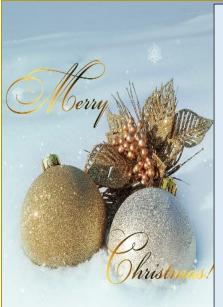
#### PARISH OFFICE INFORMATION

After Christmas, the Parish Office will be on limited hours for most of January. For urgent matters, please email Mila Llamas (accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au) OR leave a phone message on the parish number (9670 8222) OR contact one of the priests. Unfortunately, the Parish Emergency Number is not operating at present but service should be restored by early January.

#### **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



PLEASE TAKE TO
YOUR HOME
THE AUGUSTINIAN
BULLETIN N.65
FROM THE FOYER





## FOR CHRISTMAS SET UP

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

#### **AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY**



"Heavenly Father, I offer up this prayer for perfect love in all of my life, including my communication with others. May the words I choose, the symbols I use, the nonverbal gestures I display, bear witness to your perfect love for me and the world."

Augustine of Hippo

#### JUNIOR WORDSEARCH His name will be Jesus

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Try to find these words: afraid confused Elizabeth Gabriel holy Israel Jesus Joseph Mary Nazareth servant

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son











#### CREATION CARE TIPS

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." —John 1:5

Some of us have so much excess on Christmas Day: presents, food, family, a big house, electricity, heat, and running water, while billions of others worldwide don't have the basics. On a day when we celebrate Jesus coming as a light into the darkness, find some time to tone down the excess. Turn the lights down (or out) and spend a few minutes of quiet with only the light from some candles or the Christmas lights. Be more conscious about your use of electricity and your heating source and celebrate that there is still light and warmth in the darkness.

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

#### **Question:**

What is the difference between apostles and disciples?

#### Answer:

When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: apostles and disciples. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many disciples, the group of apostles was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word apostle essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognize Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word disciple, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.

#### NEXT WEEKEND (31st DECEMBER): THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, Yr B

#### 1st Reading

Sirach 3:22-6. 12-14 The Lord promises Abram many descendants

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 104:1-6. 8-9. R. vv.7.8 (R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

#### 2nd Reading

Colossians 3:12-21 What is expected of the chosen of God.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Colossians 3:15-16 Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

#### Gospel

Luke 2:22-40 *Jesus is presented at the Temple* by Mary and Joseph.

**CLEANERS:** Group 5 **BANNERS:** 

White

30 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Tony Cleary

#### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Dalton Gonsalvez Mary Fonseca Jacob Fonseca

Reader 1

Michael Farrugia

Reader 2

Sheila Francis

Commentator Madeline Mostert

Music

Anglo-Indian Choir

**Powerpoint** Nanette I.

**Junior Servers** Volunteer Needed

Welcomers

Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed 31 DEC, 8AM

Minister at the Altar Carol Vella

**Eucharistic Ministers** 

Faye Aboghazaleh Ron Brackett Lisa Brackett

> Reader 1 Sonia Sultana

Reader 2

Faye Aboghazaleh **Commentator** 

Belen Leynes

Music Peter Mercia

**Powerpoint Christine Younes** 

Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed Welcomers

Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

31 DEC, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Anthony Bertumen

**Eucharistic Ministers** 

Lou de Guia Louise Bucholtz Volunteer Needed

> Reader 1 Sue Oram

Reader 2 Vasco Gil

Commentator Nile Gajo

Music Pedro Calungsod Choir

> Powerpoint **Boy Sanosa**

Junior Servers Volunteer Needed

Welcomers Joe Duval Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed 31 DEC, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Edward De Leon

**Eucharistic Ministers** 

**Robert Lees** Peter Smith Roslyn Smith

Reader 1 Romeo Prieto

Reader 2 Corinne Brooker

**Commentator** Jodie Donlan

Music James W & Esther R

> **Powerpoint** Thomas Deepu

Junior Servers Volunteer Needed

**Welcomers Eleanor Stuart** Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

#### **OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 24th DECEMBER:**

**Mon 25 Dec:** The Nativity Of The Lord (Christmas) Day

Tue 26 Dec: Saint Stephen, The First Martyr Wed 27 Dec: Saint John, Apostle And Evangelist Thu 28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Fri 29 Dec: Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop And Martyr

Sat 30 Dec: Saturday

#### 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

Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park • Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry • BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry) Facebook

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" P 02 9670 8222 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, Fr Saju 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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Thank you.



#### Contact Michelle for-Pre-Planning & Pre-Paid Funerals

P: 02 9623 6656 M: 0418 250 242 E: michelle@heavenlycelebrations.com.au

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

## Picaluna

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

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## 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!

