

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

The Nativity of the Lord Year C

25 December 2024



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling
among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's
only Son,
full of grace and truth.
- Jn 1:14

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

Dear Friends,

'God-With-Us!' - Emmanuel is mentioned only 4 times in the Bible, 3 times in Isaiah and once in Matthew (1:23). What a great idea – an idea that only God could imagine – to join us in our humanity and in turn to draw us to himself because we know that, through the birth, life and death of Jesus, our God knows us intimately.

None of us can imagine or understand fully the meaning of Christmas, yet we have simple means at our fingertips, such as the prayer - 'Come, Lord Jesus!' - prayed often during Advent but a Christmas prayer too and one we can pray throughout the year because it is a prayer of desire.

There's a strong message here for Christmas about our longing for God, about desire as the heart of the spiritual life. Yes, but that's only half the picture. Christmas is about God's longing for us, desire as the heart of God's reaching out and affirming our humanness in sending his Son as one of us – Yes, Christmas is about where our God wants to be.

Thus '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. I suggest that it be our prayer for our children too, for their personal safety, for their growth in faith, for their strength of character as they journey towards maturity under our guidance and care - 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

The simplicity of these insights may seem to be a far cry from the complexity of world events and the delicacy of crises, conflicts and natural disasters. Yet the 'poetry' of faith and the profound meaning of Christmas can refresh us and awaken in us the energy to see our world differently. The Jubilee Year of 2025 which begins with the Opening of the Holy Door in Rome on Christmas Eve, will focus on 'Pilgrims of Hope' and support us on our human journey. The following great Christians capture some of the meaning: '

- ◆ Richard Rohr OFM – 'Our faith is in the goodness of the human... of our human body, because God in Jesus chose and said 'yes' to our humanity.'
- ◆ St Pope Paul VI - 'Christ is our beginning, Christ is our life and our guide, Christ is our hope and our end.'
- ◆ Saint Augustine - 'Christ is beautiful as God, the Word with God... Let not the weakness of the flesh distract your eyes from the splendour of Jesus' beauty.'

We conclude with a Christmas Greeting from St Mary Mackillop (December 1899): 'With all my heart, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a bright and happy New Year!'

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.



IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER:

There is strength and peace that comes from when we pray for one another. If you have a prayer request or want to offer a Mass for a special intention, go to: <https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/mass-prayer-requests/>. We ask you to please submit your prayer intentions a few days before preferred Mass.

Our loved ones who are 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 Martinez, John Cassar, Joe & Dot Gray, John Carr, Steven Johns, Henry Young, Judy Younes-Scott, Jenny Tran, Juilienne McNally

Our loved ones who have recently passed away:

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

Our loved ones, at rest with God, whose anniversaries fall at this time:

George & Eva Gonzales, Mario Reyes, Pedro Sealtiel, David Lee Wallace, Shyamalee 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, Maria Chung, Isidro & Charles Ferrer, Emmanuel @ Ersilia Avellino, Carmelo & Mary Anne Avelino, Marietta Ceballos., Kyros Macalalad, Bishop Joe Grech, Manfred Schwill, Paul Hill, Viriato Molina, Sr., Jefferson Delos Reyes , Joel M. Lozada , Guilbert Sanosa, Shelia Glennon , Michael & Rose Spiteri ,

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: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Thought for the day

There is on-going research into how certain animals manage to communicate, establishing some commonality with human beings. Such investigation makes it clear, however, that language, in its complexity and depth, is distinctively human, a mark of who we are. When we speak, something of who we are goes out from us, so to speak. Words are personal, mysterious, powerful (cf. a soft tongue can break a bone. Prov 25:15). God, too, discloses himself: in the "word" of creation, in the words of the prophets and, now, in the Word made flesh, God's deepest and most personal disclosure. We give thanks for God's "eloquence" in Jesus of Nazareth, as we mark his birth.

Prayer

You have spoken, O God, and shattered our deafness and we can hear you in one like ourselves. Let us celebrate the feast, then, in love and great joy. Through Christ our Lord.

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. "In the beginning" takes me back to my own new creation in Christ—back to significant moments—perhaps even to a single moment which stands out as the beginning of my own belonging in Christ. A prayer of praise.
2. Life—what makes me alive, taking hold of my imagination and energy? How is my life in Christ? Prayer of gratitude.
3. Light—a fabulous imagery. It may be that some particular land or seascape stands out in my memory as having an especially beautiful light. Prayer of enlightenment.
4. The dark side of refusal and rejection—in my life I probably have said both yes and no to grace. Where am I now in my life? Prayer of pilgrimage.
5. Wisdom was God's presence—a feminine presence, because (to use Biblical language) just as a man is "incomplete" without the love and companionship of a woman, the human person needs to be complemented by God's wisdom.
6. The power of language in my experience as an entry point to appreciating the Word made flesh. What word am I hearing especially today?

PRAYER

We praise you, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, the good news of salvation: your Word became flesh and we have seen his glory. Let the radiance of that glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate his birth. Reveal to all the world the light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS— FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer for Christmas

Dear Lord,
You came to us in humility and silence,
setting aside your majesty so that we might
approach with wonder.
Allow us to grow ever closer to you
this Christmas, and always.
Amen.

Prayer for Christmas Visitors

God bless us all this Christmas season,
those who enter and exit our home,
those near and far away,
those who will visit and those who cannot.
Fill our lives with the peace
that comes from You. Amen.

Blessing of a Christmas Crib for the Home

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: Who made heaven and earth

All: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.



“There you have the one
who was lying in a manger;
he made himself small
but didn’t lose himself;
he took on what he was not
but remained what he was.

There you are, we have Christ as an infant;
let us grow up with him.”

S. AUGUSTINUS
Sermo 196.3.11

Thank You

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our blessings and express our gratitude.

We want to wholeheartedly acknowledge our Parish Commissions, Teams, and Ministries for their dedicated service, commitment and care for our community. We also thank the staff and leaders of our Catholic schools.

We are blessed to be part of a community where generosity, goodwill, care, and kindness truly thrive. As an Augustinian parish, we highly value community, friendship, and hospitality in our communal search for God, as well as the encouragement and support we provide each other on our faith journeys.

Thank you for all that you have done for our parish and for your witness of faith, hope, and love. We are truly grateful to belong to such a wonderful community.

The Augustinians wish you and your family a joyful and loving Christmas season. We also invite you to keep us in your prayers. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with grace and blessings!

With you in prayers,
On behalf of the Augustinians,
Fr Perci OSA

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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).

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 DECEMBER 25

2025 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION (YEAR 3)

Bookings available from 13 January 2025

Parent Information & Catechesis:

- Tuesday 11 February 5pm or Wednesday 12 February 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 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

Holy Spirit Parish St Clair • Erskine Park • Parts of Kemps Creek

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995 Diocese of Parramatta www.parra.catholic.org.au

Facebook Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park ○ Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry ○ BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry)
Parish Office 5 Todd Row (PO Box 103) St Clair NSW 2759
P 02 9670 8222 **E** admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au **W** www.holyspiritstclair.com.au

Office Hours 9.00am to 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 Severe, 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 Severe 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



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta

Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813
✉ bishop@parracatholic.org
🌐 parracatholic.org

12 November 2024
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Pope Francis has declared [2025 a Jubilee Year for our Church](#), themed "Pilgrims of Hope", a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

As Pope Francis states "The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope."

A Jubilee is a special and profound year of grace, mercy and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years.

The Jubilee of 2025 will commence on 24 December 2024 with the Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and runs to 6 January 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Door.

In our Diocese of Parramatta, I invite all to participate in the many events that will be taking place. In particular, I invite everybody to take a personal or small group pilgrimage to one or all three of our pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year:

- St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
- Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa
- The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville

A Jubilee Indulgence is granted to those who make a Jubilee pilgrimage during the year. For those who cannot make a jubilee pilgrimage due to illness or other circumstances, you are invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee year, offering up the sufferings of their daily lives, and participating in reconciliation, prayer, and the Eucharistic celebration.

The Diocese is also organising two adult pilgrimages to Rome and other countries in the footsteps of St Paul, with one specifically for young adults to coincide with the Jubilee of Youth in Rome at the end of July/early August. All are invited.

There will also be events for the many 'jubilees' during the year. For example, on Sunday 2 February 2025, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, there will be a Procession and Solemn High Mass for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life in St Patrick's Cathedral.

As events are finalised, they will be listed on our website. Please check parracatholic.org and please follow catholicoutlook.org for further news updates.

For the Jubilee Year of Hope, I pray that it will bring about a renewed trust and confidence as we witness to the Gospel of Christ.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv.
Bishop of Parramatta

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

21st OCT - 7th NOV 2025



**FATIMA - AVILA - BARCELONA -
LOURDES - PARIS - MILAN -
FLORENCE - CASCIA - ASSISI - ROME**



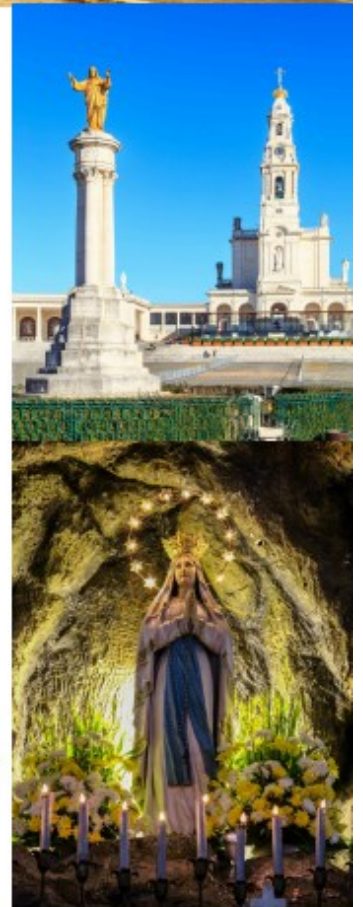
WITH
Fr Percival Severe, OSA

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Visit the Little Chapel of Apparitions
- ▶ Visit the home of St Theresa of Avila
- ▶ Pray at the sepulcher of St John of the Cross
- ▶ Visit the Benedictine monastery, Montserrat
- ▶ Pray at the Lourdes Grotto
- ▶ Visit the Basilica of St Ambrose
- ▶ Pray at the tomb of St Augustine
- ▶ Visit the Basilica of St Rita
- ▶ See the incorrupt body of St Rita
- ▶ Visit Lisieux, home of St Therese
- ▶ See the tomb of St Francis of Assisi
- ▶ Pray at the tomb of St Padre Pio
- ▶ Visit the Vatican Museum and St Peters Basilica

INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Return Economy Class Airfare
- ▶ Accommodation in Premium Hotels
- ▶ Breakfast and Dinner
- ▶ Transfers on Deluxe A/C Coach
- ▶ Entrance Fees
- ▶ Services of Professional Guides



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For details contact
Fr Percival Severe, OSA
Email: percivalsevere@gmail.com
Phone: 0439 111 932

For details contact
Sarah Damole
Email: scanetedamole@gmail.com
Phone: 0479 042 633

For Bookings contact
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GROWING WITH THE **Gospel** CYCLE C

COLOR

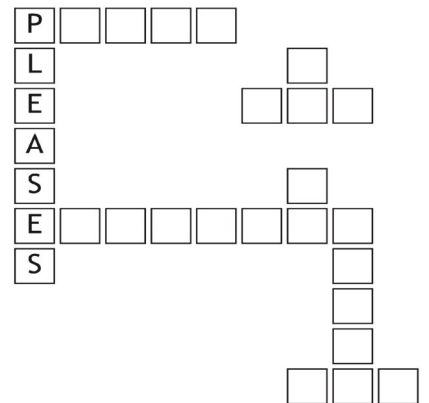
Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.



MISSION

You can praise God like the angels did. Go Christmas caroling together as a family. Sing all of your favorite songs together.

Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

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
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Compassionate Dignified Understanding

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 one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Visit: www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations. Or thru bank transfer:

Account Name: Holy Spirit Parish St Clair

Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 000 005 78

The 70% of the collection is for the regular running costs of the parish. The remaining 30% is to provide for the household expenses of our priests and to support the ministry of the Augustinians. If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Mila, accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au. Thank you so much for your support of our parish!

