



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Worshipping Communities of St Clair, Erskine Park and parts of Kemps Creek

1st SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

18th FEBRUARY 2024

1st Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

God establishes a covenant with Noah and his descendants.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24:4-9. See R.v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

2nd Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

As life was saved by the ark, so are our lives saved in Baptism.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15

After forty days in the desert, Jesus proclaims the reign of God.



REPENT, AND
BELIEVE IN THE
GOSPEL. - MK 1:15

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

VOICE FROM THE PHEWS – Believing in the Good News

Mark's account of Jesus being tempted in the desert is very short, only two sentences long. However, it is just as clear from this telling of the story as it is in the longer versions that Jesus leaves the desert with a strong message.

Jesus' words, "repent, and believe in the good news," need to be elaborated on if we want to understand what Jesus is asking of us. "Repent" means more than counting up our sins and saying we are sorry. To repent means to take a serious look at not just what we have done, but the person we have become.

In this world, we are often identified by what we do and what we have. We are a success if we have a good job, make a lot of money, have a house full of things. Jesus asks us to see ourselves in a different way. He asks us to see ourselves as God created us—a much-loved child, uniquely gifted, created to love as God loves. God considers us a success if—with Jesus' help—we become the person we were created to be, bringing God's love to the world.

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments; they were part of God's covenant with the chosen people.

In the new covenant Jesus tells us we are God's children. He let's us know that we are expected to do more than just follow God's law. Jesus gives us the Beatitudes, a new attitude to life. As God's children we are not only rooted in the Commandments; we are expected to carry Jesus' light and his loving, forgiving attitude to the world. That is the gospel Jesus proclaimed. This is the Good News.

FAMILY RESPONSE:

Talk about what the world would be like if all Christians lived as God wants them to live.

PERSONAL RESPONSE:

What can you do to create greater peace and harmony in your home? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are our concerns?

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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

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/wp-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:

Baby Jacinta Luisa Ortiz, Michael Galea, Armando Nuñez, Cheryl Veld, Fe Uy, Bernadette Stevens, Dot & Joe Gray, 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, Arcadio Villote, Rosie Casha, Joseph Valladores, Zephyr Morales, Anne Fidler, John Warne Salvador Espadilla, Leitu Saena, Estrella Ete, Corinne Cerdor.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Olivia Afu, Geraldine Jansen, Reynaldo Balbuena, Michael Galea, Evangelina Cruz, Rellyboy Pujalte, Conrado Valdemar Jr., Helen Bache, Teresita De Jesus, Emily Lupio.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Benjamin Morales Jr., Josefina Siazon, Chandra Govindaswamy, Gloria Kho, Marcelina Decena Baccay, Jasmine Kho Campano, Rosita Lucy Malolos, Sr Marcelina Pinto, Bernard Fonseca, John Edward Machado, Doris Borg, Malcolm Howse, Audrey Grons, Elisa Viajar, Danny Barnes, Ida Kirby, Audrey Gonsalves, Joe Mifsud, Cajetan Gonsalves, Joseph & Lina Cuschieri.

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 of the Week



Throughout history God has given His people signs. Our season of Lent offers us God's sign that it is time to stop the ordinary routines of our lives, create some desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. We are asked to unplug from our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness to clear the slate and take stock in who we have become. We are asked to remember the ancient sign of God's covenant with humanity in which He vowed to nurture, sustain, and protect the relationship He has with His people. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. Even though some good solid self-denial is the order of the day, greater happiness and wholeness will be the fruit of our labors. Pleasant journey through the desert!

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

First Reading:

God promises Noah to use a "bow in the clouds" (a rainbow) as a sign and symbol of His divine pledge to never again allow a world-wide flood to devastate the earth. This is the Bible's first recorded covenant between God and humanity. What do you think of when you see a rainbow?

Second Reading:

Peter teaches that Jesus preached to both the living and the dead — those dead dating back to the days of Noah — and connecting us through baptism. What do you find intriguing about this idea?

Gospel Reading:

We hear about Jesus' temptation in the desert and his inaugural gospel message to those living in Galilee. Jesus saw repentance as necessary to believe his good news. As we begin the Lenten journey, what aspects of your life require repentance?



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 March 7.00pm**. Presenter will be Seaview Kama.



WE ARE NOT HAVING
BAPTISMS DURING LENT,
THIS IS FROM
14 FEBRUARY TO 30 MARCH

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

This week we enter into the first full week of our Lenten journey—a journey to the Cross and then to Resurrection. We know we can't go straight to Resurrection. As with Jesus, the sacrifice of the Cross is a necessary part of our journey. Your challenge this week, but really for all of Lent, is to think of someone in the world who is experiencing their own cross. It might be the cross of hunger, of human trafficking, of living in a war-torn village or city, or of being denied freedom of expression. Even though you don't know this person's name, imagine how this person looks, how old they might be, and even where they live. Then choose something to give up this Lent, something which may cause a bit of suffering and sacrifice on your part, to stand in solidarity with the brother or sister whose pain is—and should be—our pain. Offer up your sacrifice on their behalf. Every day, as members of our one human family, say a prayer for this person. Use the time or the money you would have spent on whatever you give up to support an organization in your parish or in our universal Catholic Church which works to end injustice for those who suffer. Some possible choices include your local St. Vincent de Paul chapter, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities, or Catholic Relief Services.

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HAVE YOU PRAYED TODAY?



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"If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us."

Sheepish Question:

How can I be sure God's spirit within me can breathe easy?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



**First Sunday of Lent
17 & 18 February**



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

Meet **Ronita** from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet **Leaia** from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet **Memory** from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

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



**TRINITY
KEMPS CREEK**

**ENROL
NOW FOR
2025**

We got **limited FREE** tickets to 2024 NSW Premier's Gala Concerts & Seniors' Festival Expo which will be held on Thursday March 14, 2024 at the ICC Sydney Theatre, ICC Sydney, 14 Darling Drive, Sydney. If interested, drop by at the office during office hours or fill up the form from the Welcomers during the masses.

PLEASE NOTE YOU SHOULD BE A SENIOR to avail of the free ticket.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



STATIONS of the CROSS

Men's Ministry is inviting **everyone** for the Stations of the Cross every Wednesday Evening (6 Wednesdays of Lent) at 7:30pm at the Church Foyer. Booklets will be provided.



Sat 24 Feb, 7.30pm – Holy Spirit School Hall

**Sausage Sizzle & Soft Drinks
on Sale**

**Free tea, coffee & biscuits
Donations for prizes are welcome**

MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Modules 4 - 5

Cycle 2

Have you completed Modules 1-3 two years ago?

All those in Parish Ministry are asked to renew their Safeguarding Training every 2 years. Keep up to date with legislative changes so children and adults at risk are safeguarded.

Sign up to: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>. Register into Modules 4 and 5.



Wedding Anniversary Mass

25 FEBRUARY 2024, 9.30AM MASS

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

Morning Tea available after Mass.

FR JEPSER'S FAREWELL

Sunday 25th February 2024, 9.30am Mass

Please bring a plate to share after the Mass.



If you would like to write a farewell word, please ask for the card at the reception office. Also, there is another envelop for your voluntary contribution to give to Father Jepser as a gift. We wish him the best blessed and valuable time with his family during his time over his country.

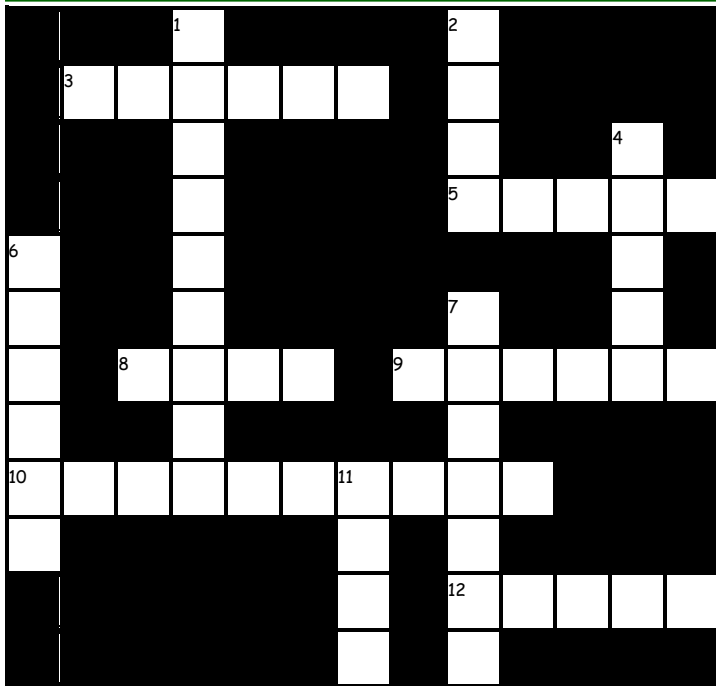
AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"I wish to act in truth, making my confession both in my heart before you and in this book before the many who will read it"

Augustine of Hippo

CROSSWORD Believe the Good News



DOWN:

1. Jesus went to Galilee after this man was arrested
3. Jesus told the good In Galilee
5. the sun appears in the sky during the
7. when Jesus left the desert he went to this place
8. Jesus said, 'Turn back to God and the good news
9. Jesus was in the desert for this many days

ACROSS:

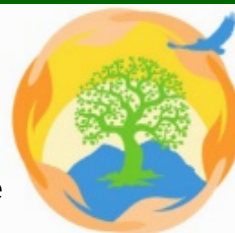
2. Jesus said to the people of Galilee, 'God's will soon be here.'
4. untamed
6. when Jesus was being tested, took care of him
10. cats, dogs, horses, and monkeys are all
11. the opposite of bad
12. Jesus went into the for forty days



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CREATION CARE TIPS

Catholics traditionally abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays in Lent. This is done as a form of penance (in recognition for all that we have done wrong) and asceticism (giving something up so we can grow in holiness). Beyond these reasons, a plant-based diet drastically reduces our impact on our common home and brings us into closer solidarity with those around the world who do not have the option to eat meat as frequently as we do.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?

Answer:

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect.

This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

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NEXT WEEKEND (18th February) 7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Yr B

1st Reading

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18
God puts Abraham to the test.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 115:10. 15-19. R.114:9
(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

2nd Reading

Romans 8:31-34
God, sacrificing even his Son for us, will grant us victory.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Mark 9:2-10
Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John.

24 FEB, 6PM

Minister at the Altar
 Jacob Fonseca

Eucharistic Ministers

Lea Jadraque
 Fe Uy
 Aruna Heslop

Reader 1

Janice Salmon

Reader 2

Romeo Prieto

Commentator

Lea Jadraque

Music

Couples for Christ Choir

Powerpoint

Nanette I.

Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

Welcomers

Terry Serrao
 Olga Esguerra
 Volunteer Needed

25 FEB, 8AM

Minister at the Altar
 Victor Brangwin

Eucharistic Ministers

Gloria Slade
 Fiona Ferreira
 Christine Younes

Reader 1

Louise Bucholtz

Reader 2

Millie Perez

Commentator

Espy Sarno

Music

Volunteer Needed

Powerpoint

Manuel Fidow

Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

Welcomers

Espy Sarno
 Angela Pecnik
 Volunteer Needed

25 FEB, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar
 Alice Zafra

Eucharistic Ministers

Nilo Gajo
 Marthese Grima
 Anabel Jader

Reader 1

Tina Fernandes

Reader 2

Michael Paulo

Commentator

Carmen Marcelo

Music

Children's Choir

Powerpoint

Jamie Bertumen

Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

Welcomers

Joe Duval
 Volunteer Needed
 Volunteer Needed

25 FEB, 6PM

Minister at the Altar
 Victor Brangwin

Eucharistic Ministers

Lumen Decena
 Peter Smith
 Robert Lees

Reader 1

Volunteer Needed

Reader 2

Jodie Donlan

Commentator

Robert Lees

Music

BASIC GIFT

Powerpoint

BASIC GIFT

Junior Servers

Volunteer Needed

Welcomers

Eleanor Stuart
 Volunteer Needed
 Volunteer Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 18 FEBRUARY

Mon 19 Feb: Monday Of The First Week Of Lent Year 2

Tue 20 Feb: Tuesday Of The First Week Of Lent Year 2

Wed 21 Feb: Saint Peter Damian, Bishop And Doctor Of The Church

Thu 22 Feb: The Chair Of Saint Peter The Apostle

Fri 23 Feb: Saint Polycarp, Bishop And Martyr

Sat 24 Feb: Saturday Of The First Week Of Lent Year 2

CLEANERS: Group 4

BANNERS: Green

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
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, 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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Thank you.



Heavenly Celebrations
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E: michelle@heavenlycelebrations.com.au
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LAWYERS

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

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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 one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Visit: www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations. Or thru bank transfer:

Account Name: Holy Spirit Parish St Clair

Bank: CBA

BSB: 067 950

Account Number: 000 005 78

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

