HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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

29th November 2026

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians — Catholic Diocese of Parramatta

Advent Begins! - *'Welcoming Grace...'*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Year B

Dear Friends,

Hospitality and ***welcome*** are familiar and important themes in our Parish Community – attitudes and practical responses that are second nature to us. ***Hospitality*** and ***welcome*** are core Advent realities as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Jesus at Christmas.

In Jesus, our God extends hospitality and welcome, inviting us to enjoy his faithful love made present to us in the life of his Son. We in turn are invited to offer hospitality and welcome to our Saviour who has embraced our human condition, in how we love, how we pray, how we live. Of course, Christmas is an Easter Feast as it celebrates our Redemption. Every gospel account is coloured by faith in the Resurrection of Jesus, and so we don't need to pretend at Christmas that Christ hasn't yet been born or hasn't risen from the dead.

Not only is Jesus himself ***'wonderfully made'*** in the humanity he chooses to share but we too are ***'wonderfully made'*** – highlighted in today's first reading: *'And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand'* (Isaiah 64:8) – testimony to the generosity and joy of God at his Son's birth and our birth too.

Advent is not a Season of Penance but a Season of Refreshment of our Faith – to share some reflections of Pope Benedict XVI, the realisation that our God dwells with us, our God has a human face and loves us to the end, and we are invited to gaze upon the face of God in the person of Jesus.

We find refreshment in the hospitality and welcome of the Sacraments – '***Welcoming Grace'***. Our ***Baptism*** is the true sacrament of welcome into the life of the Trinity and the Community of the Church. ***Reconciliation/Penance*** welcomes us home after we have sinned. In the ***Eucharist***, we are welcomed to the Table of the Lord to be fed on the Lord's flesh and blood, the sign of divine presence as we grow into the Body of Christ.

The grace of the Sacraments is indeed ***'Welcoming Grace'*** as each year we enter Advent, that time of waiting when we open our hearts to let Jesus enter that place within us where we may not have allowed him to go before. As we light up our homes with Christmas lights, we reflect on what light means during this Season. The Advent Wreath candles gradually weave the thread of light that helps us prepare for the splash of brilliant light that bathes us in our celebration of Christ at Christmas.



Yes, Jesus wants to be our guest!

Fr Dave

First Reading
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
May the Lord come when we are doing good.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4
(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
The Lord will strengthen us to the end.

Gospel Acclamation
Psalm 84:8
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel
Mark 13:33-37
We know not the hour the Lord will come.

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
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.

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



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)

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



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/

Please submit all names/requests no later than Thursday at 12 pm.

SICK:

Judy Younes Scott, Andrew Boulos, Robert Bucholtz, Yael De Leon, Ida Martirez, John Cassar, Dot Gray, Julian Giuliano, Steven Johns, Hayden Young, Janice Salmon, Alexandra Di Censo, Keith James Doggett, Colin Young, C.A.C, Sarah, Fr. Jepser Bermudez, Elsa Roberto, Georgio, Joe Duvall, Michael Pinchen, B. Bolo, Minette Sioson, JR Benzon, Chona Umpangco, Nympha Miller, Ian Westmoreland, Kim Hak-Doo, Pilgrim drivers - Juan & Pawlo, Minette Sioson, Kevin Heffernan, Kim, Marjorie N., Jumroon Tongchuay, Martin Sultana, Linda Ellis, Monica Conroy, George Gabriel, Joe, Charles, Anna, Stanley Gonsalvez, Ian Llewelyb, Alden Gajo Jr., Estrella Ete, John Warne

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Mitchel Buttigieg, Monica Cook, Philip Micallef, Nicholas Buhagiar, Michael Istanbouli, Tony Williams, Alfred Scicluna, Manuel Buot, Sheila Guttenbeil, Joe Gray, Souraya Katrib, Tony Ayoub, Silvino Abacan, Jenny from Inala, Josefina Arrastia Ocampo, Fr Dun Paul Reggio, Frank Kuljanic, Ian Martin Acosta, Joe Grey, Norma Urbano Lopez, Lilian Jose, Antonio Teodoro, Toni Byrne, Damian Nugava

DEATH ANNIVERSARY:

Loreta Deapera Joson, Colleen Green, Victor Sequeira, Coridad Eco, Jeanne Marie Blake, Nenu Facciol, Sano Fernandes, Leslie Kiss, Jose Teodoro, Ricardo Herft, George Herft, Faustina Sandot, Julia Ereño

Names submitted to the Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time. Please contact admin AFTER this time has passed if you are still unwell and require prayers.

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. Thirty (30%) of the collection is for the care of our Augustinian clergy and the seventy (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.

First Sunday of Advent Year B

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

Leo's Lens - ***REFLECTION by Nick Brodie***

'Do not be afraid,' Pope Leo says. 'God is with us. Rejoice and be strong with the strength that comes from the Lord.'

'We are', the Pope says, 'called to receive God's grace.' In practice, that means seeking 'processes of forgiveness and reconciliation that renew peace, hope and charity within us.'

'Let us be sincere,' the Pope says, 'acknowledge our faults and ask the Lord for forgiveness; forgiveness for that beggar, for that tear I caused to fall; forgiveness for those eyes that, when they met mine, I refused to look at.' This is how we prepare for Christ's coming!

This is a time of year when, the Pope acknowledges, we 'can feel tired, disappointed or disoriented.' It is just the time to find renewal in Scripture. 'Let us allow ourselves to be enlightened by it,' the Pope says, 'for the word of God is a lamp for our steps and a light to our path.'

Each of us is 'invited to demonstrate charity in the manner of Christ', the Pope reminds us. 'Loving like Christ is not a matter of doing great things,' he adds, 'but of remaining faithful at the Lord's side.' Preparing for Christmas 'is a matter of looking at life through heavenly eyes and painting each of our days with the color of hope.'

[Quotes from Homily at Luján, Argentina, 11 November 2026: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20261111-argentina-messa-lujan.html]

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

It is hard to be the clay and to let God be the potter. That's like praying, 'Whatever you ask of me, God, I'm willing to do it. I'm all yours. Point the way, and I'm walking it.'

It is easier to be the potter and want God to be the clay. That's like praying, 'God, please do this and do that; please give me this and give me that.'

When did you pray as if you were the potter? What happened? How did you feel?

Did you ever pray as if you were the clay? If so, what happened? How did you feel? If not, why not? What might happen? And how could you feel?





NOVEMBER MASSES FOR THE HOLY SOULS

Throughout November, we remember our departed loved ones in prayer and at Mass. Submit their names through our parish website or use the November Mass Offering envelopes available in the church foyer.

PURCHASE YOUR COPY TODAY!

God's Word 2027—Daily Gospel Reflection – $22
Columban Religious Art Calendar 2027 – $11
PRESENCE Advent Program 2026 - $ 7
Available now at the Piety Store.













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
Phone: (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!

PARISH FAREWELL AND TRIBUTE TO FR DAVE

Sunday, 20 December 2026 | 9:30 am Mass

All are warmly invited to join us for a **special farewell for Fr Dave Austin OSA**, as we thank him for his generous service, pastoral care and friendship throughout his time with our parish community. Fr Dave has been appointed **Associate Pastor of St James Parish, Coorparoo, Brisbane**, commencing in January 2027. **A special fellowship will follow Mass**. **Please bring a plate of food to share.** Let us come together as one parish family to express our gratitude and appreciation to Fr Dave. **Everyone is welcome!**











Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities for November 2026

There are several face-to-face Safeguarding Training opportunities available throughout November at several parishes. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Table Talk Building an Inclusive Church for Families with Special Needs and Disabilities: 5 December

The Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton's "Special Hearts Ministry" and MET are hosting a Table Talk to raise awareness of the challenges and barriers faced by people with disabilities, particularly families with children with additional needs, in participating fully and actively in parish life. All are invited who are interested, want to learn more, or want to share their lived experience: Saturday 5 December 2026, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, 136 Hyatts Rd, Plumpton. Please register at tinyurl.com/IDPwD-tabletalk-26

CLAIM NOW: PARISH NAMETAGS

If you have ordered a nametag and have not yet collected it, please do so as soon as possible at the Piety Stall. Nametags are $10 each.

If you would like to order a nametag for yourself or a family member, please visit the Piety Stall. We encourage everyone to wear their nametags at parish Masses and events to help us get to know one another and build a more welcoming and connected parish community.

COMPLETED PARISH PROJECTS

PARISH SECURITY UPGRADES

The installation of white solar bollards, completed a few months ago, has enhanced the safety and security of our parish grounds.

Funding for this project has been provided by the NSW Government through Multicultural NSW's Safe Places for Faith Communities Grants 2025–26 program.

Our sincere thanks to the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Multicultural NSW for their support. Special thanks also to our Parish Finance Team, particularly Lorensz Herft and Geoffrey Pirotta, for facilitating the successful completion of this project.







PARISH DRIVEWAY SANDSTONE RETAINING WALLS

The sandstone retaining walls along our parish driveway leading to the car park are now complete, enhancing the safety and appearance of our parish grounds.

Our sincere thanks to Geoffrey Pirotta, Darren Spagnol and Frank Perera for facilitating this project and for their generous service to our parish community.

PARISH DOOR UPGRADES

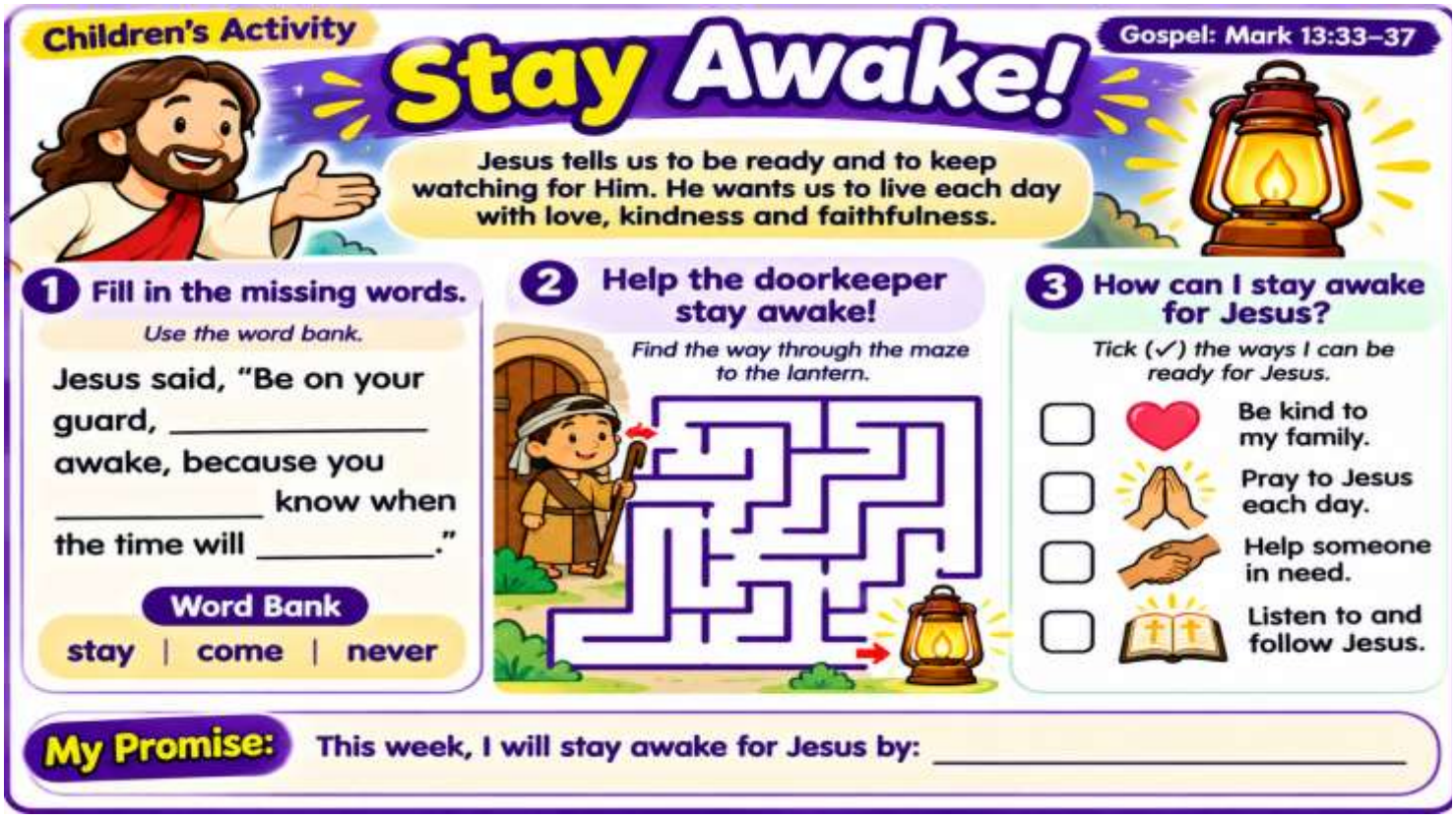
The door upgrades to our parish offices, sacristy and Pioneers Room were completed a few weeks ago, with the installation of glass panels to enhance the safety of our parish spaces.

This initiative forms part of our ongoing commitment to creating safe and welcoming parish spaces for everyone, particularly ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable people.

Our sincere thanks to Greg Gregoriou for installing the glass panels, Lionel Kyd for painting the doors, and Geoffrey Pirotta for facilitating the project. We are grateful for their time, generosity and service to our parish community.

PARISH CAR PARK – LINE MARKING

The repainting of our parish car park lines was completed a few months ago, improving parking safety and organisation. An additional accessible parking space has been provided for parishioners with mobility needs. This improvement reflects our ongoing commitment to making our parish grounds safer and more accessible for everyone. Our sincere thanks to Darren Spagnol and Geoffrey Pirotta for facilitating this project and for their generous service to our parish community.



NEXT WEEKEND: Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

First Reading
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 84:9-14
(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading
2 Peter 3:8-14
We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

Gospel Acclamation
Psalm 84:8
Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel
Mark 1:1-8
Make straight the paths of the Lord.

Cleaners: Group 4 (05/12)
Banners: *Purple*

Observances for the week of the 29th November 2026 – FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT, Yr 1

Mon 30th November	:	St Andrew, apostle
Tue 1st December	:	Tuesday of the 1st Week of Advent
Wed 2nd December	:	Wednesday of the 1st Week of Advent
Thu 3rd December	:	St Francis Xavier, priest
Fri 4th December	:	Friday of the 1st Week of Advent
Sat 5th December	:	Saturday of the 1st Week of Advent

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 email us with your new details 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 baptized are asked to contact the Parish Office prior to attending a preparation evening. Next Baptism Preparation session is on **8 December at 7pm**

Presenter – Germaine Gil

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 Holy Spirit Parish St Clair-Erskine Park ●Holy Spirit Parish St Clair Family Ministry ●BASICGIFT (Youth Ministry)

Parish Office 5 Todd Row, St Clair NSW 2759 **Postal Address:** PO Box 103, St Clair NSW 2759
P 02 9670 8222 **E** admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au **W** www.holyspiritstclair.com.au

Office Hours 9.00 am to 4 pm (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 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: **P** 0422 429 043 **E** 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, Sue Oram, Savio Ferreira
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, contact Mila at accounts@holyspiritstclair.com.au.

Thank you for your support!