

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed
the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 3: 13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven,
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have
eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may
not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world

not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be
saved.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

LIFTED UP

Today's Feast moves us away from our usual
journey through Luke's Gospel. Instead,
our focus is with John's Gospel. We are
in a different world. John 3 concerns the
engagement which Jesus has with Nicodemus,
a Jewish leader and, as we learn at the
Gospel's end, a potential disciple. In this
chapter, the evangelist seeks to reflect upon
Jesus' origins. John affirms that Jesus, God's
Word and source of Wisdom, is from God.
He 'came down from Heaven'. Jesus is God's
exalted heavenly and human presence. He will
be 'lifted up', that is, in John's story of Jesus'
passion and death, he will be 'lifted up' on the
cross and will be 'lifted up' in exaltation by
the Father in resurrection. Jesus' death is also
his exaltation.

In today's Gospel, the evangelist draws on the
imagery of the fashioned bronze serpent that
Moses 'lifts up', that we hear today in the first
reading from the *Book of Numbers*. The serpent
figure rescues the suffering Israelites. For
John, this, too, is Jesus' quest: to rescue and
bring eternal life to suffering humanity. John's
passage exudes hope and divine communion
with humanity and creation. God loves the
'cosmos' so much that God's very being and
expression in the Word, Jesus, suffers for it.
This word, 'cosmos', comprises the whole of
creation, including humanity.

Palpable optimism permeates this Gospel
passage. For John, God wants nothing or
anyone to be 'lost'. All are found in the Word
enfleshed in Jesus. God's community with
creation and humanity is sealed and eternal.
This is such a rich Gospel for today's Feast.
Every line deserves meditation.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS / C

14 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Num 21: 4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they
were healed.*

On the way through the wilderness, the
Israelites lost patience. They spoke against
God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring
us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For
there is neither bread nor water here: we are
sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the
people; their bite brought death to many in
Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We
have sinned by speaking against the Lord and
against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to
save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded
for the people, and the Lord answered him,
'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard.
If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall
live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent
which he put on a standard, and if anyone was
bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze
serpent and lived.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 77: 1-2, 34-38. R. v. 7

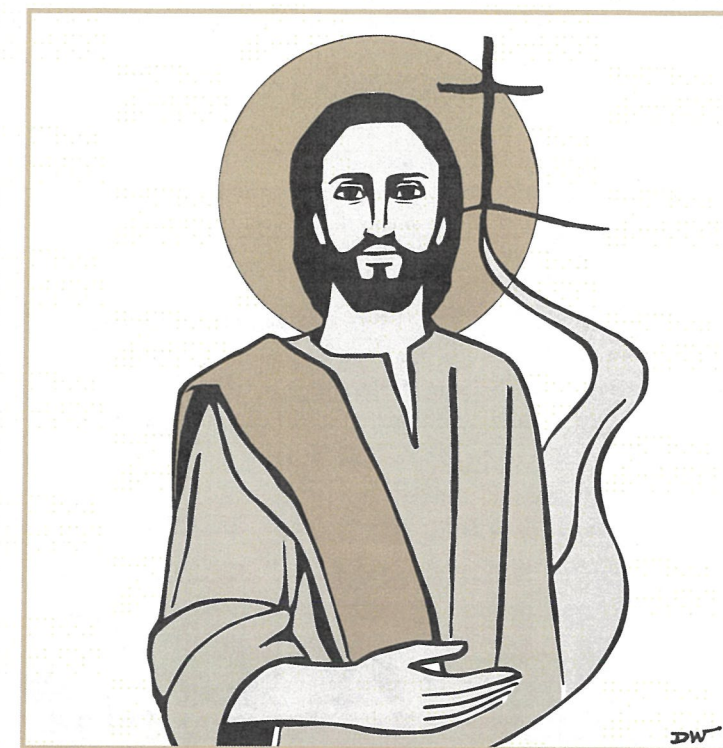
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; /
turn your ear to the words of my mouth /
I will open my mouth in a parable / and reveal
hidden lessons of the past. **R.**

2. When he slew them then they would seek
him, / return and seek him in earnest. / They
would remember that God was their rock, /
God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**

3. But the words they spoke were mere
flattery; / they lied to him with their lips. / For
their hearts were not truly with him; / they
were not faithful to his covenant. **R.**

4. Yet he who is full of compassion / forgave
their sin and spared them. / So often he held
back his anger / when he might have stirred up
his rage. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 2: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.

The state of Jesus Christ was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

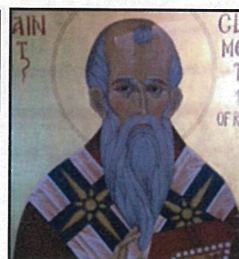
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.



St Clement of Rome Church

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Mark.Reynolds@cam.org.au

Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Watt (9850 1216)

Parish Administration & Finance : Bernadine De Silva, **Pastoral Worker:** Marilyn Robert
St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1800 305 330)

Parish Vision Statement : Guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Parish of St Clement of Rome seeks to be a community of authentic disciples of Jesus, living the Word of God. As a welcoming community, through humble service, we acknowledge our stewardship of God's creation and strive to promote the dignity of all God's people.

JUBILEE 2025—PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Today's theme is : The Son of Man must be lifted up

We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025
WE ARE A SAFE, HOPE-FILLED AND WELCOMING CHURCH



Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

2nd Post-Baptism Family Gathering—This Sunday after 9am Mass in the Clifton Centre

This is an opportunity for young families who have had their children baptised at our parish between January 2024 – January 2025 to come together and share their experiences as we journey together as a faith community.

Word of Life - Weekly Reflections in October– 10.00AM to 11.00AM

What is God's invitation for me today? Would you let God walk with you everyday? Would you like to see how God speaks to us when we sit and listen to His word?

Let's meet for a cuppa after Mass on Wednesdays in October and reflect on the readings & Gospel of the day. Be inspired and touched to live everyday by God's grace through His words.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am & 11am (Italian)

Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Fri 9:15am (unless informed)

Reconciliation: Sat 5:00pm (and on request)

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd weekend every month. Weddings: By Appointment

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand.
We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently on this land.

PARISH DIARY

Sun 14th Sept @ 9am—Mass
Sun 14th Sept @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 16th Sept @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 17th Sept @ 9.15am—Mass
Thurs 18th Sept @ 9.15am—Mass
Fri 19th Sept @ 9.15am—School end of term Mass
Sat 20th Sept @ 5pm —Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently,
Herminia Vidal Lim and for the repose of the souls of
Mario & Anna Gerosolimo, Renato Morfuni and all those,
whose anniversaries occur at about this time. Eternal rest
grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine
upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

ASRE—Sacrament of Confirmation 2025

The Confirmation classes have been completed. The
Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Fri 10th Oct
at 6pm.

New Ways of Giving

To Support our Church with ease, we've introduced a new
EFTPOS terminal. This is an easy and secure way to donate,
but please note that it is not an alternative to your regular
stewardship envelopes.

You can also donate by scanning this QR code
with your phone camera.
Thank you for your generosity!



LITURGY ROSTER SAT 5.30PM SUN 9.00AM

13/14 September	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Maria Papalia
	Readers	Rene De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
		May Teh	Rita Gagliardi
	Special Ministers	Martin Teh	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Enza Wilcocks	Maria Papalia

20/21 September	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Daniel Abdallah
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah
		Warwick Wright	Grace Cannatelli
		Virginie Mindiel	Anne Fusca

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCARISTIA
21/09	J FAGGION P LOMBARDO	FAM L VETTORETTO	C TRAVAGLINI T RECINELLA

Sunday Reflection....

What a juxtaposition we find in the title of today's feast. How can we exalt in the cross on which Jesus died such a torturous death? Well, when seen from the perspective of the resurrection, the picture starts to become clear. The cross was the means by which God, in the person of Jesus, would, in his endless love and compassion, bring a wayward world back home to him. Today's Gospel gives us perhaps the most well-known Bible verse of all, in John 3:16: 'Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.' God didn't send his Son to condemn us but to save us. Out of his great love for humanity, God reached down into a broken human world, and Jesus, by bearing our sins on the cross, redeemed us, and in the resurrection, showed us the way back to communion with God and to eternal life in God's presence. We exalt the cross because it restores to us all that was lost, and it stands forever as a reminder of God's endless outpouring of love for us.

God's Word—Daily Reflections

In honour of James Robert Cardinal Knox
Fifth Archbishop of Melbourne

Knox Public Lecture 2025

Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 7.30 pm
Knox Room, Catholic Theological College
278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

Co-Responsible Leadership and Governance in the Vineyard of the Lord: Theological Foundation and Canonical Opportunities

Presented by Professor Myriam Wijlens

Professor Myriam Wijlens is a Dutch theologian and professor of Canon Law, University of Erfurt, Germany. Since 2021 she has been a Consultant to the General Secretariat of the Synod, served on the Coordinating Committee of the Synod on Synodality and participated as an expert in the Assemblies of 2023 and 2024. She is a member of the Synod's Commission for the Revision of Canon Law and of Study Group 8 on Apostolic Nuncios.

She is the co-moderator of the international research group of theologians and canon lawyers called the "Peter and Paul Seminar", which attends to reforms in canon law based on Vatican II, including two major projects related to the topic of this Knox Lecture: *Accountability in a Synodal Church* and *Refining the Understanding of Participation in Mission and Leadership in a Synodal Church*. She has published several books and more than 150 articles, a number of which are on the role of lay persons in the governance and leadership of the church.

Professor Wijlens is a member of ARCIC (Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission), vice-moderator of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and a former member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

To book scan the QR code or go to [2025 Knox Lecture](#)
RSVP: Tuesday 7 October 2025 | Light refreshments will be served after the lecture.

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