

servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.” ’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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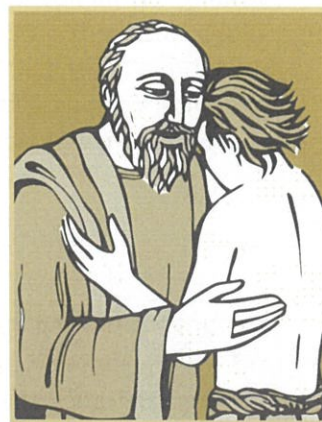
Breaking Open the Word

GOD’S LAVISH DELIGHT

This Sunday’s Gospel brings us to the very heart of Luke’s teaching—forgiveness and God’s delight in the return of the sinner. The Gospel’s introduction sets the scene: Jesus attracts and dines with moral reprobates. Is this mirroring what’s happening with Luke’s householders as they gather for the Lord’s Supper? Like Jesus, are they too being criticised by religious legislators?

Three parables follow. Our focus is on the third, the parable of two lost sons. Preachers often exclusively focus on the young son who demands his inheritance to leave the farm for a life of pleasure. The son is virtually treating his father as though dead when inheritances were usually bequeathed. He wants to completely cut family ties. We know what follows. The son’s need to address his chronic hunger and loneliness sitting with Earth’s most unclean creature, the pig, brings him to acknowledge his wrongdoing. He wants to return to his father’s farm not as a son but as a hired hand.

The father’s longing for his son’s return is palpable and completely upturns social expectation. It reflects God’s visceral response to the lost one who returns. The second older son is also lost. His adamant rejection of his younger brother’s behaviour and his unwillingness to join the celebration of the brother’s return flags an attitude circulating in Luke’s world. The father’s plea to this son for a change of heart is also a plea to the Gospel audience: Are we able to celebrate the joy of God’s lavish delight over those we would prefer to exclude?



Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

30 MARCH 2025

FIRST READING

Josh 5: 9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 33: 2-7. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Cor 5: 17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we

are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15: 18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

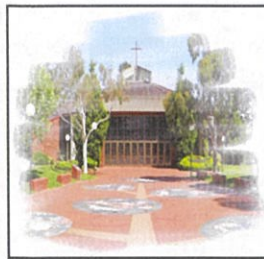
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

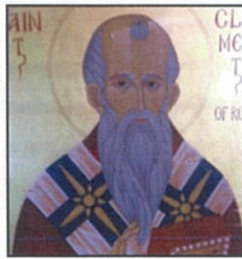
‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid



St Clement of Rome Church

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Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, **Web:** <https://www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen>
<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>
Office Hours: Mon (closed) Tue—Thur 9am-5pm Fri 9am—4.30pm



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 Secretary: Bernadine De Silva , **Parish/School Sacramental Coordinator:** 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 Fourth Sunday of Lent.
Today's theme is : Your brother here was dead and has come to life.
 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.

LENTEN REGULATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE NOTICE BOARD

Sunday Reflection...

According to Matthew, 'Jesus spoke to the crowd in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables' (Matthew 13:34). We listen today to one of the most memorable of them. Responding to the accusation of the Pharisees and scribes that he welcomed and ate with sinners, Jesus told a story that could be variously entitled 'The Parable of the Prodigal Son' or 'The Parable of the Forgiving Father'. It is both challenging and reassuring to us—challenging if we have reason to see ourselves in the older brother and reassuring if, mindful of our sinfulness, we identify with his erstwhile wayward but repentant sibling. Their father receives his younger son with great love and compassion, rejoicing that he 'was lost and is found'. With reference to this parable St John Paul II wrote: 'God's love is able reach down to every prodigal son, to every human misery and above all to every form of moral misery, to sin. When this happens, the person who is the object of mercy does not feel humiliated, but rather found again and "restored to value". Is there anyone whom, like the older brother, I have yet to forgive—a good Lenten question?

God's Word—Daily Reflections

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER
 Individual confession available in English & Italian
 Wednesday 9th April : 7.00pm

PALM SUNDAY – 12TH & 13TH APRIL
 Saturday 12th April : 5.30pm
 Sunday 13th April : 9.00am & 11.00am (Italian)

HOLY THURSDAY 17TH APRIL
 Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY – 18TH APRIL
 Stations of the Cross (English/Italian) : 9.00am
 Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

EASTER VIGIL – 19TH APRIL
 Mass in English : 7.00pm
 Mass in Italian : 9.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 20TH APRIL
 Mass in English : 9.00am
 Mass in Italian : 11.00am

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (*Vigil*), Sun - 9am & 11am (*Italian*)
 Tues 9:15am (*Italian*), Wed-Sat 9:15am (unless informed)

Reconciliation: Sat 9.45am (and on request). **Marian Devotions & Eucharistic Adoration :** Sat 8.40am

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

PARISH DIARY

Mon 31st Mar @ 9.15am—no Mass
 Tue 1st Apr @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Wed 2nd Apr @ 9.15am—Mass
 Thurs 3rd Apr @ 9.15am—Mass
 Fri 4th Apr @ 8.40am—Stations of the Cross
 Fri 4th Apr @ 9.15am—End of Term Mass (Gr 4)
 Sat 5th Apr @ 9.15am—Mass & Reconciliation

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for the repose of the souls of 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 Eucharist & Confirmation 2025

We are in the process of setting up dates for the classes. We will have them available as soon as possible. Thank you.



Parish morning tea next Sunday after 9am Mass
 Please bring a plate to share.

Virtual Lent Series by Garratt Publishing

A series of 6 Virtual Lent Talks by 3 Australian biblical scholars from Yarra Theological Union, a College of the University of Divinity. Tuesdays 4,11,18,25 Mar and 1,8 Apr from 7-8pm via zoom. Online registration is essential and the link is :

<https://garrattpublishing.com.au/event/lent-series-4-march-8-april-2025>

Participants then need to click on the Green '**REGISTER HERE**' button to go to the registration page where you will be asked for your name and email address. That email address will receive the link to the zoom webinar, which you need to click on at the appropriate time (just before each Tuesday, 7pm). If you join early (before the host has logged on) you will see a screen with the message "Waiting for the host to start the webinar." While you are waiting, you could click on the message "Test speaker and microphone" to check that the sound level is suitable. Otherwise, you just need to wait. A video file may be available afterwards, for the missed sessions.

LENT 2025 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>. You will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful.

Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

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
29/30 Mar	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
4 Lent	Commentator	May Teh	Daniel Abdallah
	Reader	John Bruce	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Agnes Lu
		May Teh	Gloria Ng
		Martin Teh	Maria Papalia
5/6 April	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
5 Lent	Commentator	John Bruce	Grace Cannatelli
	Reader	Jacinta De La Cruz	Rocco Gagliardi
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah
		Warwick Wright	Grace Cannatelli
		John Bruce	Anne Fusca

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCARISTIA
06/04	G BAGLIERI G VARASSO	FAM SOR RATTI	L VETTORETTO G VETTORETTO



Fourth Sunday of Lent
 29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.
 Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion
 Or by calling: 1800 024 413

**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.**