

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

Third Sunday of Advent Year C

Someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals.



Advent - 'Gaudete! - Offering Joy to the World!'

Dear Friends.

At this time in our World and in our Church, it seems presumptuous to focus on Joy, even more so to offer Joy to the World! We experience confusion of spirit as we behold the unspeakable conflicts that bring destruction of human life, homes, cultures, achievement and hope. At times, Joy is elusive, even invisible, in the lives of people and nations.

As Christians, we and our world need the message of joy proclaimed so enthusiastically in today's Scriptures – not in a superficial, feelgood sense, but in the depth of God's promise in the prophecy of Zephaniah and St Paul's letter to the Philippians.

I suggest that we share 'respectful Joy', mindful of the desperation of so many in our world, joy that does not invite us to escape reality but rather to be more proactive in sharing God's gift. I find comfort and confidence in the reflection of the late Fr Russell Hardiman commenting on the holy joy proclaimed by Zephaniah:

'Such joy cannot be so self-contained. It must become a shout.... a heart-exulting rejoicing that would wake up anyone who had fallen asleep in a world gone sadly awry. This is no put-on-a-happy-face joy that denies the past or masks the truth, but a grace-inspired joy, joy inspired by God...' (Pastoral Liturgy Vol 43,1).

We Christians must share the Joy of the Advent Season as we continue to sing Alleluia on this *Gaudete Sunday*, meaning *'Rejoice!'* Pope Francis writes:

'The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.... With Christ joy is constantly born anew.' (Joy of the Gospel n 1),

Today we light the rose-coloured candle which contrasts with the purple of the other candles in the Advent Wreath which symbolise our call to repent as we prepare to remember the coming of Christ. The rose candle is associated with the theme of Joy, and the green circle of the wreath symbolises the constant love of God and our hope of eternal life in Christ.

Last weekend, we Augustinians celebrated the Ordination of Deacon Tu to the Priesthood, an occasion of great joy and hope for the Church here and in Vietnam. As we prepare for Christmas, let's spread our Joy:

- Name the Joy in our lives as the Advent themes awaken our hearts;
- Where there is no love, put love, and you will draw out love... today's challenge;
- Before receiving the Eucharist today, let the words, 'Come, Lord Jesus!' penetrate into your deepest self.

Fr Dom

15 December 2024

1st Reading
Zephaniah 3:14-18
Shout for joy, sing joyfully.

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

2nd ReadingPhilippians 4:4-7
Rejoice, the Lord is near.

Gospel Acclamation
Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)
Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the
Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring
Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel
Luke 3:10-18
John announces the coming of the
Messiah.

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

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 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/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, go to: https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/mass-prayer-requests/. We ask you to please submit your prayer intentions a few days before preferred

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, Michael Hay, Thomas Nguyen Xuan Huu

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, Blesilda Tan Dee, Eileen Macartney, Barbara Springette, Ronny Abela, Ann Flores, Michael Heise, Morris Zoeller, Rowena Dupaya

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Leslie Kiss, Nenu Facciol, Rosalia Berin, Larry O'Connell, Marilou Pena Ramirez, Joy Choi Pena Ramirez and Anna Belle Pena Cartasano, Ricardo, Dunstan & George Herft, Denham DeSilva, Josephine & Joseph Sant, Zac and Diana Fernandez, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, George & Eva Gonzales, Mario Reyes, Pedro Sealtiel, David Lee Wallace, Shayamalee Mendis, Raymundo Balao, Valeria Licuanan, Angel Laurencio, Alberto Macadangdang Jr, Lira Monteiro, Victor Fernandez

Names submitted to Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time.

Please contact admin if you have an ongoing illness and wish to remain on the sick list for longer than 4 weeks.

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 3:10-18

And the crowds asked John, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Thought for the day

"What then should we do?" is both obvious and pertinent. In the maelstrom of life, it is good to stand back and discern what is being asked of me in the many contexts of life: family member, spouse, parent, disciple, leader, pastor, evangeliser and so forth. In these different roles, how should I be, what should I do so as to enable others too to full their own callings, as family member, spouse etc. As in the teaching of John the Baptism, our responses are authentic only if they are practical, down-to-earth and real.

Prayer

Help me, Lord, to recognise in the everyday what you desire of me. Help me to see what are the practical steps I can take from today onwards so as to be a better disciple of your son, Jesus, the coming one, whom John proclaims today to all who would listen.

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- 1. "What should we do?" The common thread in John's answers was to encourage his questioners to be other-centred rather than selfcentred, each in the context of their own circumstances. In your experience what difference has it made for you when you changed your attitude in this way?
- what they should do. Perhaps you have had friends who did not beat about the bush but have told you honestly what they thought about your behaviour when you asked them? In gratitude recall such friends.
- happy to acknowledge that he only had a minor role to play in relation to the Messiah. At the same time he was enthused by his mission to "proclaim the good news to the people."

 What difference has it made for you when you were able to see the good in yourself, and use your gifts without having to score by portraying yourself as greater than someone else?

PRAYER

Almighty God, you sent your Son into a world where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff and evil clings even to what is good. Let the re of your Spirit purge us of greed and deceit, so that, purified, we may find our peace in you and you may delight in us. Grant this through him whose coming is certain, 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

25 DECEMBER

6 PM Family Mass 8:30 PM Carols

12 Midnight Mass 8 AM Mass

11:30 PM Carols

9 PM Mass

9:30 AM Mass.

No 6 PM Mass on Christmas Day

SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR RECONCILIATION

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

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

We invite the children to dress up as angels and shepherds to help us celebrate the birth of our Lord.

If your child would like to be a part of the Christmas Eve Family Mass dance, which will take place during the Gospel, we have a practice on Wednesday 18th of December, at Holy Spirit Parish Church, 4:00 – 4:45pm.

For questions or RSVPS

Contact

Karen: 0423974801 or Trina 0411344613

BLESSING OF MINISTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

This weekend, during all Masses, we will express our heartfelt gratitude to all members of our parish community involved in various ministries and volunteer work through a special blessing. The Augustinians are deeply thankful for your invaluable support and dedicated service to our faith community.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



FOR CHRISTMAS SET UP

Monday 23rd Dec at 7pm

AND TO CLEAN UP

Wednesday 25th Dec at 10.30am

We need volunteers to help us set up the chairs for Christmas Masses on the school side and also help pack them away and clean up. If you can help us please come on the dates and times listed.

PARISH OFFICE INFORMATION

After Christmas, the Parish Office will be on limited hours for most of January. For urgent matters, please email Mila Llamas (accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au) OR leave a phone message on the parish number (9670 8222) OR call the Parish Emergency Number (0404 938 696).

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CATHOLIC CARE'S HOUSES TO HOMES

Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your generous support of homeless mothers and children. Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal has raised over \$1,912.75, ensuring Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.

2025 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION (YEAR 3)

Bookings available from 13 January 2025

Parent Information & Catechesis:

Tuesday 11 February5pm or Wednesday12 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 May5pm or Wednesday14 May 6pm

Preparation Sessions will be in May (3 weeks)

Confirmation Masses: June (dates TBC)

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
 - 20 September 3pm

Lectio Divina: Praying with the Scriptures

We invite you to join our last Advent Lectio Divina - Praying with the Scriptures— December 19. You can choose to attend either the morning session at 10:00 AM (Fr Peter and Fr Saju) or the evening session at 7:30 PM (Fr Percival). Come and be nourished by the living Word of God.



Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help on Zoom

Every Wednesday @7:30 PM Meeting ID: 896 9388 2850

Passcode: 254 695

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH His name will be Jesus

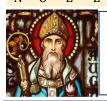
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Try to find these words: Afraid Confused Elizabeth Gabriel Holy Israel

Nazareth Servant Son © 2004



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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."

Jesus

Mary

Joseph

St Augustine, Sermon 17, 5

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 Wednesday, December 18, in the Church.





Come along and experience:

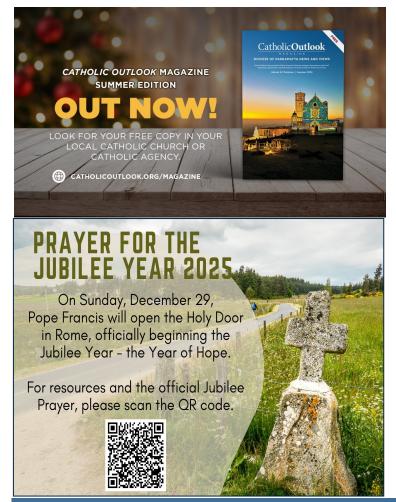
Prayer, Daily Mass, Fellowship, Adoration, Praise and Worship, Friendship, Talks and much more!

1-10th JANUARY: Young Adults

8-10th JANUARY: Families and Married Couples

Please email admin@holypiritstclair.com.au for full flyer or more information.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 15TH DECEMBER



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 14th January** 7.00pm. Presenter will be Michael Zammit.

Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2025

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in 2025 in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. To enrol and for more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795

or <u>lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org</u> . Registrations close 28th January, 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.

Catholic Care Mamre Supported Playgroup

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering a free supported playgroup which operates on Thursdays from 10am to 12pm during school terms at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Supported Playgroup on (02) 8843 2506.

Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal Office

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to offer advice and assistance regarding marriage annulments and dissolution of marriages. Interviews are preferably conducted in person with Zoom and telephone interviews in special circumstances. Please contact the Tribunal Office on (02) 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org.

NEXT WEEKEND (22 DECEMBER): 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

1ST **READING**Micah 5:1-4
The Lord foretells the coming of the Messiah from Bethlehem.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4 (R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2ND READING

Hebrews: 10:5-10 Paul reveals Jesus as the new sacrificial offering.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 1:38
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the
Lord: may his will for me
be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45
Mary visits Elizabeth

Cleaners: Group 2

Banners: Violet

Ministries	14 Dec, 6 PM	15 Dec, 8 AM	15 Dec, 9.30 AM	15 Dec, 6 PM
Ministry of the Altar	Hieu Le	Victor Brangwin	Alice Zafra	Hieu Le
Eucharistic Ministers	Lea Jadraque Margaret Portelli Volunteer Needed	Gloria Slade Fiona Ferreira Chris Younes	Nilo Gajo Marthese Grima Anabel Jader	Lumen Decena Peter Smith Robert Lees
Reader 1	Romeo Prieto	Millie Perez	Michael Paulo	Jodie Donlan
Reader 2	Lea Jadraque	Espy Sarno	Carmen Marcelo	Robert Lees
Commentator	Janice Salmon	Louise Bucholtz	Tina Fernandes	Genevieve
Music	Couples for Christ		Young Voices Choir (Luchie)	BASIC GIFT
PowerPoint	Volunteer Needed	Manuel Fidow	Volunteer Needed	BASIC GIFT
Junior Servers	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Welcomers	Terry Serrao Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Espy Sarno Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Joe Duval Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Eleanor Stuart Esther Rose Volunteer Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 15 DECEMBER

Mon 16 Dec: Monday of the Third Week of Advent
Tues 17 Dec: Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent
Wed 18 Dec: Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent
Thu 19 Dec: Thursday of the Third Week of Advent

Fri 20 Dec: Saint Peter Canisius, *Priest, Doctor of the Church*

Sat 21 Dec: Saturday of the Third Week of Advent

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 OHoly Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry OBASICGIFT (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 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 Colquhoun 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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P: 02 9623 6656 M: 0418 250 242 E: michelle@heavenlycelebrations.com.au

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:

- Property Law
- Family Law
- Business Law
- Negligence Law
- Wills & Estates Court Appearances

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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!

