

# 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

A New Year Begins - *'Our Invitation to Freshness in Faith!'*

Dear Friends,

Our summer holiday period should refresh us, but it sometimes brings pain and sadness – the tragedy of Bondi, now indelibly part of our history and social challenge, more natural disasters in bushfires, cyclones and flooding, often with savage impact on individuals, families, communities, property and life.

While we trust the resilient Aussie spirit, extreme events here and overseas can provoke unexpected reactions and result in emotional brokenness that will be with us as individuals and as a community for a long time.

There is a cleansing power in the Word of God and in the Church's liturgical calendar, not by way of escape from reality, but offering perspective and balance. This Sunday - *Sunday of the Word of God* - the Church in Australia pauses to reflect on the power of God's Word and our need to proclaim the Scriptures well and listen prayerfully to the message. In times of both celebration and crisis, the sharpness of God's Word offers uncanny clarity.

As Jesus began his public ministry, he often quoted from the prophets, especially Isaiah, with his reference to '*people that lived in darkness*' but who now see a great light. The simplicity of lighting a candle to mark the memory of the Bondi victims is profound in both the secular and religious realms.

This Sunday's Gospel of the Beatitudes, read also on Australia Day, may be the very reminder we need as we seek freshness in our faith and a fresh view of God – finding again that sense of awe, wonder and appreciation of the constant goodness of God in our lives – God's total faithfulness to us, whoever we are, however we're made;

Our children are about to return to school, many hundreds of them, and on this day we pray for each child and for their families and the teachers and staff who guide them. As for Jesus and his family, may our children and parents be open to the wisdom in family life and seek suitable role models for our young people.

Have a wonderful year!

*Fr. Steve*



02 February 2026: World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life



*"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"*

"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

**FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, Year A**  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

**First Reading**

*Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13*

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 145:7-10*

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

**Second Reading**

*1 Cor 1:26-31*

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; Your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Matthew 5:1-12*

Happy are the poor in spirit.

**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**



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 would like to offer a Mass for a special intention, go to:*

*<https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/mass-prayer-requests/>*

*We ask that you please submit your prayer intentions a few days before your preferred Mass.*

#### SICK

Judy Younes Scott, Andrew Boulos, Robert Bucholtz, Yael De Leon, Ida Martirez, John Cassar, Michael Hay, Joe & Dot Gray, Julian Giuliano, Steven Johns, Hayden Young, Janice Salmon, Connie Schembri, Alexandra Di Censo, Colleen Lobo, Ģiga, Emmanuel Spiteri, Sam Chahoud, George Chahoud, Rosanna Armitage, Donald, Xi, Susie, Vladimir, Charles,

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Violet Smith, Steven Cain, Brian Hedges, Renee Chahine, Ernesto Aaron, Bernadette Gonsalvez, Chehadeh Chahoud, Geoff Parker, Adrian Liu, Andre Marquez

#### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Joyce Verri, Jim Cook, Fermin Falcatan, Sheila Tham, Flory Pinto, Robert Sinclair, Alicia Gajo, Lucina & Edwin Cañete, Faustina Sandot, Isaac Sandot, Julian Ereno, Oscar Geronimo, Olivia Afu, Solidad A Casal, Eduardo Cañete, Arthur Joseph Borg

*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](https://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](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*)

## Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

### Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matt 5:11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Who doesn't want to be happy? As St Augustine writes, “all persons want to be happy; and no persons are happy who do not have what they want.” (*De beata vita 2.10*) Augustine knows that it is not so simple: having what, and how do we keep it so that we don't lose it? The question really becomes, what do I desire? In the final analysis, there is a hunger of

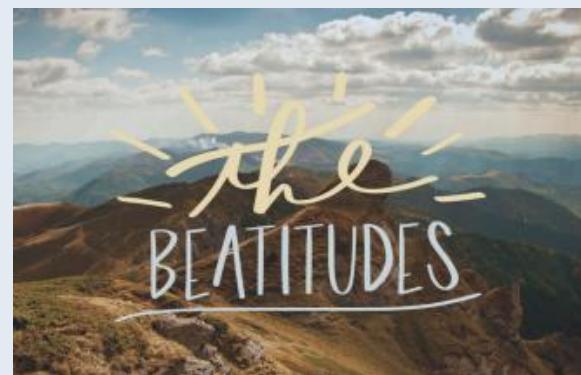
the human heart for God, often recognised only slowly, and a hunger for goodness and virtue, also a slow conversion. In God, we find a source of happiness which nothing can take away; in virtuous living, chiefly seeking the good of others, we come to our true fulfilment and contentment.

### POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. The paradox of the cross is not simply to do with Jesus but with all of us. What has experience taught me about “weakness” and “foolishness” as means of grace?
2. The feeling that the initiative is not mine but God's is part of every authentic spirituality. What is my own sense of who is leading this relationship?
3. Paul speaks of Christ as wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. What words would I spontaneously use?

### PRAYER

Gracious God, giver of every good gift, help us to recognise you in everyone and everything around us. May we rejoice in receiving all from you, who are grace in yourself. Amen.



“What is prayer but the pouring out of our hearts to God?”  
St. Augustine, *Expositions on the Psalms, Psalm 62:8*

# PARISH NEWS

## COMMUNION SERVICE on *Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>*

Please note that the Augustinians will be away on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February. A **Communion Service** will be celebrated in lieu of Mass at 9:05 am. Thank you for your understanding.

### Old Blessed Palms for Ash Wednesday

You are invited to bring your **old, blessed palms** from last year's Palm Sunday. Please place them in the box provided in the church foyer **by Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February**. These palms will be **burned reverently**, and the ashes will be used for **Ash Wednesday**.

## Rosary Bead-Making Afternoon

When: Saturday, 7th March, 2-3:30pm

Where: Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair.

Cost: \$5 per person, payable on arrival including cost for all materials.



Come along for a peaceful and creative afternoon making rosary beads, which will be donated for distribution in hospitals across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

A simple way to share prayer, hope, and comfort with others.

For more info: Roslyn Smith  
0414877403

Lucy Woodbury  
ofw@parracatholic.org  
0460 037 795

### Lenten Prayer Groups – COMPASSIO Resource

During the Season of Lent, we encourage you to make a meaningful journey of prayer by joining a Lenten Prayer Group using the **'Compassio Lenten Prayer Resource'** (*available from our Piety Store*).

You are welcome to:

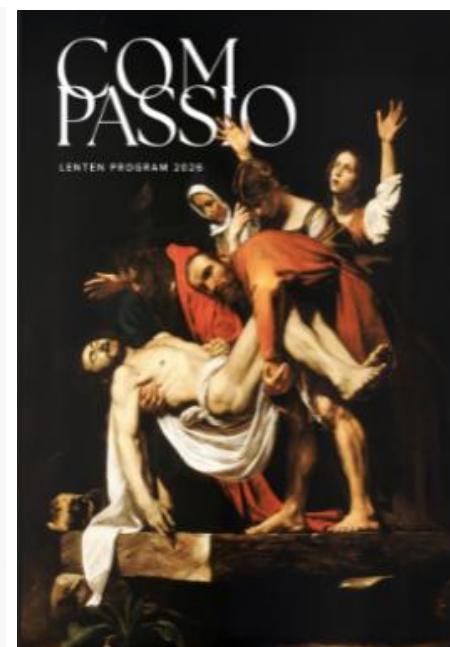
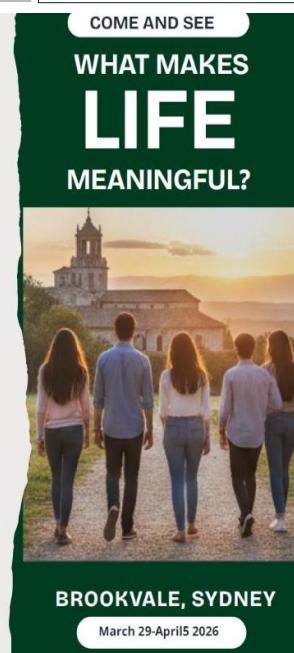
- Organise your own prayer group or
- Join an existing group.

A sign-on sheet is available in the church foyer.

**Come and walk this Lenten journey together in faith, reflection and prayer.**



You are invited for a discernment week!!!  
**"Come and See"**  
programme at  
Brookvale Seminary for  
young men!  
March 29- April 5  
(Holy Week until Easter Sunday)  
Please talk to us for  
more details...



# PARISH AND DIOCEASAN NEWS

**Be The Witness**, a production being brought to life by a team at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, is gathering momentum across our Parish and the Diocese, with vocal auditions now having commenced. Auditions on Sunday 1st from 11 am-1 pm and 2 pm-4 pm, and Monday 2nd of February from 6 pm-8 pm, at the Parish Office at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. Please register to audition by emailing [music@bethewitness.com.au](mailto:music@bethewitness.com.au)

Anyone interested in assisting in any capacity across our teams – production, event management, communications, finance, fundraising, and prayer can get in touch using the QR code provided. We are also currently looking for a director and choreographer. Musicians and dancers can also scan the relevant QR codes to register their interest and stay informed about upcoming Live Band and Dance auditions.

**Registration for core teams**



**DANCERS**



**MUSICIANS**



## RED MASS

**Tuesday 3 February at 7:00 pm – 9 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta**

The Very Reverend Robert Riedling, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, cordially invites members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass.

Refreshments will be served following the Mass.

Please RSVP by Friday, 30 January to [enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au) or call 02 8839 8400

**Musicians and Liturgy Planners** are invited to attend an evening exploring **Music for Lent on 5th February 2026 from 7 pm to 8.30 pm** at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown.

The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team.

## SAFEGUARDING is EVERYONE'S responsibility

The **Parish and Diocese of Parramatta** take 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 for safeguarding children and vulnerable people is available at [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.org.au).

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

# JOIN THE MISSION OF CHRIST – BECOME A CATECHIST

You are invited by the Church to share our faith with children in public schools by giving time each week during the school term, doing some lesson preparation and teaching.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED?

A willingness to share your faith life.

A Working with Children Check (WWCC) and Safeguarding Training, which we can help you apply for.

## WHAT HELP WILL I GET?

Encouragement from our catechist group.

Practical training courses, including Safeguarding Training.

Teacher's Manual with lesson plans.

Student Activity Books.

Creative lesson resources.

**If you are able to help, please contact Peter Moriarty for more information.**

**Phone: 0452 079 043 or Email: [pmoriarty@peter.net.au](mailto:pmoriarty@peter.net.au)**

## Children's Liturgy

We are looking for a couple of people to assist with sharing the Scriptures with the children during Mass for 15-20 minutes, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, at the Vigil Mass and the 9.30 am Sunday Mass. Rostered about 2-3 times a school term.

Always at least 2 adults, with support and material. Working with Children Check and Safeguarding training is required and offered. If you are interested and available, contact the Parish office via email [admin@holyspiritclair.com](mailto:admin@holyspiritclair.com) or phone 9670 8222.

# THE START OF SOMETHING NEW HOLY SPIRIT YOUTH

Holy Spirit is starting a new youth group. If you or someone you know are 16 - 22 years old, please come and join us for our first get together on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of Feb 5pm with the 6pm Mass to follow. Pizza and Snacks will be provided!

PLEASE RSVP  
ON WHATSAPP  
TO ANGELINA  
- 0403824608  
BY THURSDAY  
THE 12<sup>TH</sup> OF  
FEB FOR  
CATERING  
PURPOSES

## KIDS Corner

### PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel.

blessed	mercy	kingdom
meek	pure	reward
filled	peace	heaven

bsedles      b l e s s e d

pacee      \_\_\_\_\_

meke      \_\_\_\_\_

kidomng      \_\_\_\_\_

filedl      \_\_\_\_\_

reardw      \_\_\_\_\_

mecyr      \_\_\_\_\_

hevena      \_\_\_\_\_

peur      \_\_\_\_\_



### COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



**NEXT WEEKEND:  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME, Year A**

**First Reading**

*Isaiah 58:7-10*

Your light will shine like the dawn.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 111:4-9*

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

**Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Matthew 5:13-16*

You are the light of the world.

**Cleaners: Group 1 (7<sup>th</sup> Feb)**

**Banners: GREEN**

**Observances for the week of the  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2026, year 2**

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: The Presentation of the Lord

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb: Tuesday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Feb: Wednesday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

Thu 5<sup>th</sup> Feb: St Agatha, virgin, martyr

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Feb: St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Feb: Saturday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

**PARISH BULLETIN – DIGITAL COPY**

If you wish to be added to our mailing list 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](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

***If you have changed your details, please send us an email so you do not miss any important information.***

**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 **February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm.**  
Presenter - .

**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](http://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](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au) W [www.holyspiritstclair.com.au](http://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](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 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](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)

# SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS

*Please support the advertisers that support us.*

**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**

70% of the collection covers parish running costs, while 30% supports our priests and the Augustinians' ministry. For assistance, Mila at [accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au)

Thank you for your support!

