

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

SELF-CENTRED SEDUCTIONS

As is traditional on the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel passage is about Jesus' temptation, an appropriate theme as we begin our own journey in Lent and begin to explore our own seductive temptations. We are all prone to these, and Matthew presents us with a Jesus similarly tested: an egoism exclusive of others especially God, the attraction to power and the seduction of wealth. These temptations are crafted in Old Testament terminology and imagery, particularly present in the Book of Deuteronomy, and ones that Israel experienced in the wilderness.

In today's story, Satan enters the scene, originally a member of the heavenly court (see Job) but, by the time of Matthew, God's adversary who tests the intention and fidelity of those who belong to God. Jesus is his target in three temptations. The first is about food and the temptation to break covenantal fidelity to God due to hunger. The second seeks to question Jesus' conviction of God's care of him. From the parapet of the temple, Jesus is told to throw himself from it, and test God's protection of him. In the third, with a vision of all the earth's kingdoms and seduction of wealth, Jesus is tempted to change his allegiance from God to Satan.

Matthew's point is quite clear writing to a Jewish audience most familiar with Israel's desert failures: Jesus is an authentic Jew who belongs to the Israelite people, knows and experiences their temptations, but resists the seduction of egoism, power and wealth in fidelity to God and his covenantal relationship. In this first week of Lent, today's Gospel invites us to reflect on those self-centred seductions that may compromise our true relationship to God.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

2. My offences truly I know them; / my sin is always before me. / Against you, you alone



have I sinned; / what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

4. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me. / O Lord, open my lips / and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5:12, 17-19.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

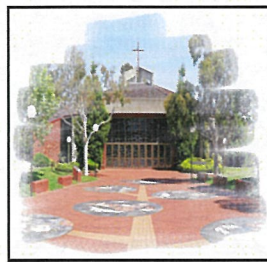
Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

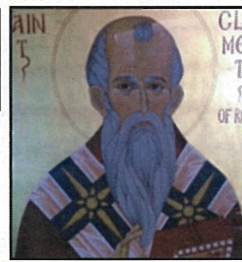
■ **The word of the Lord.**

Longer form 5:12-19



St Clement of Rome Church

Address: 9 –21 Egan Drive, Bulleen 3105 - **Phone:** 9850 3262
Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, **Web:** <https://www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen>
<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>
Office Hours: Tue—Thur 9am-5pm



Parish Priest : Very Rev Mark Reynolds EV (Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools)

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 First Sunday of Lent

Today's theme is : Jesus fasted for forty days and nights

We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass



Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent—We invite you to deepen your Lenten journey by participating in the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 8.40am. We look forward to seeing you as we unite in prayer during this sacred season.



First Sunday of Lent 21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

LENTEN REGULATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE NOTICE BOARD

Sign up Sheets for Holy Week Ministries

As Lent progresses, it is time for us to begin planning for the upcoming Holy Week. In preparation, sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex this weekend for your kind attention.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could add your name to assist with any of the Lenten Ministries as we prepare for the Holy Week. The information gathered from these sign-up sheets will help us organise and finalise Holy Week Ministry Roster.

Thank you for your generous support and participation.



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 22nd Feb @ 9am—Mass
 Sun 22nd Feb @ 11am—Italian Mass
 Tue 24th Feb @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Wed 25th Feb @ 9.15am—no Mass
 Thurs 26th Feb @ 9.15am—no Mass
 Fri 27th Feb @ 8.40am—Stations of the Cross
 Fri 27th Feb @ 9.15am—Grade 6 Class Mass
 Sat 28th Feb @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for the repose of the souls of **Gabriella Di Grazia, Maria Lauletta** 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. Enrolment forms are available on the website.



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

The Journey of Faith

A Lenten Retreat for the youth has been organized by the Little Sisters of the Poor in Northcote., to be held on Sat 14th March from 9.30am—6pm. The entrance is free and the lunch will be provided. Please RSVP before 10th March for catering purposes. Please contact Sr Maureen : 0416 609 878 or 9489 8444
 srmaureenmokaya@gmail.com

Important reminder for all Parish Ministry Volunteers

Please ensure that you are up to date with the safeguarding requirements, whether or not it involves direct or indirect contact with children and young people. We encourage you to visit our website for more details and to complete or finalise any necessary documentation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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

21/22 Feb	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Rita Gagliardi
1 Lent	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Christine Landsberg
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi
		Warwick Wright	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Virginie Mindiel	Carmen Gobbi
28 Feb / 1 Mar	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Grace Cannatelli
2 Lent	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Tim Landsberg
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Jan McQueen
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Agnes Lu
		May Teh	Maria Papalia
		Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
01/03	G VARASSO L DEL TONDO	FAM L VETTORETTO	L CIAMPA G BAGLIERI

World Day of Prayer Friday March 6th

10.00am



Doncaster Church of Christ

680 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Speaker: Rev Peter Young
 Who spent many years in Nigeria

All welcome
 Refreshments will be served

Contact 0438 034 739