

## **HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**



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















Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta

**Second Sunday of Advent Year C** 

A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord.

Luke 3:4

Dear Friends,

In the last few months I had the privilege of presiding at the Eucharist at Emmaus College, on the Assumption in August and at the Graduation Mass in September. I asked this question - **How many of you have ever written a song?** 

Few, if any, raised their hands but I trust the question wasn't wasted because I was really asking a question about life. As the Year 12s completed their formal schooling, I wanted to remind them that the life of each of us is like a song. God is writing a special song in the heart of each of us — not just for us but for our parents, our family, friends, those we love very much, and for our world.

Song or not, God has planted in the heart of each great goodness, lots of love, special plans for our life, a great capacity to do a lot of good. The prophet Baruch invites Jerusalem to step beyond sorrow and distress and let the beauty of God be seen. Her name will be 'peace through integrity' — a reminder that we light the Peace candle on our Advent wreath this weekend. St Paul shares the joy he experiences when he prays for his people — a joy we should find in our prayer.

Singer or not, John the Baptist's message inspired a significant song in the very joyful 1970s Rock Musical *Godspell*? - 'Prepare the way of the Lord....' By the way, Godspell predated all the students and most of the Emmaus parents too!

Each year, the Advent liturgies help us to unwrap the mystery of God with us. As we watch and wait for Christ, the following reflections may be helpful:

Awake in God's love. Move in God's love. Sleep in God's love.

Do everything for the love of God. A look, a smile, a friendly word is enough to gladden and uplift a wounded heart.

Let Jesus stay with you today. No need for any beautiful thoughts – speak with Him heart to heart. Jesus called his disciples to 'be vigilant at all times', a warning for all not to become 'sleepy Christians' who are 'anesthetized by spiritual worldliness.' 'Dozing off' spiritually leads to inertia, apathy, indifference to everything except what is comfortable for us. May the peace of Christ touch our hearts.

08 December 2024

1st Reading
Baruch 5:1-9
Take off your robe of mourning,
put on the splendour of glory.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 126.1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6
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.

#### **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,  $7:30\,\,\text{pm}$ 

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

# Welcome

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 foy-

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/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)

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,

#### SICK:

Ava Lorna Vaurasi, Anna Drake, Vivian Kaikati, John Cassar, Josephine Borg, Dianne Lautizar, Michelle Edwards, Jose Antonio Rodriguez, Anthony Grech, Monica Moana Conroy, Pat Ferrer, Virginia Peloe, Josephine Attard, Andrew Pirotta, Tony Teodoro, Maureen Geoghegan

#### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Eugene Fernandez, Lourdes Hernandez, Zenaida Tuazon, Lena Falzon, Maxwell Drysdale, Edith Gonsalvez, Nydia Ong Gomez, 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, Faustina Sandot, Baby Edmund Galea

#### **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:**

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, Joy 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 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.""

#### Thought for the day

The feats of engineering hinted at in the citations from Isaiah may seem physically daunting but are even more of a challenge on the intended spiritual level. The highway is for our God— and we could ask what in me impedes his way, how do I block the arrival of the Lord in my life? More positively, I could ask myself what do I do so that the Gospel may come alive in my life? With such cooperation from me, the Lord can and will bring to completion what he has begun.

#### **Prayer**

O God, you search me and you know me. Help me to know myself better; help me acknowledge and set aside the blocks to your coming. You have indeed begun a good work in me and, in spite of my hesitations and resistance, I too want it to be brought to completion under your graceful care. Amen.

#### **POINTERS FOR PRAYER**

- 1. The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?
- John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.
- 3. Behind the quotation from Isaiah lies the practice of preparing festival routes for religious celebrations. Isaiah visualises such a celebration to celebrate the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. Can you recall a particularly memorable Advent? What happened? Think of how you can do it this year.

#### **PRAYER**

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Make our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. 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.

#### **PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS**

#### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

#### **24 DECEMBER**

6 PM—Family Mass 8:30 PM—Carols 9 PM—Mass

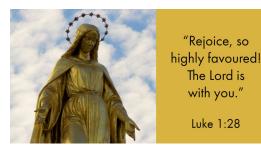
#### **25 DECEMBER**

12 Midnight Mass 8 AM Mass 9:30 AM Mass No 6 PM Mass on Christmas Day



## MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday
09 December 2024
7 AM and 6 PM
Rosary at 5:30 PM



#### SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 21 December 2024 4 PM – 5:45 PM

#### **BLESSING OF MINISTERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

At each mass on the weekend of 14 & 15 December, all parishioners who are involved in parish ministries and volunteer work will receive a special blessing. This is our way of acknowledging your invaluable support for the parish and expressing our gratitude for your dedicated service to our faith community.



### 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 Colyton.

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 ageappropriate 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 tao 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 parisha conference.

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

#### **2025 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

#### **FIRST RECONCILIATION (YEAR 3)**

- Bookings available from 13 January 2025
- Parent Information & Catechesis
  - ♦ Tuesday 11 February 5pm or Wednesday 12 Feb 6pm
- Preparation Sessions will be in February (3 weeks)
- First Reconciliation: 8, 12, 15 March

#### **CONFIRMATION (Year 5)**

- Bookings available from 14 April 2025
- Parent Information & Catechesis
  - ♦ Tuesday 13 May 5pm or Wednesday 14 May 6pm
- Preparation Sessions will be in May (3 weeks)
- Confirmation Masses: June (dates yet to be confirmed)

#### **FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4)**

- Bookings available from 1 July 2025
- Parent Information & Catechesis
  - ◆ Tuesday 12 August 5pm or Wednesday 13 August 6pm
- Preparation Sessions will be in August (3 weeks)
- First Communion Masses
  - ♦ 6 September 3pm, 13 September 3pm,
  - ♦14 September 12pm, and 20 September 3pm

#### Lectio Divina: Praying with the Scriptures

We invite you to join our Advent Lectio Divina - Praying with the Scriptures on the remaining Thursdays of Advent: December 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 facilitate the morning session, while Fr. Percival will lead the evening session. Come and be nourished by the living Word of God.



FRIDAY, 7.30 PM 13 December

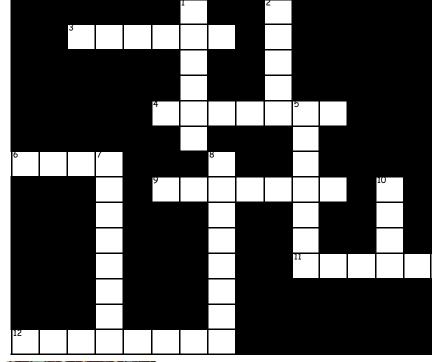




**Novena to Our Mother** of Perpetual Help on Zoom

Every Wednesday @ 7:30 PM

Meeting ID: 896 9388 2850



#### **CROSSWORD** Make a straight path for the Lord

#### ACROSS:

- 3: the low land between hills
- 4: someone who speaks on behalf of God
- 6: bad deeds
- 9: something that is not straight
- 11: to be prepared
- 12: Jesus lets our sins be \_\_\_\_\_

#### DOWN:

- a barren land 1:
- not smooth 2:
- the ruler of an empire 5:
- 7: speaking in a loud voice
- a very high land mass 8:
- 10: a passage for travelling

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"Now (Advent) is the time of mercy, a time for us to correct ourselves. 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

#### A warm welcome to Grace



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

#### **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.



## ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY ONLINE Pastoral training programs

## Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion: Training starts 25 February 2025

This comprehensive multimedia training program will enable new and experienced ministers to gain the skills and confidence needed for this important liturgical ministry. The 5-week online program provides rich and engaging content in a supportive environment. The program is led by an experienced liturgy instructor and features many opportunities for questions and interaction with others.

#### Ministers of the Word;

#### Program starts 24 February 2025

This four-week training program for Ministers of the Word has been created by Australian liturgy specialists in order to foster and develop the skills of new and existing ministers. The online program features quality liturgical content and offers practical exercises in a supportive and engaging environment.

The cost of the program is \$100. If interested, contact the parish office.



#### SAFEGUARDING is everyone's responsibility

## 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.

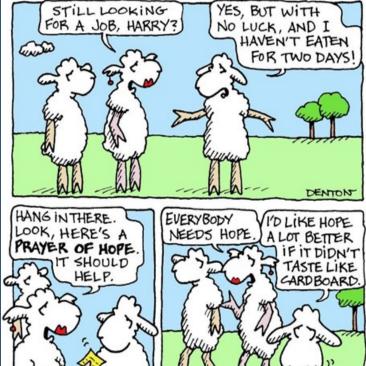


#### **BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING**

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.

Valentine Ajeel Tuala



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"Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing."

#### Sheepish Question:

How can I bring real hope to someone suffering in a difficult time?

#### **NEXT WEEKEND (15 DECEMBER): 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C**

#### 1st Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18 Shout for joy, sing joyfully.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6 (R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice, the Lord is near.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18) Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL

Lue 3:10-18

*John announce the coming of* the Messiah.

#### Cleaners: Group 1

Banners: Rose / Pink

Ministries	14 Dec, 6 PM	15 Dec, 8 AM	15 Dec, 9.30 AM	15 Dec, 6 PM
Ministry of the Altar	Jacob Fonseca	Gloria Slade	Bert Llamas	Peter Smith
Eucharistic Ministers	Dalton Gonzalves Fiona Ferreira Mary Fonseca	Pat Dowd Celeste Lapid Elsa Roberto	Michael Paulo Marie Sanosa Nida Hawley	Lena Maclean Peter Moriarty Romana Cunanan
Reader 1	Dudley Littlewood	Sarah Damole	Joanne Staunton	Sheila Francis
Reader 2	Marinella Licuanan	Shirley Croning	Nida Hawley	Hieu Le
Commentator	Madeline Mostert	Carol Vella	Volunteer Needed	Romana Cunanan
Music	St Joseph's Choir	Peter Mercia	St Augustine's Choir	Esther Rose Choir
PowerPoint	Volunteer Needed	Louise Bucholtz	Ivan Fernandes	Volunteer Needed
Junior Servers	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Welcomers	Selwyn Oliveira Sonia Oliveira Vol- unteer Needed	Sarah Damole Jun Damole Remia Morada	Joe Duval Sue Oram Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

#### **OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 8 DECEMBER**

9 Dec: The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Mon

(Solemnity)

Tues 10 Dec: Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent Wed 11 Dec: Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent Thu 12 Dec: Thursday of the Second Week of Advent 13 Dec: St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr (Memorial) Fri

Sat 14 Dec: St John of the Cross, *Priest, Doctor* (Memorial)

#### 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

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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 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, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au

> Asst Pastor: Fr Dave Austin, OSA P 02 9670 8222 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" , OSA P 02 9670 8222 E saju@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Admin Assistant: Grace Colguhoun P 02 9670 8222 E admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au

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 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/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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186 Queen Street (Star Arcade), St Marys NSW 2760

## Bateman Battersby

WY

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

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- Family Law
- Business Law
- Negligence Law
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#### 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!

