

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

22 December 2024



Dear Friends,

Often in the liturgy we hear mention of 'Israel' referring to God's Chosen People in the Advent readings and in the Old Testament psalms from which the Church draws the responses to the Mass readings and the hours of the Prayer of the Church that priests, religious and others pray daily. Especially in times of trial, the verses of the ancient psalms jump off the page – I recall the 9/11 tragedy when these prayers came alive, true also in our time as the Scriptures vision of the House of Israel is tested by current world events.

As our Advent journey nears its end, our focus this Sunday completes the portrait of God's engagement with us through Hope, Peace, Joy and now Love as he continues to remake our world in the coming of Christ. Anglican priest Rachel Mann (The Tablet 30 November 2024) reminds us that the 'waiting' of Advent continues to offer many

positives: 'In Christ's Incarnation, we are invited to live in God's time and reality rather than become overwhelmed by our human understanding of what is going on.' In God's story, fear, death and anxiety are not the final words.

Let's allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the wonder of God, that moment when our words and capacity to understand fail us. Each Christmas, it may seem that we are just beginning again but hopefully our appreciation of God's love for us in the gift of Jesus is being refreshed each year.

The sense of wonder that grows in our hearts during Advent opens us to what is possible, how things might be, and helps us move beyond the grim negativity to which we are so easily prone as individuals and in society.

Today's Gospel describes the power of friendship in family life as Mary visits Elizabeth. Mary, a virgin 14 or 15 years of age, conceiving the one foretold by the prophets, meets her childless, elderly cousin conceiving too. Let's affirm the power of love and friendship in our family life also and trust the mystery of God's surprising plan.

Like these women, you and I are called to look beyond our own needs to the needs of others. Even in our troubled world, 'Come, Lord Jesus!' is always our prayer – our prayer of cosmic hope, our affirmation of Jesus as Lord, our hunger for God as the only one to whom we can surrender, our pledge in Pope Francis' words: '... to open our hearts to God's loving kindness and to respond to His call to be gentle, respectful, and caring for others.'

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

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

Virginia Peloe, Josephine Attard, Andrew Pirotta, Tony Teodoro, Maureen Geoghegan, Michael Hay, Thomas Nguyen Xuan Huu, Fe Uy, Judy Younes Scott, Robert Bucholtz, Yael De Leon, Ida Martirez, John Cassar, Joe & Dot Gray, John Carr

RECENTLY DECEASED

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, Nellie Santiago, Tyrone Rosayro, Edith Gonsalves, Lily Ricafrente, Benjie Santiago

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, Christopher Dowsett, Maria Ceballos, Serafin Bermudez, Felizardo Buiser, Norman Craig, Felix & Natividad Martinez

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 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Thought for the day

Even in its resolutely secular form, the Christmas celebration has positive sides to it. People do try very hard to get together with close family and friends. It might help to reflect in advance on this seasonal intensity of encounter. What do I hope for? What do I bring? How can I/we be so that we are not simply in the same physical space but truly meet each other and are the better for it? There should be some leap of joy, so that at the end of the festivities, we are glad we made the effort.

Prayer

God of all loving, bless all our encounters this Christmas. Help us to be both kind and joyful, so that all whom we meet will be the better for it. Inspire us to know when a word of witness will lift the celebration and enable family and friends to get to the heart of it all. Amen

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- 1. The greeting of Elizabeth to Mary "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb" is a joyful welcome of the child to come. Bringing new life into the world through pregnancy and birth is one of the most awesome human experiences. How have you experienced this for yourself or in someone close to you?
- The image of the pregnant Mary going a distance to visit her cousin is a symbol of willingness to look beyond one's own needs to the needs of others. When have you witnessed that kind of generosity in others, or have been able to act in this way yourself?
- 3. Mary is praised for her faith, because she believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In what ways have you experienced blessings from your faith and trust in God's promises?

PRAYER

Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your Word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him 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
11:30 PM Carols

25 DECEMBER
12 Midnight Mass
8 AM Mass
9:30 AM Mass.

No 6 PM Mass on Christmas Day

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).





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"We are God's children now; ... we shall be like him."

Sheepish Question:

Recognizing my own shortcomings, how can I strengthen--and be strengthed by--God's holy family?

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 the 24th of December, at Holy Spirit Parish Church, 5pm (before the family Mass)

To RSVP please contact:

Karen: 0423974801

Trina 0411344613



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS SET UPMonday 23rd Dec at 7pm

Monday 23¹⁴ 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.

Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese

There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At parracatholic.org you can find Christmas and New Year Mass times, Reconciliation and Adoration Near Me, and Christmas Carols and Nativity plays. Go to: https://parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/

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:

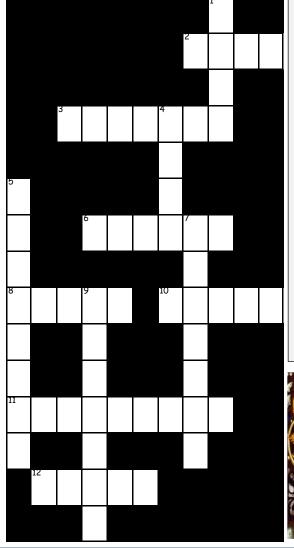
 Tuesday 12 August 5pm or Wednesday 13 August 6pm

Preparation Sessions will be in August (3 weeks)

First Communion Masses

- 6 September 3pm
- 13 September 3pm
- 14 September 12pm
- 20 September 3pm

CROSSWORD: His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us



ACROSS

- 2: Jesus' mother
- 3: with little or no noise
- 6: he was engaged to Mary
- 8: a special messenger of God
- 10: not old
- 11: to make someone feeluncomfortable or self-conscious12: the angel appeared to Josephin a ...

DOWN

- 1: a newborn
- 4: the opposite of false
- 5: this name means 'God is with us'
- 7: to give someone your word
- 9: betrothed, to be married



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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

DIOCESAN NEWS

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 lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org. Registrations close 28th January 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.

MET Natural Fertility Creighton Model Introduction Session: 19 February

Are you looking for help to track your fertility cycle? Come and explore the Creighton Model Fertility Care System – a Natural, Effective, Healthy and Scientific approach to achieve, space/avoid pregnancy or monitor women's health. Engaged and married couples, single women and those wanting to know more about their menstrual cycles are welcome to attend. This free session will be held on Wednesday 19 February from 7:15-8:15pm via Zoom and is valued at \$125. To register or for more information,

contact <u>catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org</u> or 0400 427 605.

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)88383480

or email tribunal@parracatholic.org.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 29 January at St Andrew the Apostle Parish Marayong for Cycle 1 (Module 1). More training opportunities will be available throughout January and February. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

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.

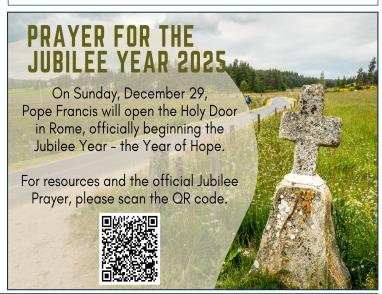


Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help on Zoom

Every Wednesday @7:30 PM

Meeting ID: 896 9388 2850

Passcode: 254 695



NEXT WEEKEND (29 DECEMBER): THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH YEAR C

1st READING
Sir 3:2-6. 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20
-22. 24-28
Kindness and respect for parents is urged.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127:1-5. see v.1 or Ps 83:2 -3. 5-6. 9-10 R.v.5 (R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

2ND READING

Col 3:12-21 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-

What is expected of the chosen of God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Col 3:15. 16 or Acts 16:14
Alleluia, alleluia! May the
peace of Christ rule in your
hearts, and the fullness of his
message live within you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2:41-52 *Jesus is found in the temple*

Cleaners: Group 3

Banners: Violet

Ministries	28 Dec, 6 PM	29 Dec, 8 AM	29 Dec, 9.30 AM	29 Dec, 6 PM
Ministry of the Altar	Tony Cleary	Carol Vella	Anthony Bertuman	Edward De Leon
Eucharistic Ministers	Dalton Gonsalves Mary Fonseca Jacob Fonseca	Faye Aboghazaleh Ron Brackett Lisa Brackett	Lou de Guia Peter Moriarty Lorraine Robertson	Robert Lees Peter Smith Roslyn Smith
Reader 1	Michael Farrugia	Espy Sarno	Ray Zafra	Romeo Prieto
Reader 2	Sheila Francis	Faye Aboghazaleh	Sue Oram	Corinne Brooker
Commentator	Madeline Mostert	Belen Leynes	Nile Gajo	Volunteer Needed
Music	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Pedro Calungsod Choir	James Wren & Esther Rose
PowerPoint	Volunteer Needed	Christine Younes	Boy Sanosa	Thomas Deepu
Junior Servers	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Welcomers	Selwyn Oliveira Sonia Oliveira Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Joe Duval Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Eleanor Stuart Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 22 DECEMBER

Mon 23 Dec: Saint John of Kanty, *Priest*

Tues 24 Dec: Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent, Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Wed 25 Dec: The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)

Thu 26 Dec: Saint Stephen, The First Martyr
Fri 27 Dec: Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist
Sat 28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

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

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WY

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

- Property Law
- Family Law
- Business Law
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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!

