

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

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

GOSPEL

Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:
'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

26 APRIL 2026

THE BEAUTIFUL SHEPHERD

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally from John 10, about the 'Good (or, literally, 'beautiful') shepherd'. Today's selection focuses on the image of the *gate* of the sheepfold. In our culture, gates and doors are important. They provide us with security and access to what is inside—a house, a building, a room. And through entering the door or gate, we come to be with others, with whom we (usually) identify or know, perhaps family members and friends. In the Gospel, the one who enters this gate is the shepherd of the flock—an image familiar to John's Mediterranean audience and in a world where shepherds were male and female. The shepherd is a protecting and loving figure who is familiar with each sheep—calling each one by name. The shepherd leads the sheep who follow because 'they know his voice'. This image of the sheep 'knowing' the voice of the shepherd accentuates the deep and abiding intimate relationship between the sheep and shepherd.

In the final part of the Gospel, Jesus reaffirms his mission of protection and his intent to bring freedom to those who listen to his voice. Perhaps, by the time of the Gospel's writing, the community was already experiencing division, difficulty and others presuming to speak in ways that claimed authority but were in fact 'thieves and brigands'. The Gospel concludes: Jesus has come 'so that they may have life and have it to the full.' This desire for the fullness of life echoes in each of our hearts as we allow the voice of the 'Beautiful Shepherd' to guide, protect and nurture us.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.'

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want. (or Alleluia!)**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**



4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:20-25

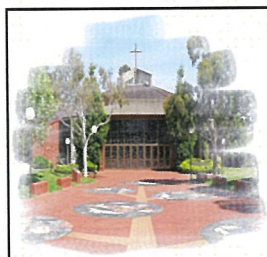
A reading from the first letter of St Peter

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

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

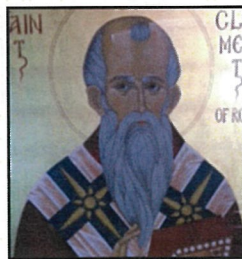
This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

■ **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
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.

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today's theme is : I am the gate of the sheepfold

We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass

THANK YOU

I would like to express my sincere thanks for our morning tea gathering last Sunday, the many kind words that people spoke to me both at the gathering and after Mass and also for the generosity of so many in contributing to the 'farewell collection.' I have been most touched by all of this and I thank everybody most sincerely. Take care, go well and may you all be held in the palm of God's loving hand.

Fr Mark

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Pope Leo tells us:

Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25:14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ.

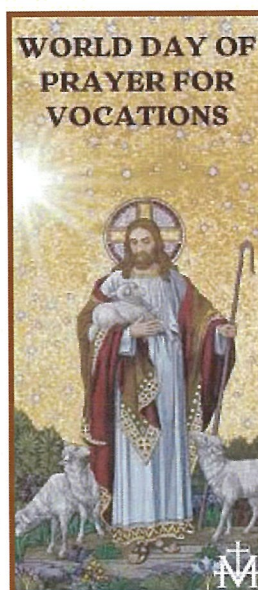
Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

A Vocation View

On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, pray for yourself. Pray to know if God is calling YOU to be a Priest, Sister or Brother. Pray!

A prayer request

You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday and place them on the alter at the offertory. Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations.



Mass Count 2026

Over the next four weekends in May, beginning from next weekend, the Annual Mass Count will take place at St Clement's at all Masses. Collectors at weekend Masses are asked to help with the forms please. Thank you.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

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

Tues 9:15am (*Italian*), Wed-Fri 9:15am (no Masses, 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 26th Apr @ 9am—Mass
Sun 26th Apr @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 28th Apr @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 29th Apr @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Rosaria Saltalamacchia
Sat 2nd May @ 9am — First Eucharist classes in the parish office
Sat 2nd May @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, Rosaria Saltalamacchia and for the repose of the souls of Salvatore Proietto, Susan Foley, Ana Bucaj 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.

After School Sacramental Program 2026

Please see below the schedule for the Sacrament of First Eucharist preparation classes. Enrolments closed. Classes will commence next Saturday.



DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 2 nd May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 1
Saturday 9 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 2
Saturday 16 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 3
Saturday 23 rd May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 4
Saturday 30 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 5
Saturday 6 th June	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 6
Saturday 20 th June	@ 5.30pm Mass	Sacrament of First Eucharist

Prayer for the Melbourne Synod

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

Attributed to St Isidore of Seville (c.560-4 April 636), this prayer been used at councils, synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years. Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the Adsumus Sancte Spiritus prayer.

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
25/26 April	<i>Sacristan</i>	Maria Papalia	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Jan McQueen
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Maria Papalia
	Special Ministers	Virginie Mindiel	Anne Fusca
		Zina Scalzo	Shirley Pyndiah
		May Teh	Grace Cannatelli

2 /3 May	Sacristan	Elroy De Witt	Shirley Pyndiah
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Maria Papalia
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Yamna Taouk
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi
		Warwick Wright	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Zina Scalzo	Carmen Gobbi

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
03/05/2026	N.Bisignano P.Lombardo	Famiglia A. Vallese	L. Ciampa G. Baglieri

A Synod is not a parliament

The Church is not a democracy where truth is decided by majority vote. A Synod is not about winning arguments or pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual process of listening deeply—to God, to Scripture, to tradition, and to one another—so that decisions are shaped by faith and mission, not ideology.



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission in action - empowering communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Your kindness and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community. **Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.** You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515. *"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me."* (Matthew 25:35)