



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, Yr B

7 APRIL 2024

1st Reading

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35
Early believers share what they have.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24
 R. v.1

(R.) *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.*

2nd Reading

1 John 5:1-6

Love God by keeping the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20-29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

Doubting Thomas.



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

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND HAVE BELIEVED.”
 —JN 20:29

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter – ‘Moving Forward with the Faith We Have!’

Dear Friends,

Life experience, carefully reflected upon, is our best teacher. As we make our faith journey – perhaps with strong faith or faith ‘nearly-on-empty’ - isn’t it amazing how life imitates faith? The recent tragic death of Australia aid worker Zomi Frankcom in Gaza raises the question of how her life journey led her there in the first place – faith in some form. I’m a great admirer of elite athlete Lauren Parker, victim of a training accident in 2017 when she became a paraplegic. Her determination since has led to her becoming a world champion, para-triathlete... her motivation: **‘I can only move forward with the body I have!’**

As each of us absorbs the grace of this Easter Season, that could be a ‘faith statement’ for us – moving forward with the Faith we have. Irish Augustinian Kieran O’Mahony quotes the intuition of Irish priest/poet John O’Donohue, **‘Faith is helpless attraction to the divine.’** Whether we are believers or not, faith or its absence has an impact on our life direction – for some, ‘unbelief’ becomes a faith stance.

Each of us comes to believe in his or her own way and our faith needs differ. Some need a lot of knowledge to nourish their minds for this journey while others are

more intuitive. Some take the long and difficult journey with doubt, yet faith is the important destination. Each of Jesus’ followers took a faith journey after his death. As our Easter Gospel readings reveal, the women at the tomb became the first evangelizers of reluctant disciples who were locked up not only physically but in their minds and emotions.

Doubting and questioning sometimes frighten us, yet facing these moments truthfully leads us to faith. Describing the familiar encounter of Jesus and Thomas, the late Fr Pat Negri SSS says, *‘The Risen Jesus who appears is tangible. The experience of his presence in the gathering of disciples is real, substantial, ongoing. Thomas, sure now of his love for Jesus, makes his act of faith: **‘My Lord and my God!’***

Our family and local faith community support our faith – the First Christian Community in Acts 4 this Sunday where sharing of goods and spiritual insight strengthen our spiritual unity. ‘Communion’ as believers is our goal as each of us seeks *‘to move forward with the faith we have’*. When it comes to faith, there’s no point in standing still!

Fr. Done

The Holy Spirit Parish pays respect to the Darug People, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather to celebrate our faith and worship God. We acknowledge with respect the elders past and present.

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



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:

Ashley Johnson, John Slater, 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, Rosie Casha, John Warne, Joseph Valladores, Zephyr Morales, Anne Fidler, Salvador Espadilla, Leitu Saena.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Bernadette Stevens, George Galea, Patsy Fernandez, Zulema D’Costa.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Enid Falleiro, Peter Cook, Lilian Joan Lennon, Shellie Becker, Ricardo Herft, Maryanne & Carmelo Avellino, Oswald Movin D’Souza.

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



Alleluia! Forgiveness has risen from the grave! What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. When experienced, we are moved to do all in our power to avoid sin and embrace the loving presence of our risen God. God stands ever ready to receive us and wants nothing more than for us to come home. How reluctant we are to believe this truth! We want proof, tangible evidence and absolute assurance that what we have been told is true. Jesus has risen from the dead and brings us peace. It is the gift of wholeness and holiness that is breathed upon us by God's life-giving and healing mercy. May the rays of love that flow from the heart of Christ pierce ours.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

First Reading:

Luke gives us a glimpse into the solidarity of heart and mind with the original community of believers in Jerusalem. How does your current community of faith compare to this first-generation Jerusalem church?

Second Reading:

John speaks of the power of faith and love for believers in conquering evil in the world. How does the faith and love in your life sustain you?

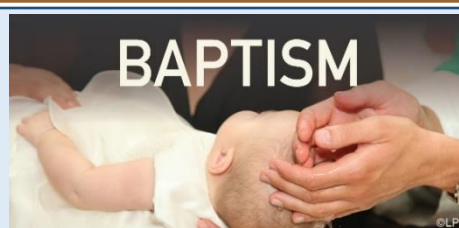
Gospel Reading:

The story of Thomas' doubt in the resurrected Jesus is one of the most well-known resurrection narratives. Why do you think Christians throughout the ages are drawn to this story?

BAPTISMS



Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to contact the Parish Office prior to attending a preparation evening. Next Baptism Preparation session is on **Tue 9th April 7.00pm**. Presenter will be Michael Zammit.



- AMAIA CARMELINA MAXWELL**
(Daughter of Nicholas and Jennifer)
- VIOLET HELEN HENDERSON**
(Daughter of Dylan and Sarah)
- LUCY DIAMOND BROWN**
(Daughter of Ross and Amanda-Lee)

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

This Sunday is designated by the Church as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Mercy goes beyond justice, not just forgiving someone who has done something wrong, but freeing them from further repercussions and giving them the chance to start over.

Mercy is a powerful expression of discipleship. Your challenge this week is to take one of the works of mercy (spiritual or corporal) and literally live it out.

At the end of the week, share with your family what you did and how it changed you. Remember, mercy wasn't just the theme of a Jubilee Year!

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THE SUNDAY FLOCK



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Sheepish Question:

What helps me dispel my doubts about God?

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Hello friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful time celebrating the joyous occasion of Easter and that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus has filled your hearts with hope, love and renewed faith.

This new section in the bulletin will endeavor to share with you monthly, an update from the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and what we have been up to.

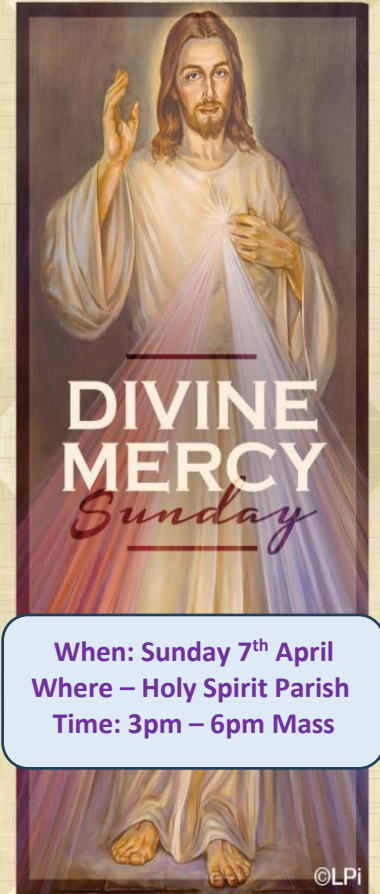
Last month the PPC Invited Chris Brenton from the Social Justice Commission to give an update. We heard that they are currently low on volunteers and will be asking Parishioners who are interested to join their important ministry.

We also invited Aaron Smith from Basic Gift to give an update, who advised that there are minimal youth currently participating. Basic Gift is looking at collaborating with other youth ministries from the Diocese to get ideas from on how to revamp their ministry.

Fr Dave provided a snapshot of our Parish Social Profile, which was obtained from the last Census and prepared by the ACBC Pastoral Research Unit. An interesting statistic was that; in the St Clair area in 2021, the total population was 27,541 where 10,119 stated were Catholic. We will be looking at these statistics further to see how our Parish can use this information. Finally, we had a discussion on Safeguarding and Fr Dave provided a resource for Safeguarding in our Parish: "Reflective Practice Activities for Parish Pastoral Councils" We covered Standard 1 – Child safety is embedded in organizational leadership, governance and culture. We will be looking into ways of putting Standard 1 into action in the near future.

We look forward to sharing more PPC insights with you next month.

Warm regards,
Ana Gregorova
PPC Chairperson



When: Sunday 7th April
Where – Holy Spirit Parish
Time: 3pm – 6pm Mass

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Event - Living with Today's Paradoxes

You are invited to join us on a Spirituality Day on Saturday May 4 entitled 'Living with Today's Paradoxes'. Exploring questions like 'How do we maintain hope and joy in the face of global challenges and personal trials?' and 'What does it mean to be a peacemaker in today's world?' Keynote speaker Brother Tony Leon fms who has worked many years in Marist spiritual formation both in Australia and internationally.

For more information go to

www.maristlaityaustralia.com/paradox

Program - Beyond the Pew

You are invited to join an exciting new study on Family Prayer Mindful Colouring, and Faith Development in Children and Teenagers. Go to www.maristlaityaustralia.com/1/beyond-the-pew

to find out more....Also Marist Fourviere occurred in 1816 (security question) .

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



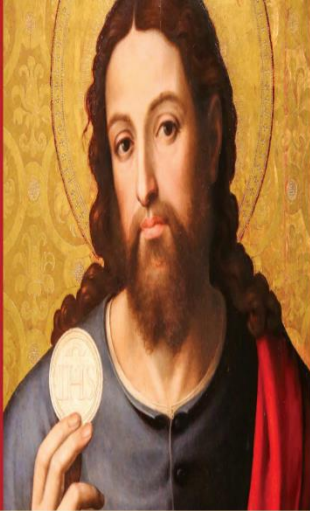
Good Shepherd Appeal
Support our seminarians to
“go out into the deep.”



DONATE NOW

Good Shepherd Appeal’s envelops for donations are in the foyer.

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



THE AUGUSTINIAN

The latest issue of *The Augustinian* magazine is available in the foyer today with lots of interesting news of the Province and articles on St Augustine’s teaching and spirituality.

Please take a copy



RECONCILIATION

EVERY SATURDAY, 5:00 – 5:45 PM

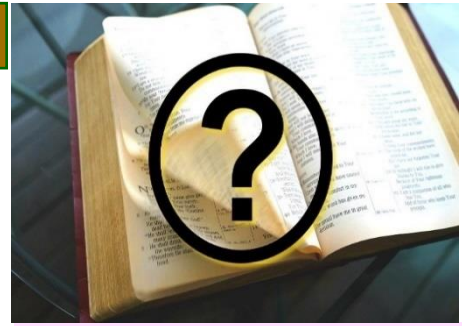
ON A LIGHTER NOTE

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



JUNIOR WORDSEARCH Have faith and you will be truly blessed

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

TRY TO FIND THESE WORDS:

- afraid*
- appeared*
- doubting*
- faith*
- forgive*
- hand*
- happy*
- Holy Spirit*
- Lord*
- Middle*
- Thomas*
- week*

WHY DO WE DO THAT?
Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Why are priests transferred from one parish to another? How is that decided?

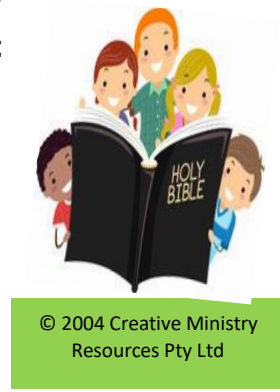
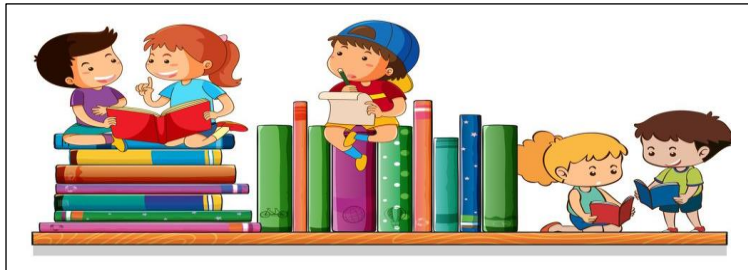
Answer:

Bishops take the appointment of pastors to parishes very seriously and the decision to assign or transfer priests is one of the most important decisions bishops can make, effecting the lives of everyone in the parish community.

In 1984, the bishops of the United States implemented a six-year term limit for pastors (which can be renewed by bishop); term limits for associate pastors vary from diocese to diocese. Sometimes a particular priest is assigned to a parish or chaplaincy to respond to specific issues (such as a parish merger, a fundraising campaign, or because he has special qualifications that make him a good fit for the community). In the case of new or recently ordained priests, the vibrancy and diversity, the presence of a school, or certain social programs offer invaluable training and ongoing formation.

In making their decisions regarding the placement of priests, most bishops rely on a priest personnel committee or a council of priests. There is also a period of dialogue with the priest(s) who will be moved, sometimes even including an extended period of discernment and self-assessment, helping to be as sure as possible that the assignment of a priest to a particular community will truly benefit the people and be a healthy one for the priest himself.

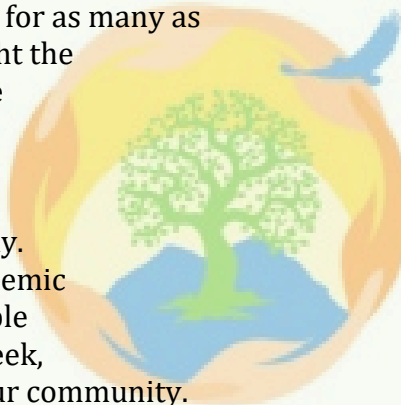
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CREATION CARE TIPS

"There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." –Acts 4:34-35. According to the United Nations, in 2015, some 734 million people lived of less than \$1.90 per day. However, they estimate that the COVID pandemic has pushed approximately half a billion people below the international poverty line. This week, think of ways to support those in need in your community.



Donate money, resources, or time to local organizations.

NEXT WEEKEND (14th APRIL) THIRTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Yr B

<p>1st Reading Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15.17-19 <i>Peter calls the people to reform.</i></p> <p>Responsorial Psalm Psalm 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R.v.7 <i>(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading 1 John 2:1-5 <i>To know Jesus, keep his commandments.</i></p> <p>Gospel Acclamation Luke 24-32 <i>Alleluia, alleluia!</i> <i>Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel John 24:35-48 <i>Jesus appears to the disciples gathered together.</i></p>	<p>13 APRIL, 7PM Minister at the Altar Peter Moriarty Eucharistic Ministers Dita Sy Moirra Rebello Janice Salmon Reader 1 Florence Pusey Reader 2 Dudley Littlewood Commentator Stephen Middleton Music Victor Brangwin Powerpoint Nanette I. Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Terry Serrao Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>14 APRIL, 8AM Minister at the Altar Hieu Le Eucharistic Ministers Belen Leynes Dawn Timmins Margaret Portelli Reader 1 Manuel Fidow Reader 2 Sally Banguis Commentator Dawn Timmins Music Pierre D’Cunha Powerpoint Christine Younes Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Sarah Damole Jun Damole Espy Sarno</p>	<p>14 APRIL, 9.30AM Minister at the Altar Anthony Bertumen Eucharistic Ministers Ken Allen Cathy Allen Jenny Kyd Reader 1 Ray Zafra Reader 2 Bianca Dowsett Commentator Uinise Blake Music St Augustine’s Choir Powerpoint Boy Sanosa Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Jenny Kyd Sue Oram Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>14 APRIL, 6PM Minister at the Altar Edward De Leon Eucharistic Ministers Kate Blasco Esther Rose Angela Pecnik Reader 1 Marty Facciolo Reader 2 Kate Blasco Commentator Candice Salmon Music Esther Rose Choir Powerpoint Thomas Deepu Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Eleanor Stuart Esther Rose Volunteer Needed</p>
	<p>OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 7 APRIL</p> <p>Mon 8 April: The Annunciation Of The Lord Tue 9 April: Tuesday Of The Second Week Of Easter Wed 10 April: Wednesday Of The Second Week Of Easter Thu 11 April: Saint Stanislaus, Bishop And Martyr Fri 12 April: Friday Of The Second Week Of Easter Sat 13 April: Saint Martin I, Pope And Martyr</p>			

CLEANERS: Group 1
BANNERS: Green

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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 ○ Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry ○ BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry)
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

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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, 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
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Thank you.

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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!