

First Sunday of Advent Year C

Advent Begins! The Spirituality of Waiting in Joyful Hope!'



Dear Friends,

This Sunday, the prophet Jeremiah and St Paul put before us the need for watchfulness, that special way of being during Advent - the spirituality of 'waiting in joyful hope' that Jesus taught his disciples. Jeremiah is optimistic about the promise for exiled people and Paul is on the happy pills again - 'May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you.'

Paul invites us to make progress in our following of Jesus - 'Be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints' - an optimistic view of what's possible in the world today. Jesus' opening words in the Gospel name the familiar, harsh reality in which we are to realise this ideal signs in the heavens, nations in agony, the clamour of the ocean and its waves, people dying of fear, the vivid destruction of beautiful cities in war, the threat of climate change in both its predictable and unpredictable effects - the reality setting in which faith is to emerge.

Yet, Jesus tells us that the Son of Man is coming with power and great glory and our liberation is near at hand - the message of joyful hope we need lest the bleakness of world events overcomes us. Advent is about conversion and renewal but is not a penitential season as such, a 'mini-Lent'. It is a liturgical season during which we unpack the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and prepare to meet Christ at Christmas.

Every gospel account is coloured by faith in the Resurrection of Jesus, and our faith can be refreshed as we appreciate the whole story of Jesus born one of us and risen from the dead. Hospitality is the lens through which St Luke sees the life of Jesus, sharing with us the accounts of the Annunciation and Visitation.

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming community, yet how easily people can fall through the cracks, especially visitors and those who for their own reasons do not come often. Jesus offers us the freshness of the Gospel message during this Season of longing and expectation, darkness and light. The thread of light is gradually woven as we light the Advent candles each Sunday and extend a hand of welcome in preparation for the splash of brilliant light that bathes us in our celebration of Christ at Christmas.

In Advent, let us seek to become more strongly the Body of Christ - 'What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.' Fa

01 December 2024

1st Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16 The day is coming when the Lord will fulfil his promises.

> **Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 25.4-5a, 8-9, 10+14 (R.1b) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

2nd Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2 Conduct yourself in a way pleasing to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 85.7 Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

> Gospel Luke 21:25-28. 34-36 Be ready for the second coming.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES

MASS

Monday & Wednesday - 7 am Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 9:05 am Saturday (Vigil) - 6 pm Sunday - 8 am, 9.30 am & 6 pm Public Holiday - 9:05 am

> RECONCILIATION Saturday, 5.00 to 5.45pm

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK First Friday of the month, 9:05 am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT First Friday of the month, 7:30 pm

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION Second Friday of the month, 7:30 pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

First & Third Sunday during school term Vigil Mass on Sat @ 6 pm & Sun Mass @ 9:30 am

FILIPINO MASS First Sunday of the month, 11:30 am

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick by appointment

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH—ST CLAIR

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND



Want to receive the bulletin via e-mail? Email admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au

We are a welcoming parish. No matter your current status in the Catholic Church, family or marital situation, past or present religious affiliation, personal history, age, background, race, color, or sexual orientation regardless of 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 our community, we encourage you to explore what we have to offer. We serve the community through outreach, education, social activities, sacramental preparation, and providing comfort to the sick and those in mourning. In addition to our spiritual and outreach organizations, you may be interested in joining one of our many liturgical ministries, such as Minister of Holy Communion, Lector, Welcomer, or Choir.

To formally register, please fill out a form that will be entered into our parish data system (all information provided will remain confidential). These forms are available at the parish office or in the church foyer.

To learn more about parish life, you can pick up a copy of our Welcome Newsletter available in the foyer or visit this link on our website

https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/wpcontent/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)

We're grateful to those who continue to financially support our parish.

GOD BLESS YOU.

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: <u>https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/mass-prayer-requests/</u>

SICK:

Andrew Boulos, Linda Allen, Fe Uy, Leitu Saena, Michael Hay, Hayden Young, Dot & Joe Gray, Emilia Rose Moya, Giulia & Joseph Caruana, Joel Dizon, Angela Cook, Bella Tassone, Ramon Rivera, Stephen Johns, Alice Grech, Bill Lynch, John Warne, Salvador Espadilla, Jacinta Luisa Ortiz, Ray Yates, Judy Younes Scott, Robert Bucholtz, Yael De Leon, Fr Dave, Ida Martirez, John Cassar, Anecita Meguiso, HPM, Ava Lorna Vaurasi, Anna Drake, Vivian Kaikati, Josephine Borg, Dianne Lautizar, Michelle Edwards, Jose Antonio Rodriguez, Anthony Grech, Monica Moana Conroy, Pat Ferrer, Virginia Peloe, Josephine Attard

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Nydia Ong Gomez, Eugene Fernandez, Lourdes Hernandez, Zenaida Tuazon, Lina Falzon, Maxwell Drysdale, Edith Gonsalvez., Jess P, Segundino Lopez, Patricia Roulston, Sineti Taualupe, Lena Falzon, Pacita Rey Yap, Segundino Lopez, Fr Tony Martis, Kath Goodridge, John Attard, Mary Ahern, James Oliphant, Maria Theresa Apolo, Terry Luce, Nestor Pena

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Kyrus Donell Macalalad, Denham De Silva, Encarnacion & Casiano Vidal Angchangco, Maria Norma Vidal, Sanal Kumar, John Formosa, Rebecca Herft, Rita Borg, Anastacia Pascual Casal, Lilean Farrugia, Ivan Cukman, Marjorie Johnstone, Frank Grima, Charlie Grima, Tessie Saliba, Caitlyn Galea, Fortunata Lim , Bhey Valladores, Pat Agudo, Andeng Sta. Cruz, Elaine & Lionel Bosen, Domingo Santiago, Maria Laroche-Coralie, Douglas Oliver, Manfred Schwill, Sofia & Fermin Falcatan, Renato Falcatan, Rogelio, Emidio & Elma Tuualinan, Doreen Herft, Betsy Saldanha, Mary Mascarehas, Joseph Rebello, Benita Decena Bunagan, Denzil Baxter, Arnel Bulaong, Tapu Apikatoa, Helen Saldanhana, Alwyn Suares, Desmond Wood, Jeanne Marie Blake, Emanwel Gauci, Leslie Kiss, Nenu Facciol, Rosalia Berin, Larry O'Connell, Marilou Pena Ramirez, Choi Pena Ramirez and Anna Belle Pena Cartasano, Ricardo, Dunstan, George & Denham Herft, Josephine & Joseph Sant

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

Donation by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Account Name: Holy Spirit Parish St Clair

Bank: CBA

BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 000 005 78

Please enter your Surname and Initial as a reference.

HEARERS OF THE WORD

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA - www.tarsus.ie

Lord, inspire me to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night. I beg you to give me real understanding of what I read, that I in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet, I know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So I ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page. but channels of grace into my heart. Amen. (Origen, AD c.184-c.254)

GOSPEL : Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand."

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If you were to wish people a happy new year today, they would in all probability find it awkward. Nevertheless, we do start a new Christian year with the season of Advent. The different seasons reminds of important aspects of being Christian, one of which is the conviction that we may always begin again and start new. Last Sunday, we looked back and today we look forward: what are my hopes for the coming Christian year? How am I now? How would I like to be, as a believer, this time next year? What steps will I take to make that a reality?

PRAYER

O God, we believe that your mercies are new every morning and that your faithfulness is abundant. Come to our help as we start afresh our path of discipleship in this season of longing. AMEN.

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- 1. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seemed that your world was collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc. When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognise the double movement of collapse and liberation.
- 2. Jesus himself is the model in this gospel story as he taught his disciples the spirituality of "waiting in joyful hope." What difference has watchfulness (in the sense of being watchful in prayer) made to you in facing difficult situations?
- 3. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something woke you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, for example, through love, beauty, nature and so forth?

PRAYER

God, our saviour, you utter a word of promise and hope and hasten the day of justice and freedom, yet we live in a world forgetful of your word, our watchfulness dulled by the cares of life. Keep us alert. Make us attentive to your word, ready to look on your Son when he comes with power and great glory. Make us holy and blameless, ready to stand secure when the day of his coming shakes the world with terror. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM FR DAVE

Dear friends.

Thank you for your beautiful cards and kind 'get well ' wishes this past week and the many other texts and calls during my time of recuperation from both Parish and schools. Your messages of concern and prayers have been a great support these past 7 weeks.

My recovery is going well and I am hopeful that I will be able to walk again by mid-December. Foot surgery is a very delicate process but it will be worth it in the long term. As yet I do not know when I can return but will keep you posted. God bless you all.

Fr Dave.

BINGO NIGHT UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who supported, attended, and helped at our parish BINGO Night. We raised \$683.00 for the parish. Special thanks to the Community and Cultural Commission, led by Dudley Littlewood.

FIESTA 2024 - THANK YOU!

TO ALL OUR 2024 PARISH FIESTA SPONSORS & DONORS

Amazing Grace Enterprises, St. Clair Able Choice P/L, NDIS Provider, Blacktown Lionel Kyd Painting & Decorating, St. Clair One Kind Box Eco Gift Hampers, www.onekindbox.com.au Heavenly Celebrations, St. Marys Marthese Grima, Piety Stall **Revolutions**, St. Marys St. Marys Pharmacy, St. Marys Michels Patisserie, St. Clair Sargents Pies, Colyton Melville Road Bakery, St. Clair MediAdvice Pharmacy, St. Clair FoodWorks, St. Clair Blue Cattle Dog, St. Clair

We appreciate all the support extended to the Holy Spirit Parish Fiesta by the above businesses and families. We encourage you to support them.

A big THANK YOU to the Fiesta Committee and the generous volunteers and families of the parish who have contributed in any way to the success of our celebration.

FIESTA UNCLAIMED PRIZE

The third prize of the Fiesta raffle is yet to be claimed. Ticket # Black A26. Please contact the parish office to claim your prize.



St Vincent de Paul Society good works

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024

This year our conference has assisted our friends in need in St Clair, Erskine Park and Colvton.

It's that time of year again when we launch our annual Christmas Appeal for food and gifts.

Storing and distributing of hampers has become a challenge for us. If you can find it in your heart to donate a gift card or cash rather than an actual gift it would be beneficial to our mission. It would eliminate handling/ wrapping and storage. Gift cards are easy to pop into a Christmas card, and our friends can choose something they would like, suggestions could be Visa, Hoyts, Kmart or Big W vouchers. This way each child in the family can choose an age-appropriate gift of equal value.

In previous years you have also generously supported with donations of food items. We will accept and distribute these food items but again we would prefer if you could assist with a food voucher instead (Coles, ALDI or Woolworths card), of any denomination. How nice would it be for our friends to receive a voucher to enable them to purchase fresh meat and vegetables for Christmas?

Please return all gift cards or donations to the parish office addressed in an envelope marked St Vincent De Paul St Clair Conference by Monday 9th December. Or drop them in the Vinnies Christmas box at the back of the church.

Remember if you choose to donate food and gifts they are stored before distribution so please consider the heat and don't include things such as chocolates or sweets which may melt.

Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving to those who need it most.

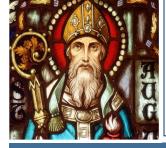
Thank you so very much for your continued support of our parish conference.

We wish you and your families many blessings at this very special time of year.

Lectio Divina: Praying with the Scriptures										JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE ORDINATION TO THE SACRED ORDER					
We invite you to join our Advent Lectio Divina - Praying with the Scriptures on all Thursdays of Advent: December 5, 12, and 19. You can choose to attend either the morning session at 10:00 AM or the evening session at 7:30 PM. Fr. Peter and Fr. Saju will facil- itate the morning session, while Fr. Percival will lead the evening session. Come and be nourished by the living Word of God.								19. AM acil-		OF PRIESTHOOD OF iselph Van Tu Nguyen, osa MASS OF ORDINATION 7. 12. 2024 Il:00AM, St Kieran's Church, Manly Vale					
	CATHOLIC FOUNDATION Homeless young mothers and their children desperately										THANKSGIVING MASS 8.12.2024 9:30AM, St Kieran's Church, Manly Vale Refreshments to follow both Masses. Please bring a plate to share.				
Bi	need your help this Christmas Bishop's Christmas Appeal Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will provide practical and emotional support, and a safe haven to call home.								DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION FRIDAY, 7.30 PM						
	parracatholic.org/appeal								13 Decemb	er					
CHRISTMAS 24 DECEMBER 6 PM—Family Mass 8:30 PM—Carols 9 PM—Mass 11:30 PM—Carols						MASS TIMES 25 DECEMBER 12 Midnight Mass 8 AM Mass 9:30 AM Mass No 6 PM Mass on Christmas Day							ау		Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help on Zoom Every Wednesday @ 7:30 PM Meeting ID: 896 9388 2850 Passcode: 254 695
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"Now (Advent) is the time of mercy, a time for us to correct ourselves.

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The time for judgment has not yet come. There is no need to despair. Because of our human, pardonable and more trivial sins, God has established in the Church set times for requesting mercy. We have a daily medicine in our saying 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us', so that we may share in the Body and Blood of Christ."

St Augustine, Sermon 17, 5

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A warm welcome to Grace

SAFEGUARDING is everyone's responsibility



We are pleased to announce our new Parish Administrative Assistant, Grace, who will begin her work with us on Tuesday, 3rd December '24. We wish Grace a fruitful time in parish. our

Combined Choir for Christmas Midnight Mass

We invite anyone interested in joining the combined choir for the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve to attend rehearsals from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM on Wednesdays, December 11 and 18, in the Church



ANOINTING MASS - FRIDAY- 6 DEC- 9:05 AM



RECONCILIATION IS AVAILABLE AT 8 AM



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

7:30-8:30 PM FRIDAY

6 DECEMBER

Reconciliation will also be available

PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

On Sunday, December 29, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in Rome, officially beginning the Jubilee Year - the Year of Hope.

For resources and the official Jubilee Prayer, please scan the QR code.



Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People



Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair is committed to celebrating and safeguarding the involvement of young people in our communities. We believe that young individuals are valuable members of our church family, and their voices, ideas, and contributions are essential.



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 10th December** 7.00pm. Presenter will be Joyce McMahon.

With joyful hearts , we welcome our newly baptized.

🔞 COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



NEXT WEEKEND (8 DECEMBER): 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

1st Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off your robe of mourning, put on the splendour of glory.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3 The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

2ND READING

Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

He who has begun the good work in you will bring it to completion.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Luke 3:4. 6 Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance.

Cleaners:	Group 5
Banners: Vi	olet

Ministries	7 Dec, 6 PM	8 Dec, 8 AM	8 Dec, 9.30 AM	8 Dec, 6 PM			
Ministry of the Altar	Lorensz Herft	Madeline Mostert	Anthony Ber- tumen	Edward De Leon			
Eucharistic Ministers	Dita Sy Moira Rebello Janice Salmon	Belen Leynes Dawn Timmins Margaret Portelli	Ken Allen Cathy Allen Jenny Kyd	Kate Blasco Esther Rose Robert Lees			
Reader 1	Hazel Littlewood	Dawn Timmins	Ray Zafra	Candice Salmon			
Reader 2	Stephen Middleton	Manuel Fidow	Eileen Baana	Marty Facciol			
Commentator	Florence Pusey	Sally Banguis	Uinise Blake	Kate Blasco			
Music	Victor Brangwin	Pierre D'Cunha	Mary Immaculate Choir	Alleluia Choir (Joy Rulewski)			
PowerPoint	Volunteer Needed	Christine Younes	Boy Sanosa	Thomas Deepu			
Junior Servers	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed			
Welcomers	Terry Serrao Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Sarah Damole Jun Damole Espy Sarno	Jenny Kyd Sue Oram Volunteer Needed	Eleanor Stuart Esther Rose Volunteer Needed			
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 1 DECEMBER							

Mon 2 Dec: Monday of the 1st Week of Advent Tues 3 Dec: St Francis Xavier, priest Wed 4 Dec: Wednesday of the 1st Week of Advent Thursday of the 1st Week of Advent 5 Dec:

Friday of the 1st Week of Advent

St Ambrose, Doctor of the Church 7 Dec:

	Holy Spirit Parish St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995 Diocese of Parramatta www.parra.catholic.org.au
Facebook Parish Office	Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park OHoly Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry OBASICGIFT (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 4pm (Monday to Friday) Emergency after hours only M 0404 938 696 (NEW NUMBER)
Priory	3 Peter Pan Glen, St Clair , NSW, 2759
Parish Staff	Parish Moderator: Fr Percival Sevare, OSAP0296708222Epp@holyspiritstclair.com.auAsst Pastor: Fr Dave Austin, OSAP0296708222Edaustin@holyspiritstclair.com.auAsst Pastor: Fr Peter Tangey, OSAP0296708222Eptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.auAsst Pastor: Fr Joseph Aresseril Jacob"Saju", OSA P0296708222Esaju@holyspiritstclair.com.auAdmin Assistant: Grace ColquhounP0296708222Eadmin@holyspiritstclair.com.auParish Bookkeeper: Mila LlamasP0296708222Eaccounts@holyspiritstclair.com.auSRE Coordinator (Catechists): Peter MoriartyP0296708222Esre@holyspiritstclair.com.auSacramental Coordinator: Germaine GilM0451279934Esacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.auSafeguarding Parish Support Officer:Elsa RobertoP0296708222Esafeguarding@holyspiritstclair.com.au
Parish Council	 Chair: Dominic Dimech Secretary: Paola Dicenso Members: Jamie Dowsett, Gus Morgan, Michael Paulo, Carol Vella, Andrea Bouche, Seaview Kama, Eleanor Stuart, Fr Percival Sevare OSA, Fr Dave Austin OSA, Fr Peter Tangey OSA, Fr Saju OSA
Schools/Colleg	 ge 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

Thu

Fri

Sat

6 Dec:

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Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldnot be able to bring our bulletin every week without them, and they need your help too. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times! *Thank you*.



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:

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!

