

# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

CELEBRATING *30* YEARS of THE AUGUSTINIANS 1995 - 2025

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Parramatta

## Warmly Advent! – ‘Rejoice in the Lord!’

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate **Gaudete Sunday** and light the rose-coloured candle in our Advent wreath. Latin for ‘Rejoice’, *Gaudete* reminds us of the foundation of the Christian journey, the joy that must be evident in the Church. Joy is not the same as happiness, though they do sit well together, but we know that, even when happiness escapes us, we can experience an underlying sense of Joy.

While our personal, spiritual journey is important, it is not simply a call to focus on ourselves, but rather to grow in our awareness of our identity as Church and our responsibilities towards our neighbour. This year, on 7 December, marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of *Gaudium et Spes*, the Vatican II document on the Church in the Modern World – a unique ‘pastoral constitution’, not just addressed to Catholics but to all people in the world with the message: **God is at work in everyone!**

Every one of us is called to ‘read the signs of the times’ – to recognise God’s presence and action today. In a recent Jubilee Audience, Pope Leo shared a powerful message:

*‘God is not outside the world, outside this life: we have learned from the first coming of Jesus, God-with-us, to seek Him in the realities of life.... To seek Him with intelligence, with the heart and with our sleeves rolled up!’*

Pope Leo himself is a living example of this commitment in his own life, especially as a Bishop in Peru where he worked in solidarity with his people when they experienced natural disasters. Waiting around with our hands in our pockets is futile, he says.

Our preparation for Christmas is always our opportunity to engage with the divine plan in which God himself defines who we are as he sends his son Jesus to fully share our human condition and challenge us to embrace our humanness, created as we are in the image and the likeness of God himself.

Many of us carry the burdens of illness, grief and personal loss, fear and anxiety, family disruption, and financial worries too, but our hope is that each of us and our families can grasp the freedom that Jesus offers us at Christmas. As Church, we wait together, companions in prayer across the cultures of the world. Amid the commercial and cultural scream of ‘Christmas!’ we Christians attend to the Advent call to a time of stillness and waiting, silence and reflection.

***Gaudete! Rejoice! Let’s trust this gift of Joy that the Lord shares with us!***



**3rd Sunday of Advent**

*Fr. Dave*

THIS WEEKEND:  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT,  
Year A

### First Reading

*Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*

God himself will come and save us.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 145:6-10*

Lord, come and save us.

### Second Reading

*Romans 15:4-9*

Christ, the hope of all people.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

### Gospel

*Matthew 11:2-11*

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES

### MASS

Mon & Wed - 7 am

Tues, Thu & Fri - 9:05 am

Sat (Vigil) - 6 pm

Sunday - 8 am, 9.30 am & 6 pm

Public Holiday - 9:05 am

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 5.00 to 5.45pm

### ANointing OF THE SICK

First Friday of the month, 9:05 am

### BLESSED SACRAMENT EXPOSITION

First Friday of the month, 7:30 pm

### DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

Second Friday of the month, 7:30 pm

### CHILDREN’S LITURGY

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday during school term

Vigil Mass on Sat @ 6 pm

& Sun Mass @ 9:30 am

### FILIPINO MASS

First Sunday of the month, 11:30 am

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

Holy Spirit Parish pays respect to the Darug People, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather to celebrate our faith.

# Welcome

Want to receive the bulletin via e-mail?

Email [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto: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 are 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](mailto: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 Mass.*

### SICK

Judy Younes Scott, Andrew Boulos, Robert Bucholtz, Yael De Leon, Ida Martinez, John Cassar, Michael Hay, Joe & Dot Gray, Colin Gough, Julian Giuliano, Steven Johns, Hayden Young, Janice Salmon, Sheila Francis, Connie Schembri, Alexandra Di Censo, Colleen Lobo, Giga, Havana Conroy, Annalena Guttenbeil, Lui Sanele, John Grieve, Ashley, Alan, Glenda, Brendan Pereira, Frances & Family, John Thomas, Brendan Pereira, Pratik, David, Magda & Family

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Magdalena Villena Canlas Balandra, Catherine Debrincat, Jamie Dowsett, Colin Tindall, Ian Camilleri, Jerry Gernale, Hans & Renate Wagner, Alex C. Miranda, Ricky Misa, Kevin Munn, Gloria Cutcliffe

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Connie Mifsud, Irene Kirby, Philip Punla, Fathiraj, Chaiel Balcombe, Dotizia D'Souza, Julie Fonseca, Dolores Busttil, Mario Reyes, Pedro Sealtiel, David Lee Wallace, Reymundo P. Balao, Benjamin Santiago

*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](mailto: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](http://www.holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations)

**Donation by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

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**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](http://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)

*The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them*

## Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" 4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written,

*'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'*

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Joy in believing might seem an "extra" in today's challenging climate for faith. Many of us struggle simply to hold on, not to mention being exuberant about it all. And yet, of course there is deep happiness in faith. First of all, everything around is a gift and behind all the gifts stands a giver. Secondly, love is at the heart of it all and, in the faith, nothing is ever "lost" or "wasted." Faith, hope and love endure and the greatest of these is love. Finally, why not "permit" ourselves true joy in all that God has done for us and still does for us in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit?

## POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. In response to the question of John, Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.
2. John made a journey of faith from an incomplete knowledge of Jesus to a deeper understanding of who he was. Recall similar steps in your journey of faith.
3. Faith is not primarily about answering abstract theological questions but about living the gospel. What in your life has helped you to get that sense of perspective?
4. John marked the end of an era, Jesus the beginning of a new one. In our lives how do we honour the past and yet be free to move on into a new era?

## PRAYER

We believe, loving God, that you take delight in all you have made. Open up in us again the springs of joy, that we may delight in you, our true joy.



## 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**



## CHRISTMAS LOVE CHALLENGE

Grow in your observance of Advent and Christmas — the seasons in our Church when we give special attention to the birth of our Saviour and what his coming means for us today.

You are invited to take a “Christmas Love Challenge” card from the Christmas trees on both sides of our Nativity scene. Each card suggests a simple act of love or kindness you can do for others.

***Be blessed this  
Christmas...  
by being a blessing  
to others.***



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📅 ***Columban Religious Art Calendar 2026*** – \$11

📖 ***Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections*** – \$7

📖 ***Pope Leo XIV—His Story & Australian Connection*** – by Fr. Dave Austin - \$20  
Available now at the **Piety Store**.

**Calling All Singers!**

**Combined Choir for Midnight Mass**

All Singers—current choir members and anyone who loves to sing are warmly invited to join the **Combined Choir** for the **Midnight Christmas Mass on 25 December**

**Rehearsal: Wednesday, 17 December, 6:00 – 7:00 pm** in the church.

The choir will be **led by Rachael Kama**.

Come and help lead our parish in joyful praise as we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord!

**Simbang Gabi sa St Clair**

**15–19; 22–23 December 2025 | 7:30 pm**

**20–21 December 2025 | 6:00 pm**

at *Holy Spirit Church, St Clair*

Join us for our **first Simbang Gabi** at Holy Spirit Parish. Simbang Gabi (literally “**Night Mass**”) is a beautiful Catholic tradition of attending **nine consecutive masses** before Christmas, honouring Mary as she prepares for the birth of Jesus. These Masses help us keep watch in hope, deepen our love for the Eucharist, and prepare our hearts for Christmas.

All parishioners are warmly invited to join in this beautiful tradition as we pray together, share our different cultures and gifts, and joyfully await the coming of our Saviour.

If you wish to **support the fellowship** after the Masses, please **bring a plate to share**.

*Let us come together as one community — joyfully preparing our hearts for Christmas!*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**- Special Schedule -**

**Saturday, 20 December**

**4:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

This is a wonderful opportunity to receive the Lord’s mercy in the

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

as part of our **Advent**

**observance and spiritual**

**preparation for Christmas.**



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## Working Bee

Preparing Our Church for Christmas

Join our

**Christmas Working Bee**

Saturday, 20 December  
from 8:00 am

Please help clean and prepare  
our church and grounds for the  
Christmas celebrations.

Any time you can contribute  
towards the upkeep  
of our church and grounds  
is greatly appreciated. Thank you  
for your generous support.



## THE AUGUSTINIAN

December 2025 Edition

The new December 2025 issue of

*The Augustinian*

has arrived and is now available in the foyer — **grab  
your copy today!**

This edition is extra special for our parish, featuring:

- Our **Marian Fiesta**
- The **Jubilee of Hope Marian Pilgrimage**
- The **Book Promotion of Fr Dave**

Take a copy home, be inspired by the stories of faith  
and community, and share it with your family and  
friends.

## SAFEGUARDING is EVERYONE'S responsibility

The **Parish and Diocese of Parramatta** takes the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously. This includes past or present forms of abuse. Safeguarding those who are vulnerable is part of the mission that Jesus Christ entrusts to our Church. We all have a role to play in safeguarding those who are vulnerable.

If you have any concerns about someone's immediate safety, or you suspect a crime may have or is likely to occur, please contact NSW Police on Triple Zero (000).

Concerns about safeguarding in the Parish and the Diocese may be referred to our Parish Priest:

**Fr. Percival Severe, OSA**

Ph (02) 9670 8222

Email: [pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au);

or directly to the:

**Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards**

Ph (02) 8838 3419

Email: [safeguarding@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org).

Information about the Diocese's response and support about safeguarding children and vulnerable people are available at [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.org.au).

*Thank you for helping keep our parish safe for all!*

"What is prayer but the pouring out of our hearts to God?"

*St. Augustine, Expositions on the Psalms, Psalm 62:8*



## Christmas Eve Family Mass

We invite children to dress up as **Angels** or **Shepherds** and join in a dance number as we celebrate the **Birth of our Lord**.

### Practice Details

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
Holy Spirit Parish 4:00—4:45 pm

cannot make the rehearsals but would still like to be involved text the number below for more information.

All enquiries to Karen: 0423 974 801



3rd Sunday of Advent • Matthew 11:2-11



## COLOR

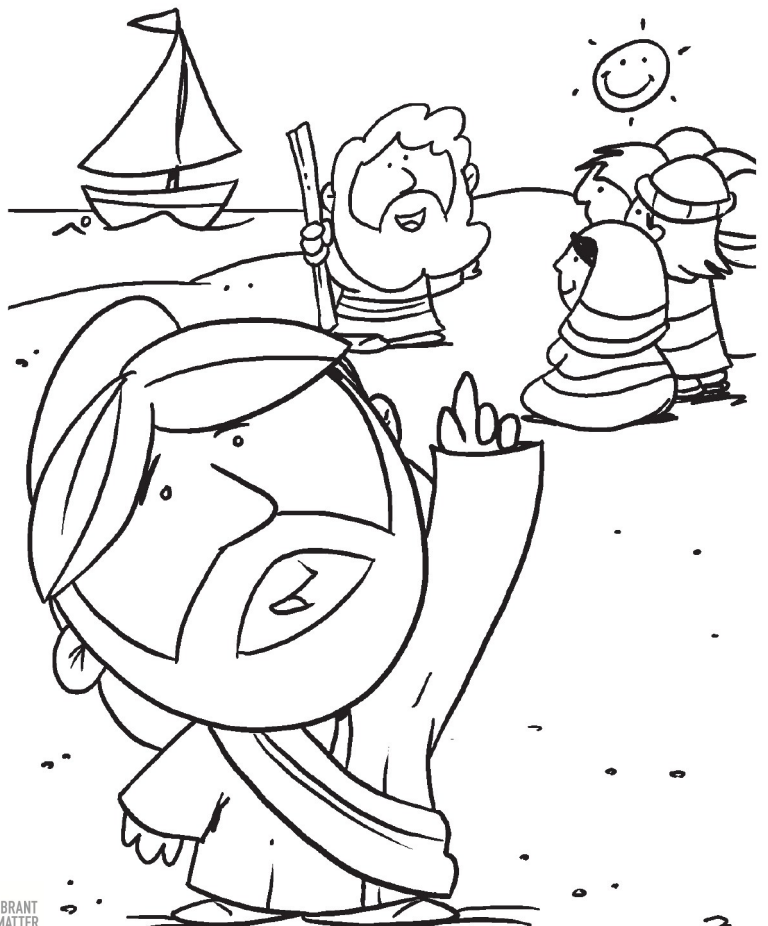
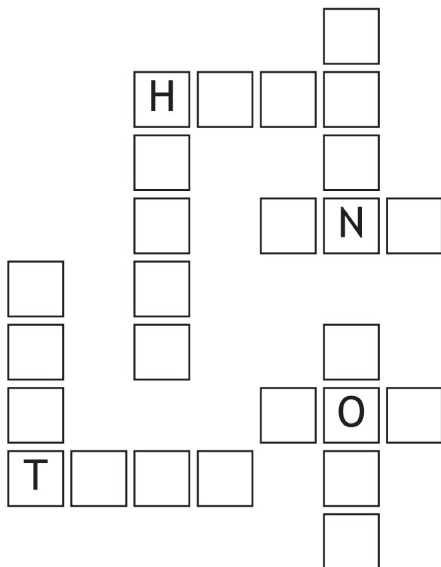
Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



## PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Tell John what you have heard and seen.



## MISSION

If you have any videos that tell Bible stories, watch one or two together with your family.



**NEXT WEEKEND:  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT, Year A**

**First Reading**

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

The virgin will conceive.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 23:1-6*

Let the Lord enter; he is king  
of glory.

**Second Reading**

*Romans 1:1-7*

Jesus Christ, a descendant of  
David, is the Son of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel:  
God is with us. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Matthew 11:18-24*

Jesus was born of Mary, the  
betrothed of Joseph, a son of  
David.

**Cleaners: Group 4 (20/12)**  
**Banners: VIOLET**

**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF THE  
14th December 2025, Year 2**

Mon 15th Dec: Monday of the 3rd Week of Advent  
Tue 16th Dec: Tuesday of the 3rd Week of Advent  
Wed 17th Dec: Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Advent  
Thu 18th Dec: Thursday of the 3rd Week of Advent  
Fri 19th Dec: Friday of the 3rd Week of Advent  
Sat 20th Dec: Saturday of the 3rd Week of Advent

**PARISH BULLETIN – DIGITAL COPY**

If you wish to receive a digital copy of our weekly  
Parish Bulletin, along with other important parish  
news and updates, please email the Parish Office  
at

**admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au**

to be added to our mailing list.

**PARKING REMINDERS**

**Please be mindful of our  
neighbours — do not park  
across their driveways.  
Also, do not leave  
valuables in your car to  
avoid the risk of break-  
ins.**



**BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING**

Parents wishing to have their child baptised are asked to contact the  
Parish Office prior to attending a preparation evening. Next Baptism  
Preparation session is on **December 9th at 7.00pm.**  
Presenter is Lisa-Maree Madigan.

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

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995

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www.parra.catholic.org.au

**Facebook  
Parish Office**

Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park • Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry • BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry)  
5 Todd Row (PO Box 103) St Clair NSW 2759

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**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](mailto:pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Asst Pastor:** Fr Dave Austin, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E [daustin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:daustin@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Asst Pastor:** Fr Peter Tangey, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E [ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Asst Pastor:** Fr Joseph Aresseril Jacob "Saju", OSA P 02 9670 8222 E [saju@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:saju@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Admin Assistant:** Joyce McMahon (Tuesday, Wednesday) P 02 9670 8222 E [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Admin Assistant:** Sonia Sultana (Thursday, Friday) P 02 9670 8222 E [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Parish Bookkeeper:** Mila Llamas P 02 9670 8222 E [accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au) (Mon and Wed)

**SRE Coordinator (Catechists):** Peter Moriarty P 02 9670 8222 E [sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:sre@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Sacramental Coordinator:** Germaine Gil M 0451 279 934 E [sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:sacraments@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Safeguarding Support:** Carol Vella P 0422 429 043 E [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

**Parish Council**

**Chair:** Seaview Kama • **Vice Chair:** Peter Moriarty • **Secretary:** Dominic Dimech

**Members:** Michael Paulo, Andrea Bouche, Trina Esguerra Cruz, Corinne Brooker, Deepu Thomas, Aaron Smith  
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](http://www.hsstclair.catholic.edu.au)

Trinity Primary School (61 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) P 02 8856 6200 W [trinitykempscreek.catholic.edu.au](http://trinitykempscreek.catholic.edu.au)

Emmaus Catholic College (87 Bakers Ln, Kemps Creek) P 02 9670 8300 W [emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au](http://emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au)

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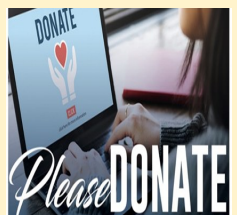
"I am a son of Saint Augustine, an Augustinian, who said, 'For you I am a bishop, with you, I am a Christian.' In this sense we can all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared."

- Pope Leo XIV

**Our parish is grateful for your continued support.  
Please consider Online Giving**

Support the Parish by signing up for online donations. Setting up a one-time or recurring contribution is quick and easy at <https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations/>. You can also donate via bank transfer:

**Account Name:**  
**Holy Spirit Parish St Clair**  
**Bank: CBA**  
**BSB: 067 950**  
**Account Number: 000 005 78**



70% of the collection covers parish running costs, while 30% supports our priests and the Augustinians' ministry. For assistance, email Mila @ [accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au).  
**Thank you for your support!**