



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Yr B

28th APRIL 2024

1st Reading

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31
Saul joins the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21: 26-28. 30-32. R. v.26
(R.) *I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.*

2nd Reading

1 John 3:18-24
We are in God and God in us.

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:4-5
Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1-8
Jesus the vine, the Father, the vine grower



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Easter Presence – 'Being At Home With God!'

Dear Friends,

The engaging image of the vine and the branches in today's Gospel focuses on the close intimacy between ourselves and Jesus – 'communion' in fact. Connectedness, belonging, being 'at home' are all core aspects of our Christian life and our relationship with God.

'Communion' is much more than simply receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. It certainly extends to our bonds with one another as Church but goes far beyond that to what unites the whole human family for whom Jesus embraced our human condition. Celebrations of joy and peace unite us but so do the realities that challenge us. St Augustine reminds us that, just as bread and wine are changed, so is the community – both essential because the Eucharist makes the Church and binds us together.

Vine and branches describe both the reality and the dream Jesus has for his relationship with Church and World. Jesus' vision for his relationship with us is of a continuing union in every dimension of our lives. His friendship is life-giving but it needs to be reciprocal if it is to be true; one-

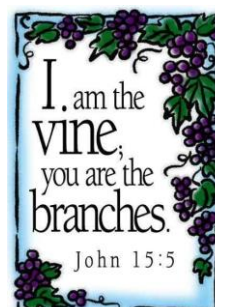
way friendships, as we know well, have no future.

The art of gardening involves pruning if a plant or a tree is to reach its full potential. Translating that concept into the human sphere is not easy because very few of us like change. Yet our difficult experiences usually leave us little choice and the 'pruning' makes our efforts more fruitful in love, patience, kindness, gentleness and other qualities.

The invitation to be 'at home' with God is an attractive one but, like all relationships, it takes care and time if it is to give life. The Easter Season is the ideal time to reflect on Jesus' invitation to 'living communion' in the intimate context of vine and branches:

'Abide in me as I abide in you... If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you'
(Jn 15:4,7).

In Love



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
1st & 3rd Sun of the month
(during school term)

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals,
Anointing of the Sick

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:

Andrew Boulos, Jacinta Luisa Ortiz, Fe Uy, Dot & Joe Gray, Linda Allen, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Steven Johns, Alice Grech, Bill Lynch, John Warne, Joseph Valladores, Zephyr Morales, Anne Fidler, Salvador Espadilla, Leitu Saena, John Slater, Ashley Johnson, Jess P, Havana Conroy.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Bernadette Stevens, Rosie Casha, Peter Mazzelli, Maribel Harina, Doris Muscat, Lin Corpuz, Ernest Cunanan Sr., Christopher R Utle, Antonelle Villaflor.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Kenneth D’Cruz, Enid D’Cruz, Filipa Basilad, Basil Middleton, Angela Kinny, Corazon Salvador, Peggy Sinclair, Silvester Kulyanic, Tony Kulyanic, Therese Cotte, Lena & Joseph Cuschieri, Sheila Tham, Michael Tham, Pearl Francis, John Hawley, Aiden Gajo, Jack Maloney, Kyros Macalalad, Michael Rodrigues.

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



Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary.

A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

First Reading:

Luke tells us how the conversion of Saul (Paul) and the acceptance by the disciples of him helped facilitate peace in the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. What do you think is needed to bring about peace in our Church today?

Second Reading:

John teaches his community that believing in Jesus and loving one another is the heart of God's commandment. How would you assess yourself in following this two-fold command?

Gospel Reading:

Using the metaphor of a vine and branches, Jesus urges his disciples to "remain in me" in order to bear good fruit and thereby glorify God. What would be some examples of "good fruit" that you have produced?

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

On May 1st we honor St. Joseph as the patron saint of workers. Did you know that May 1 is also Holocaust Remembrance Day? That might sound grim; after all, who wants to remember something so unspeakably evil? But the maxim that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it has been proven true time and time again in human history. Remembering the holocaust is one way to ensure that we never again experience a similar event. Your challenge this week is to reflect on the holocaust which took place in Hitler's Germany. Discuss as a household what you know about it. Research why it happened, and how Hitler got so many people caught up in trying to exterminate an entire race of people. Then ask yourself what little steps of prejudice and hatred led up to the big "Final Solution" of seeking extinction for the entire Jewish people. Commit yourself and your family to confronting one of the little steps towards racism or prejudice wherever you see it. This might be as simple as standing up to people who make jokes at the expense of a particular group of people; it could mean advocating with the government to oppose regimes across the world which engage in genocide. Whatever you decide to do, hold all of the victims of the holocaust in your heart as you work to make sure that history does not repeat itself. Help the victims to not have died in vain.

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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?

BAPTISMS

WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,
WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED.

ATTICUS JAMES AUMUA
(Son of Isaac and Khalifeh)

AXEL CLAN
(Son of Roynell and Alissa)

ROWAN GEORGE WARD
(Son of Richard and Madilyn)

JOSEPHINE ELIZABETH SUTTON
(Son of Adrian and Emma)

WILLOW MAREE BYRNE
(Daughter of Wayne and Kristy)

ZAKAI JAY ROBINSON
(Son of Jake and Jessica)

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 14th May 7.00pm**. Presenter will be Seaview Kama.

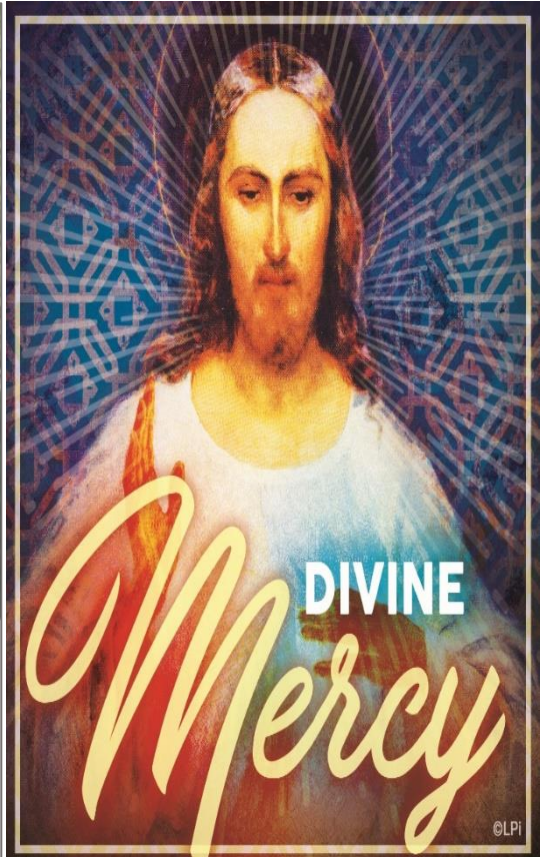
PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



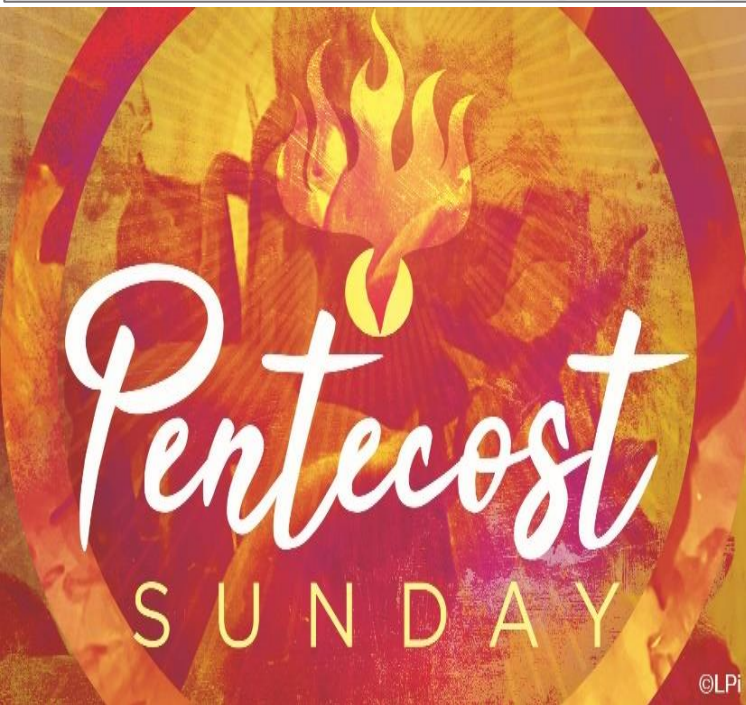
AUGUSTINIANS

We are called to witness the "warm, living, visible, contagious charity of the Church, through a community life that clearly manifests the presence of the Risen One and His Spirit."

Excerpt of the Address of his Holiness Pope Francis to the Participants in the General Chapter of the Order of St Augustine (Augustinians) Clementine Hall, 13 September 2019



Friday 10th May 7.30pm



SAVE THE DATE:

**Pentecost Sunday (Parish Feast Day)
on Sunday 19 May 2022.**

There will be BBQ and lots of fun at the school ground of Holy Spirit Primary School after the 9.30am Mass.

All welcome!

**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

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
invites you to a night of fun with family and friends



1st June 2024 at 7.30pm

**Sat 28 May 2022, 7.30pm
at Holy Spirit School Hall**

Sausage Sizzle & Soft Drinks on Sale
Free tea, coffee & biscuits

Donations welcome

Organised by the Community and Cultural Commission

A BIBLICAL
WALK
THROUGH THE
MASS



Starting Date: May 1st **Time:** 7pm **Location:** Holy Spirit Parish
Discover the heart of the Mass, deepen your faith, and connect with fellow parishioners.

Sessions held on the **First Wednesday of each month until September.**

All are welcome! - Let's journey together in faith. See you there!

Hosted by the Men's Business Men's Ministry



Good Shepherd Appeal
**Support our seminarians to
“go out into the deep.”**

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CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

DONATE NOW

Good Shepherd Appeal's envelopes for donations are in the foyer.

**FRIENDS OF ST AUGUSTINE will meet on
Monday 29 April at 7:00pm in the
Pioneers Room,
anyone interested in attending will be
most welcome.**

FUNERALS THIS WEEK:

- **7 May 10.30am: Doris Muscat**



AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



"O God, You are never far from those who sincerely search for You. Accompany those who err and wander far from You. Turn their hearts towards what is right and let them see the signs of Your Presence in the beauty of created things."

Augustine of Hippo



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

Question:

Is gossip a mortal sin?

Answer:

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. ©LPI

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH I am the vine and you are the branches

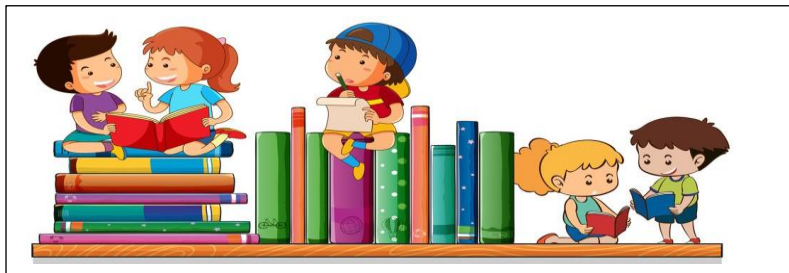
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 R T P D I T O C F A T H E R R
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 F G E G V D N G G P O P M P P
 V I N E W L M K L X D Z R M M
 E K R D B L O Q F V U H F I S
 W U D C B L C T M X C B N R M
 N W Z V R K O V E N E E E I S
 A G G A R D E N E R B P J A H

TRY TO FIND THESE WORDS:

- clean
- cut
- disciples
- Father
- fruit
- gardener
- mine
- prayer
- produce
- stay
- teach
- vine



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CREATION CARE TIPS

"Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." –1 John 3:18. Put your care for creation into action this week. This week, replace your old lightbulbs with energy efficient ones. Replace store-bought cleaners (which contain harsh chemicals that can be destructive to the environment) with homemade and/or natural cleaners such as vinegar, lemon juice, baking soda, or biodegradable cleaners. Search online for easy-to-make recipes for common house-cleaning solutions.



NEXT WEEKEND (5th MAY) SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Yr B

<p>1st Reading Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48 <i>The Holy Spirit descends on Jews and Gentiles alike.</i></p> <p>Responsorial Psalm Psalm 97:1-4. R. v.2 <i>(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading 1 John 4:11-16 <i>God is love.</i></p> <p>Gospel Acclamation John 14:23 <i>Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel John 17:11-19 <i>Jesus prays to the Father for his disciples.</i></p>	<p>4 MAY, 6PM Minister at the Altar Lorenz Herft Eucharistic Ministers Hazel Littlewood Sylvia Herft Jeanne Appleton Reader 1 Moira Rebello Reader 2 Sylvia Herft Commentator Sheila Francis Music AMEN Choir Powerpoint Nanette I. Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Sonia Oliveira Selwyn Oliveira Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>5 MAY, 8AM Minister at the Altar Gloria Slade Eucharistic Ministers Louise Bucholtz Ron Brackett Lisa Brackett Reader 1 Christine Younes Reader 2 Sonia Sultana Commentator Faye Aboghazaleh Music Manuel Fidow Powerpoint Carol Vella Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Remia Morada Angela Pecnik Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>5 MAY, 9.30AM Minister at the Altar Nono Gacis Eucharistic Ministers Sina Carvalho Tina Fernandes Seaview Kama Reader 1 Tess Barnes Reader 2 Joy Rulewski Commentator Cathy Allen Music Luchie's Choir Powerpoint Ivan Fernandes Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Skye Spacek Jenny Kyd Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>5 MAY, 6PM Minister at the Altar Victor Brangwin Eucharistic Ministers Esther Rose Lumen Decena Sue Oram Reader 1 Robert Lees Reader 2 Corinne Brooker Commentator Charlotte Smith Music El Shaddai SG Choir Powerpoint El Shaddai SG Choir Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Esther Rose Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed</p>
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<p>CLEANERS: Group 4 BANNERS: White</p>	<p>OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 28 APRIL Mon 29 April: Saint Catherine Of Siena, Virgin And Doctor Of The Church Tue 30 April: Saint Pius V, Pope Wed 1 May: Saint Joseph The Worker Thu 2 May: Saint Athanasius, Bishop And Doctor Of The Church Fri 3 May: Saints Philip And James, Apostles Sat 4 May: Saturday Of The Fifth Week Of Easter</p>
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Holy Spirit Parish St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995 Diocese of Parramatta www.parra.catholic.org.au

Facebook Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park **Parish Office** 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** 0404 938 696 (NEW NUMBER)

Priory 3 Peter Pan Glen, St Clair

Parish Staff
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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, Seaview Kama, 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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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

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LAWYERS

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

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Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

Please DONATE

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 costs 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!