



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Yr B

12 MAY 2024

1st Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11
Jesus is taken up into heaven

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6
*(R.) God mounts his throne to
shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

2nd Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23
Live a life worthy of your calling.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19. 20
*Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the
end of the world.
Alleluia!*

Gospel

Mark 16:15-20
*Jesus commissions the eleven,
ascends to heaven.*



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*"You are witnesses
of these things."
- Lk 24:48*

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

The Ascension - 'Drawn into the Mystery of Christ'Risen!'

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**

Dear Friends,
Easter is a 50-day Feast and we have the chance to be drawn fully into this magnificent mystery of Christ. Up to Pentecost, the lighted Easter Candle reminds us of the splendour of this mystery.

This post-Easter time provides us with 'days of clarity' and the Scripture readings help us to unpack the message in fresh ways. Our Paschal Candle offers us one way to experience this continuity, not just at Mass but at other times of sacramental and community prayer, such as funerals where it reminds us of the incredible mystery and grace of the Risen Christ in our lives.

During these 50 days of Easter, the Church limits the feasts of Mary and the saints during the week. Celebrations are usually of Easter days with a focus on the daily readings, especially Acts, the account of the Spirit at work in the developing Christian communities.

The Spirit calls forth fresh faith and energy from our own community too in these days between the Ascension and Pentecost, days of prayer and anticipation of the outpouring of the gift of the Holy

Spirit. Like the other days of the Easter Season, the Ascension celebrates not a departure but Jesus' abiding presence with us. Christ has not left us but is with us always!

In the words of Fr John Byrne OSA, *'The Ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus, but he was with them in other ways.'* He reminds us that we can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend or an inspiring leader after they have died.

Believing in Jesus who is now with the Father in glory, our faith should s-t-r-e-t-c-h our minds and belief. I recall the inspiring words of the late Fr Russell Hardiman who once summed up the Ascension in this way:

'We are left with a sense of tremendous awe before the Mystery of Love. That God's love for us would be such that everything is for our sake! What all our words come down to is that there are no words. There can only be a holy silence.... Ssssh...'

Fr John

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, 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, Beatrice Gonsalvez, Salvador Espadilla, Leitu Saena, Marie Gonsalvez, Havana Conroy.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Juanita Mamba, Nilda Manio de Leon, Manuel Gil, Bernadette Stevens, Elizabeth Dunlop, Bishop Peter Ingham.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Fernando Molina Martell, Jack Richard Gore, Audrey Atrisonn, Prema Cooray, Francis Bandara, Alouycius and Mureal Baxter, Marjanvic Anka, Markonevic Mato.

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



When Jesus was physically with his disciples, he guarded and protected them. One of his greatest desires was that they share his joy completely. God's love is the source of all things and their sustenance. As we conduct the normal routines of our lives it is easy to get caught up in the immediacies of this world and lose focus. We become very self and worldly dependent, forgetting that God wishes to guard and protect us. The joy the resurrected Christ can offer cannot be found in this world. It takes a bit of faith to realize that God's will is a constant in our lives and that God desires only the sustenance and goodness of both our bodies and our souls. We need to trust in God's constant and rejuvenating love. This radical resurrection trust allows us to experience the joy of God's presence in all of the good and the bad, positive and negative, life building and life destructive events that we encounter. God remains where love remains.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK:

First Reading:

In the immediate aftermath of Jesus' ascension, and as a means for healing within the group, Peter and the apostles discerned Matthias as he replacement for Judas. What are some areas in your faith life that need healing in order to feel whole?

Second Reading:

John testifies that his community has "come to know and to believe in the love God has for us." Do you think your faith community shares a similar conviction of faith in the love of God?

Gospel Reading:

We hear Jesus' prayer to his Father for the protection of the disciples, especially against "the evil one" in the world. Where do you personally experience evil in the world today?

WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGES

When Jesus ascended into heaven, his glorified physical body was no longer with us. But he commissioned the apostles (and us through them) to be his body on earth until he came again. We are called to be the hands and feet, the heart, the mouth, the shoulders of Jesus to those in need. Your challenge this week is to ask which part of the Body of Christ you are called to be right now. Does someone need you to be his ears, listening to their story? Or might you be called to be his prophetic voice, challenging someone or a group of persons to live more justly? Be the Body of Christ this week. (And don't forget that receiving Jesus in the Eucharist will make this task possible.)

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THE SUNDAY FLOCK



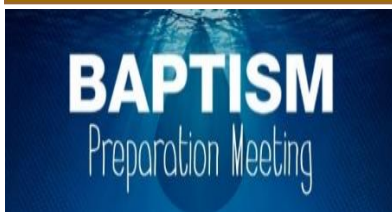
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"If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us."

Sheepish Question:

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

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



ELIJAH JOHN CHAPMAN
(Son of Jack and Tenae)

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

Join us as we celebrate our being Church

PENTECOST

Sunday 19th May

Please bring a plate to share for our Celebration after the 9:30am Mass at the Holy Spirit School Grounds & wear something red!

Fun for all ages!

- Jumping Castle
- Slushies & Popcorn
- Face Painting & Balloons
- Lolly guessing competition
- Soccer game
- Performances
- Sausage Sizzle

If you would like to volunteer to help with the celebration or if you would like to perform by yourself or in a group, please contact Parish Office on 9670 8222 or admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
2024 Sacramental Preparation

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

FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)

- Bookings available from 1 July 2024

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



'PENTECOST TRIDUUM'

All are invited to come together in prayer

As we prepare to commemorate our Parish Feast of Pentecost
DATES: Wednesday to Friday

15-17 May - TIME: 7.30pm

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH FIESTA 2024

- **FIESTA** – Saturday 19th October
- **OPENING TALK** – Wednesday 9th October
- **NOVENA** – Thursday 10th Oct to Friday 18th October

MORE DETAILS LATER

Anointing
PENTECOST EVE
 WORSHIP GATHERING
 HOSTED BY THE YOUTH
 18TH MAY 2024
 TIME : 4:00 - 7:00 PM
 VENUE : 15 PARK RD, SEVEN HILLS
 SERVANTS OF JESUS

NSW CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
 REGISTER NOW!
 LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE
 ccrnsw.org.au

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

B I N G O

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

1st June 2024 at 7.30pm

Donations welcome
 Organised by the Community and Cultural Commission

A BIBLICAL
WALK
 THROUGH THE
MASS

Continuing: June 5th ⌚ **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

Invites you to
Christian Life Program

A proclamation of the basic message of Christianity through various topics that will draw couples and individuals into a renewed commitment to the Lord

Pioneer Room, Holy Spirit Parish
Starting Sunday 26th May @1pm

"If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts"

No cost. Free childminding. Refreshments provided.

Ivan - 0413 117 134 Julius - 0401 680 995 Gliz - 0430 045 234

FUNERALS THIS WEEK:

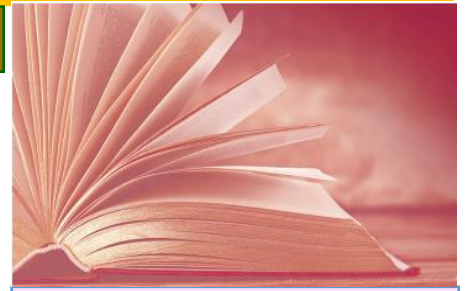
Dear parishioner: we are reserving this space to announce funerals in our parish. Please don't hesitate in advise us details.

From: Parish Secretary

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY



*No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven.
Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him.
Augustine of Hippo*



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

Question:

What is the meaning of the letters that professed religious have after their names?

Answer:

The Catholic Church includes hundreds of religious communities. The priests, religious brothers, religious sisters, and nuns of these communities (which are often referred to as “religious orders”) are committed to particular spiritual traditions and often to a particular charism (such as teaching, healthcare, social work, or pastoral care).

To help identify a person as a member of a particular religious community, the custom developed of including post-nominal letters that provide a sort of shorthand for the name of the community that the priest, brother, sister or nun is part of. So, for example OSB after a person’s name would indicate that they are a member of the Order of St. Benedict (the Benedictines), just as SJ would indicate that a priest or brother is a member of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) or RSM would show that a woman is a Sister of Mercy.

Other common examples include:

- DC = Daughters of Charity
- FSC = The Brothers of the Christian Schools/Christian Brothers
- OCist = The Order of Cistercians
- OCD = Order of Discalced Carmelites
- OFM = The Order of Friars Minor (the Franciscans)
- OFM Cap = The Capuchin Franciscans
- OP = The Order of Preachers (Dominicans)
- OSF = Franciscan Sisters
- SC = Sisters of Charity
- SDS = Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorian Priests and Brothers and Salvatorian Sisters)
- SSND = School Sisters of Notre Dame
- SVD = Society of the Divine Word (Divine Word Missionaries)

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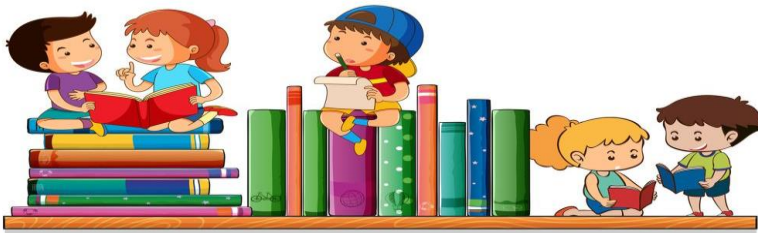
JUNIOR WORDSEARCH Believe in me and you will be saved

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

TRY TO FIND THESE WORDS:

- believe
- down
- everywhere
- Good News
- hand
- heal
- hurt
- languages
- miracles
- right
- sick
- snake

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CREATION CARE TIPS

As we hear the story of the Ascension this week, we think of Jesus going skyward. What do humans send skyward that are harmful to the environment? Balloons, for one. Every balloon released into the air deflates and comes down eventually, and then is often mistaken for food by fish, birds, farm animals, and even pets, leading to harm or even death.

Vow to say “no” to giving balloons as gifts or for using in a party decorations.



NEXT WEEKEND (19th MAY) PENTECOST, Yr B

<p>1st Reading Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 <i>The Spirit comes to the Apostles as tongues of fire.</i></p> <p>Responsorial Psalm Psalm 103:1.24. 29-31 R. v.30 <i>(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.</i></p> <p>2nd Reading Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 <i>Be guided by the Spirit.</i></p> <p>Gospel Acclamation <i>Alleluia, alleluia!</i> <i>Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.</i> <i>Alleluia!</i></p> <p>Gospel John 20:19-23 <i>The Spirit will guide the Apostles to all truth.</i></p>	<p>18 MAY, 6PM Minister at the Altar Jacob Fonseca Eucharistic Ministers Janice Salmon Fiona Ferreira Mary Fonseca Reader 1 Madeline Mostert Reader 2 Stephen Middleton Commentator Marinella Licuanan Music St Joseph's Choir Powerpoint Nanette I. Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Corinne Cerdor Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>19 MAY, 8AM Minister at the Altar Gloria Slade Eucharistic Ministers Pat Dowd Celeste Lapid Elsa Roberto Reader 1 Carol Vella Reader 2 Sarah Damole Commentator Shirley Croning Music Volunteer Needed Powerpoint Louise Bucholtz Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Sara Damole Jun Damole Remia Morada</p>	<p>19 MAY, 9.30AM Minister at the Altar Carol Vella Eucharistic Ministers Michael Paulo Marie Sanosa Nida Hawley Reader 1 Tamara Richards Reader 2 Joanne Staunton Commentator Nida Hawley Music St Augustine's Choir Powerpoint Ivan Fernandes Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Joe Duval Sue Oram Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>19 MAY, 6PM Minister at the Altar Peter Smith Eucharistic Ministers Lena Maclean Robert Lees Romana Cunanan Reader 1 Romana Cunanan Reader 2 Sheila Francis Commentator Joseph Valladores Music Esther Rose Choir Powerpoint Volunteer Needed Junior Servers Volunteer Needed Welcomers Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed</p>
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CLEANERS: Group 1
BANNERS: White

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 12 MAY
Mon 13 May: Our Lady Of Fatima
Tue 14 May: Saint Matthias, Apostle
Wed 15 May: Wednesday Of The Seventh Week Of Easter
Thu 16 May: Thursday Of The Seventh Week Of Easter
Fri 17 May: Friday Of The Seventh Week Of Easter
Sat 18 May: Saint John I, Pope And Martyr

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

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, 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.

Heavenly Celebrations
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**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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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!