

1st Reading

Jeremiah31: 31-34
The days are coming when I will
make a new covenant with Israel
and I will forgive their iniquity

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4,12-15 R.v.12 [R] Create a clean heart in me, God

2nd Reading

Heb 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

John 12:26
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord
Jesus Christ! If you serve me, says
the Lord; and where I am, my
servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord

ory to you, Word of Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 12:20-33 Jesus foretells of his death and resurrection.

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

Mass, 9.05am
Anointing Mass, 1st Fri, 9.05am

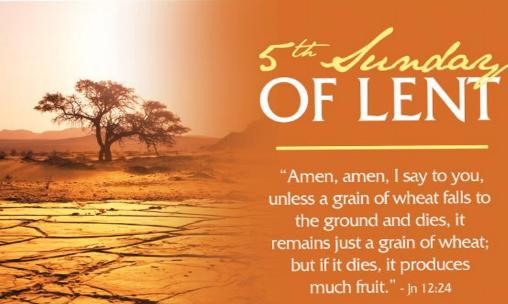
1st Friday Night Devotion Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7.30pm

Divine Mercy Devotion 2nd Friday of the Month 7.30pm

Children's Liturgy

Sat 6pm and Sun 9.30am 1st & 3rd Sun of the month (during school term)

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals,
Anointing of the Sick



'When Wheat Grains Produce a Rich Harvest!'

Dear Friends,

The Scripture readings for Lent are quite diverse and paint a rich tapestry that sets the scene for our celebration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus – Jesus tempted by Satan, Jesus transfigured in the company of the apostles, Jesus' prophetic cleansing of the Temple, Jesus' revelation of his mission to Nicodemus, and today's wisdom, 'When I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself!'

Like Jesus, one way or another we learn to obey through suffering which is part of the fabric of our lives. Even then, our growth is largely hidden even from ourselves – but eventually we 'get it'! I wonder how much of Jesus' message his disciples Andrew and Philip and the other hearers understood as they listened to him – did they 'get it'? At this stage of my life, I am coming to realise it is often in the life and death of someone we know that we finally 'get it'! It may be someone close, a family member or friend, a fellow Augustinian in our Province or one with whom I studied many years ago.

I recall my close friend Fr Tom Martin, Augustinian scholar and university professor. We lived together in community in Chicago in the 1990s and Tom later visited Australia and worked with us on Augustinian spirituality. A very fit, avid runner, always positive individual, he was diagnosed with cancer in 2008. Many of us walked the final journey with Tom, even though thousands of kilometres separated us. At the end, we all agreed, *'Tom taught us how to live, and he taught us how to die!*

We teach each other – the wheat grain does not always mean physical death but the patient acceptance of family crisis, personal loss, loneliness and depression, serious illness, endurance of treatment – lessons family members and parishioners even now teach us daily – a rich harvest before our eyes.

Underlying this is that wonderful realization that no experience, success or failure, good act or sinful one is wasted, as God forms us in his likeness – a recognition of the wheat grain needing to fall on the ground and die if it is to yield a rich harvest.

Fe 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: 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, Fe Uy, Bernadette Stevens, Jacqueline Cuschieri, Joseph Valladores, Corinne Cerdor, Linda Allen, Andrew Boulos, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Bill Lynch, Dot & Joe Gray, Rosie Casha, Zephyyr Morales, Anne Fidler, John Warne, Salvador Espadilla, Leitu Saena, Natalie Fares, Hayden Young, Maureen Boyd.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ricardo Caliguiran Adducul, Elfren Litiatco, Carmelita Valencia, Geraldine Jansen, Doris Anne Foster, Mariela Chavez Vasquez, Ian Burke, Michael Galea.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Lily Abreo, Louis Abreo, Mervin Fernandez, Bill & Kit Gray, Wilma Julian, Dulcie Shrieves, Lorrane Auckland, Doris Carabott, David Macura, Douglas Oliver.

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



How do we convince people that God's law is written upon their hearts? God is wedded to God's people. This is a simple and fundamental fact of life. Yet, many ignore this truth and carry on as if they, or humanity as a whole, are the center of the universe. As a grain of wheat has to fall to the ground and die in order to become what it really is, we too must die to our secular images and ideas of ourselves so that we can become who God really made us to be. If all of us kept our focus on God's deep bonded love with human beings, indeed with our very self, then there would be no need to teach others this fundamental life lesson. They would simply know this truth, as Jeremiah tells us. Somehow, perhaps through original and personal sin, we have lost sight of this reality. We have lost our way and our axis. It is time to find our way back, to learn the virtue of obedience, to pay attention to what God is saying and become aware of the Divine Love that is the reason for all creation. Then, even in our darkest hour when all may seem to be lost, we can say as did Jesus, the model of obedience, "Father, glorify your name," By this perseverance, people can come to know the Lord and what God has done.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

First Reading:

Around 600 BC, Jeremiah prophesied that God would establish a new, unbreakable covenant with his people, one written "upon their hearts." In what ways is your faith heart-felt?

Second Reading:

The author of Hebrews teaches us that Jesus learned "obedience" from his suffering. What have been some fruits from the suffering in your life?

Gospel Reading:

We hear today of Jesus' own struggle with his impending death. During this Lenten season, what has been a struggle for you?



Parish Office prior to attending a preparation evening. Next Baptism Preparation session is on **Tue 9th April** 7.00pm. Presenter will be Michael Zammit.



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

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

March 22 is World Water Day. The foundation of all Catholic social teaching is respect for the life and dignity of every human person. Fundamental to both life itself and life lived with dignity is access to clean water. Around the world, millions of peopleelderly people, children, and all ages in betweensuffer because of a scarcity of water. Your challenge this week is two-fold. First, examine how your family uses water. Do you conserve it as a precious and God-given resource which is not unlimited? Pay attention to how much water you waste (e.g., letting water run while you are brushing your teeth instead of just using it to get your toothbrush wet at the beginning and to rinse at the end). Then on Saturday, discuss how you can limit your use of water and commit to it—at least for the rest of the Lenten season. Secondly, decide on one way you can support people in areas of the world which do not have clean water. You might want to research programs of Catholic Relief Services which help people dig wells or purify contaminated water. (Go to www.crs.org for details). Then make a donation on behalf of those denied dignity by helping them receive life-giving water.

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THE SUNDAY FLOCK



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"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Sheepish Question:

What rewards of my relationship with God can I share with others?

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Third Sunday of Lent 16 & 17 March





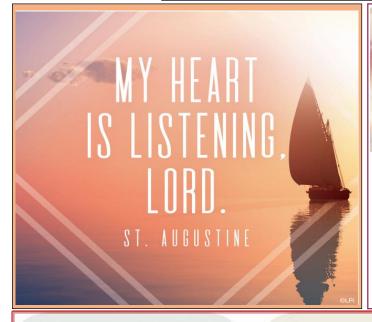
The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse. Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

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.





Wedding Anniversary Mass 24 March 2024, 9.30AM MASS

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

PLEASE BRING A PLATE TO SHARE AFTER MASS

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

24 March, Palm Sunday:

Please bring your own palms

28 March, Holy Thursday:

Morning Prayer, Church, 9am

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm

Night Prayer, 10pm

29 March, Good Friday:

Stations of the Cross, Church, 10am

Passion of the Lord, 3pm

30 March, Holy Saturday:

Morning Prayer, Church, 9am

Easter Vigil Mass, 7.00pm

31 March, Easter Sunday:

Mass, 8am and 9.30am

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.

Catholic Youth Parramatta Good Friday Night Walk

29th & 30th March 10.00pm to 7.00am Lent and Easter VENUE: St Patrick's Catholic Church Blacktown, 51 – 59 Allawah St

The annual pilgrimage, hosted by the Diocese of Parramatta's Youth Ministry Office, attended by 100's of young people across the Diocese, travels from St Patrick Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown to St Patrick Cathedral, Parramatta, throughout Good Friday and into Holy Saturday.

COMBINED CHOIR

EASTER VIGIL MASS | SATURDAY 30TH MARCH

CONDUCTED BY RACHAEL KAMA

All are welcome to join the Combined Choir for the Easter Vigil Mass Rehearsals are 7pm - 8:30pm in the Church Monday 18th and 25th of March.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

2024 Sacramental Preparation



Bookings can be made online thru the Parish Website www.holyspiritstclair.com.au

CONFIRMATION (Year 5)

- Bookings available from 2 April 2024
- Parent Information & Catechesis Tuesday 7 May 5pm or Wednesday 8 May 6pm
- Preparation Sessions will be in May (3 weeks)
- Confirmation Masses: Wednesday 26th June 7.30pm, Thursday 27th June 7.30pm and Friday 28th June 7.30pm

FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)

- Bookings available from 1 July 2024
- Parent Information & Catechesis Tuesday 30 July 5pm or Wednesday 31 July 6pm
- Preparation Sessions will be August (3 weeks)
- First Communion Masses: 24 August 3pm, 25 August 12pm, 31 August 3pm, 8 September 12pm

NOTE: Children with special needs are most welcome to join the preparation.

For all enquiries contact the Parish Office:
W: www.holyspiritstclair.com.au • E: sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au
P: 02 9670 8222 or 0451 279 934 • A: 5 Todd Row, St Clair 2759 NSW

RECONCILIATION (FIRST RITE)

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH – 4.30PM TO 6PM

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH - 5.00PM TO 6PM

RECONCILIATION

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement."

Augustine of Hippo

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH The grain that dies gives much wheat

G	L	R	W	Т	С	G	R	0	U	N	D	Y	F	M
V	Q	Α	J	N	Α	X	I	X	Q	W	Н	P	L	J
S	Α	F	Α	L	L	N	L	W	D	K	V	Н	N	S
U	Α	Н	Z	P	D	0	D	G	G	Α	Z	M	T	M
A	X	0	С	I	F	Α	T	Н	E	R	L	0	V	E
T	X	L	E	P	D	I	S	С	I	P	L	E	S	Q
V	Y	U	R	S	Q	Q	Z	G	R	Α	I	N	X	P
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V	Н	N	V	Α	J	I	Q	W	Н	E	Α	T	0	0
R	V	С	T	S	R	Α	I	E	L	L	F	N	Н	M
U	В	V	Z	M	0	R	E	M	0	X	X	D	S	Q

TRY TO FIND THESE WORDS:

certain
disciples
fall
Father
grain
ground
lose
love
more
one
servant
wheat





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CREATION CARE TIPS

March 22nd is World Water Day. The average household in the United States uses more than 333 gallons of water a day, 70 percent for indoor use. This week, decrease your water usage. Reduce your shower length. Water indoor plants using collected rainwater. If possible, use a dishwasher and minimize rinsing/washing by hand.

Don't wash clothing more frequently than necessary and fill it instead of running half loads. If there is a dripping faucet in your house, call a plumber or take some time to fix the leak this week.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

Answer:

The practice of making a "spiritual communion dates" back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin.

This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

©LPi



NEXT WEEKEND (24th March) 5th SUNDAY OF LENT, Yr B

1st Reading

Issaiah 50:4-7
Despite rejection, Isaiah does not abandon his call.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

2nd Reading

Philippians 2:6-11 Jesus made himself lowly and was exalted.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

king of endless glory! Gospel

Mark 14:1 – 15:47 *The Passion.*

CLEANERS: G

Group 3
Green

23 MARCH, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Madeline Mostert

Eucharistic Ministers

Lea Jadraque Fe Uy Aruna Heslop

Reader 1Romeo Prieto

Reader 2

Marinella Licuanan

Commentator Janice Salmon

Music

Couples for Christ Choir

PowerpointNanette I.

Junior Servers Volunteer Needed

Welcomers
Terry Serrao
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

24 MARCH, 8AM

*Minister at the Altar*Victor Brangwin

Eucharistic Ministers

Gloria Slade Fiona Ferreira Chris Younes

Reader 1 Millie Perez

Reader 2Espy Sarno

CommentatorLouise Bucholtz

Music

Volunteer Needed

Powerpoint Manuel Fidow

Junior Servers
Volunteer Needed

Welcomers Espy Sarno Angela Pecnik

Volunteer Needed

24 MARCH, 9.30AM

Minister at the Altar Alice Zafra

Eucharistic Ministers

Nilo Gajo Marthese Grima Anabel Jader

Reader 1 Michael Paulo

Reader 2Carmen Marcelo

Commentator Tina Fernandes

Music Children's Choir

Powerpoint Jamie Bertumen

Junior Servers
Volunteer Needed

Welcomers
Joe Duval
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

24 MARCH, 6PM

Minister at the Altar Tony Cleary

Eucharistic Ministers

Lumen Decena
Peter Smith
Robert Lees

Reader 1 Jodie Donlan

Reader 2Robert Lees

Commentator
Volunteer Needed

Music BASIC GIFT

PowerpointBASIC GIFT

Junior Servers
Volunteer Needed

Welcomers
Eleanor Stuart
Esther Rose
Volunteer Needed

www.parra.catholic.org.au

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 10 MARCH

Diocese of Parramatta

Mon 18 March: Saint Patrick, Bishop

Tue 19 March: Saint Joseph, Spouse Of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Wed 20 March: Wednesday Of The Fifth Week Of Lent
Thu 21 March: Thursday Of The Fifth Week Of Lent
Fri 22 March: Friday Of The Fifth Week Of Lent
Sat 23 March: Saint Turibius Of Mogrovejo, Bishop

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

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995

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 0404 938 696 (NEW NUMBER)

Priory

3 Peter Pan Glen, St Clair

Parish Staff

Administrator: Fr Dave Austin, OSA P 02 9670 8222

E pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au - 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: Jamie Dowsett Gus Morgan Michael Paulo Carol Vella Andrea Bouche

Members: Jamie Dowsett, Gus Morgan, Michael Paulo, Carol Vella, Andrea Bouche, Seaview Kama, Benjie Santiago, Eleanor Stuart (BASIC GIFT Youth Representative)

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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-Heavenly Celebrations 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







Flowers Birth > Earth Christening - Wedding - Funeral

Contact: Email: Ken_pix@outlook.com M: 0451 271127 [Order Code: K10BB]

www.flowerspot.com.au Unit 10,10 Brumby Street Seven Hills NSW 2147 02 9629 2756

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- Business Law
- Negligence Law
 Wills & Estates
 Court Appearances

Ph: 02 4731 5899

www.batemanbattersby.com.au enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au







Cathy Mob:0418664861

Pick up Address Ropes Crossing



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:

Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Account Name:

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

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

