

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 Mystery of Faith - 'When Grace Comes and Wakes Us...'

Dear Friends,

Some years ago, I came across the expression: 'Our personal experience carefully reflected upon is our best teacher!' From time to time I used it as part of a reflection activity where participants were invited to pause and recognise the mysterious hand of God in their lives. Of course, most of us being busy people don't always recognise God at work in us.

By now, we've wished each other Happy New Year and have moved on to the reality of daily life in 2026. The positives so far include the recent gathering of staff from our Parish schools - Holy Spirit Primary, Trinity Primary, and Emmaus Catholic College – at Holy Spirit Church for the celebration of the Eucharist, described by Fr Perci as 'a deeply grace-filled moment of communion - an embodied expression of what it means to walk together as one faith community on a shared journey.'

Each Catholic school community in our Parish and the wider local area has its own charism and is committed to forming our children in Faith. This past week, catechists from our Parish participated in the Deanery SRE Opening Mass and Blessing at Holy Family Church in Luddenham, and several received awards recognising their years of committed service to our children in government schools. At the Parish level, our Sacramental Team and Children's Liturgy catechists are preparing for another busy year.

As our personal story unfolds this year, you might find the theme of this reflection strikes a chord - for you personally or for your family... 'When Grace comes and wakes us...' That's what the mysterious hand of God does for us, and sometimes we need to point it out to each other. It's easy to take the good experiences for granted, but to find that the more traumatic ones stop us in our tracks... as we question what it all means and, of course, where the Lord is in all of this.

In times of sadness and loss, grace can awaken us and our Church beckons. The tragic and untimely death of Andre Marquez prompted an instant response from his peers who visited the family and, with their families and former teachers, gathered for the 9.30am Mass last Sunday.

Answers to our questions do not come easily but grace comes and wakes us as we face the mystery. We pray for the grace to be open to the Lord and trust him with our questions.

Fr Dave



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

FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, Year A
8th February 2026

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 follow me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

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

1st & 3rd 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)

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 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, Jonathan Zulueta, Nicholas Hynis, William Mostert

RECENTLY DECEASED

Violet Smith, Steven Cain, Brian Hedges, 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, Derrick Pereira, Jacquiline Robles Patanao

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Malcolm Howse, Nicolas Decena, Alwyn and Daisy Assey, Biervenido Bulaong, Arthur Joseph Borg, Bernard Fonseca, Ida Kirby, Amy Machado, Margaret Fernandes, Amanda Doretea Estrella Pena, Nenita Montefalcon

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.



We are grateful to those who continue to financially support our Parish.

God bless you!

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)

Let your light shine before others so they may give glory to your Father

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

13 [Jesus said,] "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We can easily see how Jesus should be the light of the world. Even though the words are familiar, we are perhaps unaccustomed to reflecting on ourselves as the light of the world and salt of the earth. This is an act of profound trust in us by God. Jesus has faith in us to be bearers of his Good News in our time. How are we to be that? Not first by our words or even by our deeds. We are the light and salt on account of who we are as disciples. As the Gospel text puts it, a city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. We cannot help being seen as his disciples, for that is who we are.

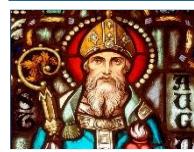
POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1 Jesus uses the image of salt as something that makes food tasty. Without it, food can be tasteless. Who are the people who give zest to your life and make it enjoyable? For whom have you done this? When have you been particularly aware of your potential in this regard?

- 2 The second image is that of light. Who have been the people who have been a light for you, particularly in moments of darkness? For whom have you been a light? Recall these experiences and give thanks.
- 3 The images of salt and light can also be applied to communities to which we belong, a family, a parish, or other group. Thinking of the groups of which you are a member, how can the potential be enhanced to enrich the lives of members and offer them a guiding light?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have called your church to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Give us vigorous faith and a love that is genuine, so that all may see our works and give you the glory. We make our prayer through Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.



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

PARISH NEWS

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.

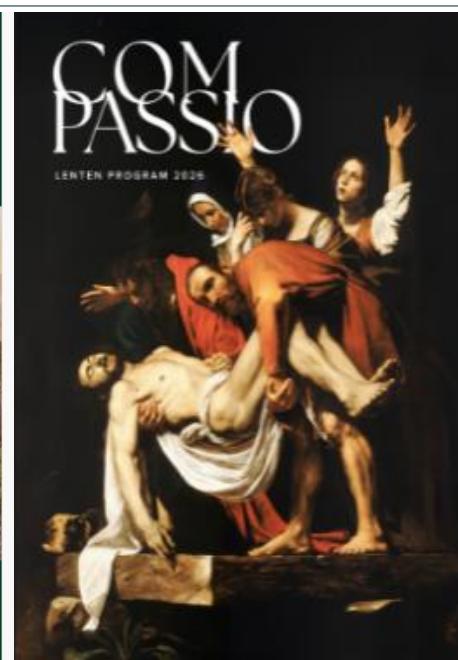
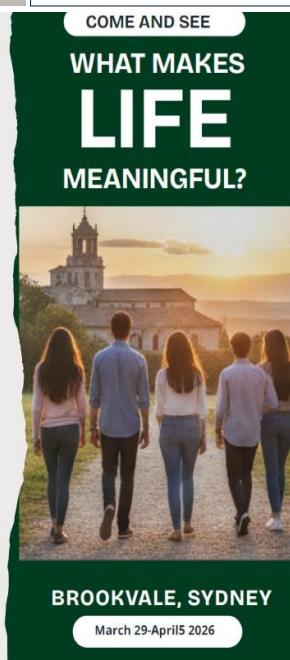
A simple way to share prayer, hope, and comfort with others.

For more info: Roslyn Smith
0414877403

Lucy Woodbury
ofw@parracatholic.org
0460 037 795



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...



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

18TH FEBURARY 2026

7.00 am

9.05 am

7.30 pm



Divine Mercy Devotions

Every 2nd Friday of the Month
7:30 pm
Reconciliation is available

Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help on Zoom

Every Wednesday @7:30 PM
Meeting ID: 896 9388 2850
Passcode: 254 695

Everyone is Welcome to join



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

**Sunday 15th of Feb - 9:30 am Mass followed
by 10:30 am meeting and morning tea**

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

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF SCHEDULED TIME

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We are looking for 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@holyspiritstclair.com or phone 9670 8222.

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 Sevare, OSA

Ph (02) 9670 8222

Email: pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au;

or directly to: The **Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards**

Ph (02) 8838 3419

Email: safeguarding@parracatholic.org.

Information about the Diocese's response and support for safeguarding children and vulnerable people is available at 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

"What do I love when I love my God?"

- St Augustine

*"But what do I love when I love my God?
Not the sweet melody of harmony and song;
not the fragrance of flowers, perfumes, and
spices;
not manna or honey;
not limbs such as the body delights to embrace.
It is not these that I love when I love my God.
And yet, when I love Him,
it is true that I love a light of a certain kind, a
voice, a perfume, a food, an embrace;
when it tastes food that is never consumed by the
eating;*

*but they are of the kind that I love in my inner
self,
when my soul is bathed in light that is not bound
by space;
when it listens to sound that never dies away;
when it breathes fragrance that is not borne
away on the wind;
when it tastes food that is never consumed by the
eating;
when it clings to an embrace from which it is not
severed by fulfillment of desire.
This is what I love when I love my God."*

KIDS Corner

PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

salt	city	shine
earth	hill	good
light	lamp	praise

satl s _ a _ l _ t

lpam _____

hlil _____

lithg _____

godo _____

erhat _____

perasi _____

cyti _____

sihen _____

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 5:13-16

 COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



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

First Reading

Sirach 15:15-20

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Cleaners: Group 2 (14th Feb)

Banners: GREEN

**Observances for the week of the
8th February 2026, year 2**

Mon 9th Feb: Monday of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time

Tue 10th Feb: St Scholastica, virgin

Wed 11th Feb: Wednesday of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time

Thu 12th Feb: Thursday of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time

Fri 13th Feb: Friday of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time

Sat 14th Feb: Sts. Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop

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

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 10th at 7.00 pm.**
Presenter – Michael Zammit.

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

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians since 1995

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 Sevare, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E pp@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Asst Pastor: Fr Dave Austin, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E daustin@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Asst Pastor: Fr Peter Tangey, OSA P 02 9670 8222 E ptangey@holyspiritstclair.com.au

Asst Pastor: Fr Joseph Aresseril Jacob "Saju", OSA P 02 9670 8222 E saju@holyspiritstclair.com.au

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

Admin Assistant: Sonia Sultana (Thursday, Friday) 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 • **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

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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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!



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