

# 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

## Easter Faith ... *Promise of Peace!*

Dear Friends,

On this ANZAC Weekend, we mark a sacred and sensitive time in the history of our nation as we honour the memory of men and women who served our country in time of war, some members of our families, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice. In today's fractured world, the cause of peace is critical and a challenge in our lifestyle and our faith.

A week or so ago, Pope Leo XIV visited the Basilica of St. Augustine in Annaba, Algeria, where St Augustine had been Bishop 1600 years ago. In this Basilica of Peace, the Holy Father laid out his vision for the Church, inspired by Augustine's teaching:

*'In the face of poverty and oppression, the guiding principle above all for Christians is charity. Let us do to those around us, as we would have them do to us.'*



His visit to Africa follows some weeks of controversy where Leo enunciated clearly the teaching of the Gospel on peace and highlighted the effects of modern warfare with its sophisticated technology, destructive capacity, and costly impact on innocent human life. In doing so, Leo reinforced the teaching of the Church preached by successive Popes - certainly every Pope since Pius XII. His message is to all world leaders that our world must change.

Accompanying Pope Leo was the Prior General of the Augustinians, Fr Joseph Farrell OSA, who issued the following statement on behalf of the Order:

*As a family of brothers and sisters who share the spiritual heritage of Saint Augustine, we have gathered in Annaba, Algeria, in the Basilica of Peace where Augustine himself served as bishop. We prayed with Pope Leo XIV, a son of Augustine, as he led us in prayer and Eucharist, as Augustine did as well in this very place.*

*We stand with Pope Leo in his role as a messenger of peace. The Holy Father proclaims Christ and his gospel message of love, forgiveness and unity. It is the message that brings life and hope and order to a world that so often trembles in suffering, fear, and conflict.*

*St Augustine knew well that the 'order of love' is our path to peace. Only by loving God first and our neighbour as ourselves, can we find order and peace, and happiness.*

*A Prayer Vigil for Peace will be held in Holy Spirit Parish on  
Saturday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> May.*

4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER, Yr A  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### First Reading

Acts 2:14, 36-41

*God has made Jesus both  
Lord and Christ.*

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:1-6

*The Lord is my Shepherd;  
There is nothing I shall want.*

### Second Reading

1 Peter 2:20-25

*You had gone astray, but now you  
have come back to the shepherd and  
guardian of your souls.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.*

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel

John 10:1-10

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

## 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

### 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

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.



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 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, Alexandra Di Censo, Emmanuel Spiteri, Sam Chahoud, George Chahoud, Keith James Doggett, Ali R, Winnie & Povalu Blake, Monica Conroy, Annalena Guttenbeil, Halaina Conroy, Havana Conroy, Anthony Grech, Fr. Kieran O’Mahony OSA, Glenda, Al, Ashley, Donald, Lee Felsing, Tension Silva, Alan Demascus, Liam Banguis, Michael Omrad, Mitchell Dalgliesh, Vittoria Sultana

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Giga, Patricia Ficcaro, Gabriel Santos, Sandra Facciolo, Connie Schembri, Felicidad Tabel, Ted Turek, Bryan Lewis, Jack Herft, Chris Whitton, Jeffrey Nobbs, David Mojica, Gwentyth Mullens, Margaret Dutton, Pamela Isacs, Bernadette Herft, Joseph Spagnol, Jesusa Villaestes, Dolores Delatado, Russell Pavey, Ann Barrington, Eva Vetter, Fr. Dermott Clinton, Stanley Rugg, Lisa Smit, Colleen Lobo

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:**

Enid Falleiro, Corazon Salvador, Eufemia Cañete, Manuel Terrado Snr., Major H Mostert, J Tameruis, POMTP J. Fuller, SGT M Drysdal, LSEPT P Michal, Deceased Members of 40<sup>th</sup> Intake 1972 Jnr Recruits, Georgina Briffa, Jose Antonio Clemente, Therese Cotte, Cesar Damole Senyor, Jack Maloney, Frank Dubier, Michelle Thomas, Anka Dejid, Mato Marijanovic, John Richard ‘Jack’ Gore, Fr. Laurie Mooney OSA, Maurice Sultana, Basil Middleton

*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)**

**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 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!*

# 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)

I am the gate: whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture

Gospel: John 10:1-10

1 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

## Thought for the Day

What is distinctive about our faith as Christians? We do not believe in a system of ideas or even in a higher ethics: we believe in a person, who gives life "a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Benedict XVI). John's Gospel makes this clear with its great I am sentences, one of which we hear today: "I am the gate." Naturally, we think the gate to what? The gate to life to the full. The risk today is to set our expectations low, to be happy with less. But the Gospel calls not to be half alive, but to be fully alive. Let us enter by the gate himself, because the gate to life is always open.

## Pointers for Prayer

1. "Care" seems the fundamental image here. It invites a reflection on our own experience of being cared for, in all sorts of ways. It opens us to the experience of being cared for by God in Jesus. Prayer of being loved.
2. Guidance is part of the metaphor. In what ways have I found myself lost in the labyrinth life and in need of direction? Where did I find guidance? Does the word of God guide me today? Prayer of being accompanied.

3. In looking for meaning, when did I realise the Gospel is really not a teaching but a person? Prayer of relationship.
4. We all want to live and be alive, to have life in abundance. How am I at this point in my life? Where does faith in the Jesus as the gate come in? Prayer of being alive.

## Prayer

O God, you never cease to call even those far away, for it is your will that all be drawn into one fold.

Attune our ears to the voice of the Good Shepherd, who leads us always to you, that we may find under your tender protection life in all its fullness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

## Good Shepherd Sunday – Pray for Vocations

This Good Shepherd Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, continues to call men and women to follow Him in a life of service and love.

We invite all parishioners to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, especially within our Augustinian family. May those whom the Lord is calling have the courage to listen and respond with generous hearts.

If you have been considering a vocation to the Augustinians, or would like to learn more about religious life, we warmly encourage you to take the next step. Please feel free to contact Fr Saldie OSA at [vocations@osa.org.au](mailto:vocations@osa.org.au) for a conversation.

Let us continue to support and encourage vocations through our **prayer, witness, and invitation.**



[osa.or.gau/vocations](http://osa.or.gau/vocations) | [vocations@osa.org.au](mailto:vocations@osa.org.au)

# POPE LEO XIV'S INTENTIONS

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

## SPECIAL MASSES

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The **Anointing of the Sick** will be celebrated on **Friday, 1 May during the 9:05am Mass**. We invite those who are unwell, elderly, or in need of healing to receive this sacrament.

### ADORATION & EXPOSITION

There will be **Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on **Friday, 1 May at 7:30pm**. **Reconciliation** will also be available during this time.

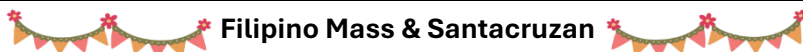
### PEACE VIGIL

**Peace Vigil** - In solidarity with Pope Leo XIV's Peace Vigil at the Vatican, our parish will hold a **Peace Vigil on Saturday, 2 May after the 6:00pm Mass (7:15pm–8:15pm)**.

This will be a sacred hour of **adoration, scripture, silence, and intercession**, offered for a world in need of healing.

Come and be still. Come and believe. *The world is waiting for people who pray.*

### FILIPINO MASS & SANTACRUZAN



#### Filipino Mass & Santacruzán



Join us on **Sunday, 3 May 2026 at 11:30 am** for our **Filipino Mass and Santacruzán**.

Come and celebrate this beautiful Filipino tradition of honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May.

If you would like to take part in the Santacruzán, please contact **Fr Perci on 0439 111 932**.

All are warmly invited to stay for **fellowship after Mass**—please bring a plate to share.

### PARISH SURVEY: WELCOME & INCLUSION

Our Parish Pastoral Council is reflecting on how we can grow as a more **welcoming and inclusive community**. We invite you to complete a short **Parish Survey on Hospitality, Welcome, and Inclusion**. Your feedback will help guide our parish moving forward.

The survey takes only a few minutes. Take a paper form from the foyer.

Please return completed forms in the boxes at the church entrances **by Thursday, 7 May 2026**.

Your voice matters. Thank you for helping us build a parish where **everyone feels at home**.

*Thank you for your participation.*

## Pentecost Celebrations!



Fan the flames of faith, let's wear **RED** to celebrate *our parish*



### FEAST DAY!

**24th May after 9:30 am Mass**

Help us celebrate by donating a dish on the day or donating towards the BBQ and drinks.

Contact Trina 0411344613 if you'd like to help.

# PARISH & AUGUSTINIAN NEWS

Fr. Saju is away on annual leave and will return on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Friends of St Augustine will meet on **Thursday 30 April, at 7:00 pm** in the Pioneers Room, anyone interested in attending will be most welcome.

## PROJECT COMPASSION

*Thank You*

Thank you for your generosity in supporting **Project Compassion**.  
Our parish has raised **\$4,335.05**.  
Your kindness is making a real difference in the lives of those in need.



## PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Beginning **next weekend**, we will launch our

### Parish Stewardship Program

This initiative invites all parishioners to prayerfully consider how they can support the life and mission of our parish—through **prayer, service, and giving**.

*More information will be shared in the coming weeks.*

## TOONGABBIE & BLACKTOWN LEGAL CENTRE RAFFLE

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) volunteers will be selling raffle tickets this weekend after all Masses. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 17 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney.

**Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 for a book of 10 tickets – with ten prizes.**

### 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***



### Monday Morning Mass 27<sup>th</sup> April

Will be held at **9.05 am**

Feast of Our Mother of Good Counsel



## 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!***

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

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



# PARISH NEWS

## Parish Census - REMINDER

### Parish Census 2026 – Help us update our records

As we continue to grow as a faith community, Holy Spirit Parish St Clair is conducting a Parish Census in 2026 to help us update our records and better understand the needs of our parish family over the coming weeks.

We're asking one person from each household to complete a short census card (online or on paper). It takes less than 5 minutes and will help us:

- keep our contact details up to date,
- communicate more clearly about parish news and events, and
- plan for the needs of our parish community.

You may complete the census by scanning the QR code or by picking up a paper form available at the entrances of the church. Once completed, please return the form to the parish office or place it in the designated census collection boxes. **Thank you for helping us better care for our parish family.**



[Scan here to complete the Parish Census online →](#)

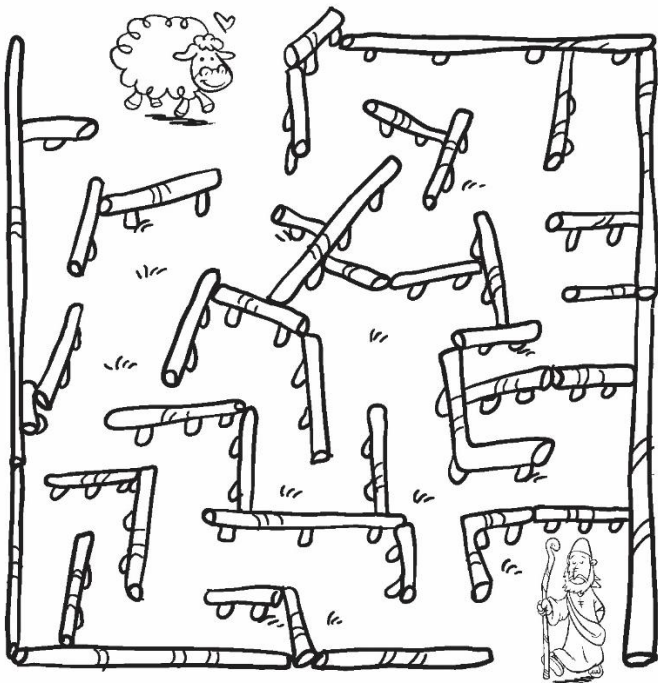
## KID'S CORNER

### PRAYER

Jesus, help me hear the right voices, and not follow the wrong voices.

### PUZZLE

Help the sheep find the shepherd.



### COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



### MISSION

I will listen and follow directions of my parents and teachers right away

**NEXT WEEKEND:  
5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of  
EASTER, Year A**

**First Reading**

Acts 6:1-7

*The elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

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

**Second Reading**

1 Peter 2:4-9

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

John 14:6

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

John 14:1-12

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

**Cleaners: Group 2 (02/05)  
Banners: WHITE**

**Observances for the week of the  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2026, year 2 – EASTER TIME**

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> April: Mother of Good Counsel  
Tue 28<sup>th</sup> April: St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr  
Wed 29<sup>th</sup> April: St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor  
Thu 30<sup>th</sup> April: THURSDAY of the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Easter  
Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June: FRIDAY of the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Easter  
Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June: St Athanasius, bishop, doctor

**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-**



**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 **12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 pm.**  
Presenter – Seaview Kama.

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

**Parish Council** **Chair:** Seaview Kama • **Vice Chair:** Peter Moriarty • **Secretary:** Trina Esguerra Cruz  
**Members:** Andrea Bouche, 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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**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:

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**BSB: 067 950**  
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