

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

Second Sunday in Lent, Year A

1st March 2026

Our Lenten Invitation – 'Fasting from the Hurtful!' (Pope Leo XIV)

Dear Friends,

Imagine what might happen if you invited suggestions for your Lenten penance from a friend. Well, one of our friends has actually taken that initiative – Pope Leo XIV – in his Lenten Message on *'Listening and Fasting'*. Last Sunday, we reflected on listening - this Sunday we'll look at *fasting!*

Two weeks ago, we considered the Church's advice for us during Lent – *'to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the saving love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need.'* There's no mention of fasting here, other than the reference to interrupting the usual comforts of life but wait, there's more!!

Pope Leo unpacks this for us in the second part of his message. Listening and fasting sit well together in that, *'If Lent is a time for listening, fasting is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion.'*

As bodily people, we are in touch with what we 'hunger' for and order our 'appetites', so to speak. Our priority as Christians is to grow in our love of neighbour and in turn our love of God – loves that complement and strengthen each other. Our response includes prayer for one another, a thirst for justice, and accepting responsibility for our neighbour. Each of us, I'm sure, could spell out in detail ways in which we can achieve this.

In our society, we struggle to achieve social cohesion as we exercise our right to freedom of speech in a climate where governments are proposing boundaries around this freedom. A week ago, I signed a declaration that I am a 'fit and proper person' to be a Board Director of St Augustine's College. The form included a statement that I had not indulged in 'hate speech' – the ink is hardly dry on the legislation!

The Pope's advice is quite contemporary and powerful: *'I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.'*

He concludes: *'Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us.... Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.'*



1ST READING

Genesis 12:1-4

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

2ND READING

2 Timothy 1:8-10

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

GOSPEL

Matt 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES

MASS

Mon & Wed - 7 am

Tues, Thu & Frid - 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

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 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, Ġiġa, Emmanuel Spiteri, Sam Chahoud, George Chahoud, Donald, Xi, Susie, Vladimir, Charles, Jonathan Zulueta, Nichalos Hynis, William Mostert, Tracy Larden, Tony Teodoro, Anthony Grech, Monica Conroy, Annalena Guttenbeil, Mary Mifsud, Liam Banguis

RECENTLY DECEASED

Renee Chahine, Ernesto Aaron, Bernadette Gonsalvez, Geoff Parker, Adrian Liu, Andre Marquez, Mary Grace Aguilar Felix, Warrant Officer Med. John Barratt, Warren Uy, Mailyn Reyes, Eduardo Bautista, Jacqueline Robles Patanao, Aurora Aaron, Aida Maria Ventocilla Flores, Johann Holsinger, Douglas Pereira, Arthur Jamelo, Robert Chahoud, Rogor Loos, Aurora Estoque Montaos, Jeffrey Nobbs, Roslyn Pritchard

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Terry Teodoro, Nguyen Thi Ha, Tony Kuljanic, Doris Fletcher, Cajetan Gonsalves, Doris Anne Foster, Agnus Borg, Fr Brendan Quirke OSA, Glenn Bouche, Roslyn Pritchard, Dunstan Herft, Hazel De Silva

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*)

**This is my Son, the Beloved;
with him I am well pleased;
*listen to him!***

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. Matt 17:9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Every so often, we catch a glimpse of the "something more" that God has in store for us. These fleeting experiences are to be treasured: the birth of my first child, falling in love, a sense of "being held" by God's presence. Such experiences may help us approach the Transfiguration. Like all transcendent experiences, it is fleeting and yet it etches a memory and leaves a longing. What should we do? Practice listening to him. Be not afraid. We cannot always be "on the mountain" and yet what happens on the heights can help us on the lowlands of the everyday.

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. The transfiguration experience was one that, for Jesus, clarified his relationship with his Father and strengthened him for the future. What have been the experiences, the moments of insight, that have clarified your sense of who you are, and what is your relationship with God?
2. On the mountain the disciples saw Jesus in a new way. Sometimes in friendship there are moments of sharing in which we get to know a friend in a new and deeper way. Have you had that experience in human friendship, or in your relationship with Jesus and God. Recall when that happened, and what it was like for you.
3. The clear vision of Jesus with Moses and Elijah was followed by a frightening experience of being in a cloud and it was in the midst of the cloud that the disciples were instructed "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him". Have you had the experience of learning the truth about life and about your relationship with God from moments of confusion as well as from times of special joy?
4. After their special experience the disciples came down the mountain again. We cannot live each day at the level of special spiritual experiences, but the memory of them can strengthen us in difficult times. What memories encourage you in time of trouble?

PRAYER

Holy God, from the dazzling cloud you revealed Jesus in glory as your beloved Son. During these forty days, enlighten your Church with the bright glory of your presence. Inspire us by your word, and so transform us into the image of the risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT – 1 March**SISILIA from TANZANIA**

Sisilia, aged 13, lives with her mother and siblings in a remote village in northern Tanzania. Life has been difficult since her father passed away when she was a baby.

“My mother does small farming and sometimes sells vegetables to get money. She supports the family on her own. We don’t have a regular income because my father passed away many years ago. Life is hard, but we try our best,” Sisilia said.

She had to walk up to 30 minutes, three times a day, to fetch water from a dirty canal. The water was unsafe, causing frequent illness, and the long walks left Sisilia exhausted, fearful of wild animals and struggling to focus on her studies.

“I get very tired. Carrying heavy water containers every day after walking long distances is not easy. I was also getting piercing back pains. Sometimes I get home late and tired, and it’s hard to focus on my homework or revise for exams.” she said.

Lack of clean water is a major issue in Tanzania, where nearly 40% of people don’t have access to basic drinking water services and 75% don’t have access to basic sanitation services. (World Bank 2022).

With support from the A+ Successor Project, her school and village now have clean water taps. This means it takes Sisilia just two minutes to collect water from her house, reducing the risks she faced and giving her more time for learning. Access to safe water has also improved health, hygiene and nutrition for her school community. Teachers and students can drink clean water, maintain hygiene, and grow food in the school garden.

Sisilia has also joined a SWASH Club, where she learned about hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and child rights. She now confidently shares this knowledge with peers, parents and community members, even performing songs and demonstrations to promote good practices. This leadership has empowered her to advocate for children’s education and wellbeing in her community.

Despite many hardships, Sisilia remains determined to succeed. Her favourite subjects are Science, English and Maths, and she dreams of becoming a pilot.



Sisilia walked long distances to collect unclean water from a canal. Photo: Caritas Australia.

**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

**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.



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH - ST CLAIR HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE

You are warmly invited to join our parish celebrations for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum.

Through song, prayer, and reflection in our liturgies, enter more deeply into the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Saturday, 28 March

4:30 - 5:45 pm Reconciliation

Palm Sunday, 29 March

Regular Sunday Mass Times

Please bring your own palms

Tuesday, 31 March

8:15 - 9 am Reconciliation

9:05 am Mass

Holy Thursday, 02 April

9:00 am Morning Prayer

7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

10:00 pm Night Prayer

Good Friday, 03 April

10:00 am Stations of the Cross

3:00 pm Passion of Our Lord

Holy Saturday, 04 April

9 am Morning Prayer

7 pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, 05 April

8:00 am Mass

9:30 am Mass

No 6 pm evening Mass

LOST AND FOUND NOTICE

A number of lost and found items have been collected from around the church and parish grounds.

These items will be displayed in the Parish Mirrabooka Court until 1 March

for anyone to check and claim. After this date, any unclaimed items

will either be disposed of or donated to charity.

Thank you for your understanding.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

ROSARY MAKING WORKSHOP

Come along for a fun afternoon of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese on

Saturday 7 March, Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park, from 2pm.

Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials).

Contact:
Roslyn Smith 0414877403



PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

14 March, Saturday, 2:30 - 5 pm.

Facilitator: Fr Percival Severe OSA

Come and rediscover the meaning of Lent through prayer, reflection, and renewal. Let this be a time of conversion, hope, and spiritual growth for us as a parish community.

All are welcome.

MUSIC MINISTRY GATHERING

12 March and 26 March at 7 pm

All musicians and choir members are invited to attend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Fridays during Lent *after the 9:05am Mass and at 7 pm.*

**Friday 13th March—Stations of the Cross will be followed by
Divine Mercy Devotions.**



BINGO NIGHT

**21st March 7:30 pm at
Holy Spirit School
Multi Purpose Area**

***NEW Donations of gifts or gift cards
for prizes are welcome.***



**Novena to Our Mother
of Perpetual Help on Zoom**
Every Wednesday @7:30 PM
Meeting ID: 896 9388 2850
Passcode: 254 695

Holy Spirit Parish – Pastoral Council Call for Nominations

The Parish Pastoral Council plays an important leadership role in the life and mission of our parish community. Council members bring their unique gifts, experience, and faith to help guide and support the pastoral direction of Holy Spirit Parish.

We are now calling for nominations for the **2026 Parish Pastoral Council** of Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair.

If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself) to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council, please complete a nomination form available in the church foyer.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider those who may be called to serve our parish in this important ministry.
Nominations close on 23 March 2026..

1ST READING

Exodus 17:37

Give us water to drink.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

2ND READING

Romans 5:1-2, 6-9

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, you are truly the saviour of the world; Give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

GOSPEL

John: 4:5-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Cleaners:

Group 1 (7 March)

Banners: PURPLE

**Observances for the week of the
1st March 2026, Year 2**

Mon 2nd Mar: Monday of the 2nd Week of Lent
Tue 3rd Mar: Tuesday of the 2nd Week of Lent
Wed 4th Mar: Wednesday of the 2nd Week of Lent
Thu 5th Mar: Thursday of the 2nd Week of Lent
Fri 6th Mar: Friday of the 2nd Week of Lent
Sat 7th Mar: Saturday of the 2nd Week of Lent

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

March 10th at 7.00pm.

Presenter is Joyce McMahon.

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
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

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: Joyce / Sonia **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 Support: Carol Vella **P** 0422 429 043 **E** admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Parish Council

Chair: Seaview Kama • **Vice Chair:** Peter Moriarty

Members: 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

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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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, Mila at accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au.

Thank you for your support!

