

took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

FRUITFULNESS AND BLESSEDNESS

With Christmas only days away, this final Advent Sunday Gospel turns its attention to the pregnant Mary, soon to give birth. She goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, also pregnant. While the Gospel's Greco-Roman audience is familiar with family structures and lines of patriarchal authority, our Gospel centres on these two women within the patriarchal setting of the house of Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah.

There is something subtly subversive here. Important is the relationship between these two women and the fruitful imagery that permeates the story. The pregnancies of the two mothers anticipate the births of the two central figures in the Gospel's opening chapters. We have already seen one of them, John the Baptist, in the Gospels of the previous Sundays. It is the other, Jesus, whose birth we are soon to celebrate in a few days' time.

Elizabeth attests to the blessedness of Mary and the child to whom she will give birth. It is an affirmation which even Elizabeth's child witnesses to while still in the womb. Elizabeth and the child she carries anticipate the holiness of the one whom Mary will, at the angel's earlier invitation, name 'Jesus'. For the mother to name the child, as Elizabeth will do later in naming 'John' before the speechless Zechariah, is culturally unusual. But there is nothing usual about these births. We are caught up in this story, about fruitfulness and blessedness. Perhaps these are God's much-needed words to us as we seek to be with these two female figures preparing for the birth amongst us of the one from God.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

22 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power to the ends of the
land.
He himself will be peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP 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.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine forth
from your cherubim throne. / O Lord, rouse up
your might, / O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look
down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine
and protect it, / the vine your right hand has
planted. **R.**



3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen, / the man you have given your
strength. / And we shall never forsake you
again: / give us life that we may call upon your
name. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

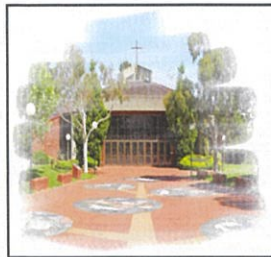
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the
holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you



St Clement of Rome Church

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Office Hours: Mon (closed) Tue—Thur 9am-5pm Fri 9am—4pm



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.

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent
Today's theme is : Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass.

WISHING YOU EVERY BLESSING FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

May the joy of Christmas fill your hearts with love, and may the New Year bring blessings of peace, prosperity, and good health to each member of our Parish.

Wishing you a festive season filled with faith, hope and the warmth of community.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS EVE
TUESDAY, DEC 24TH
5:00PM – CAROLS
5:30PM – VIGIL IN ENGLISH
7:30PM – VIGIL IN ITALIAN

CHRISTMAS DAY
WEDNESDAY, DEC 25TH
9:00AM – MASS IN ENGLISH
11:00AM – MASS IN ITALIAN

Christmas Envelopes

Envelopes are available in the current set of stewardship envelopes and in the Foyer. Thank you.

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass at 9.15am on Wed 1st January 2025. All welcome.

SVDP Christmas Appeal

Last week our Appeal stood at \$1,570. Last weekend you donated a further \$440 bringing the grand total to \$2,010. On behalf of the people we serve and the members of the SVDP Bulleen Conference .. a very big THANK YOU! A lot of people are going to be a lot happier this Christmas because of your donation.

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: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th 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

Mon 23rd Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass
Tue 24th Dec @ 5pm Carols followed by vigil @5.30pm and Italian vigil @ 7.30pm
Wed 25th Dec @ 9am — Christmas Day Mass & 11am Mass in Italian
Thurs 26th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass
Fri 27th Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass
Sat 28th Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass & Reconciliation

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Fr Len Thomas** and for the repose of the souls of **Josip & Lina Sverko, Daniel Mancin** 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.

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
29/12	I ROMANIN E CASTRIOTTA	FAM G CASSINI	T RECINELLA J FAGGION

Schedule for the weekday Masses, after Christmas and January 2024

Please be advised that, due to the holidays, there will be a change to our weekday Mass schedule, except for the feast day Mass on the 1st of Jan. This means, no 9.15am Mass (English) will be held from Fri 27th Dec—Wed 22nd Jan. However, the Italian Mass on Tuesdays will continue as normal. We will return to our regular Mass (English) schedule on the Wed 22nd Jan. The weekend Masses will be held as usual during this period. We appreciate your understanding.

Parish Office closure and availability during the holiday season

Please note that the parish office will be closed after Christmas until 7th of January 2025. Following that, we will be opened with restricted hours until the end of January. During this period, our phone lines will be monitored and we encourage you to leave messages. We will make every effort to respond promptly. Please also note that bulletins will not be printed in the month of January.

Our next Parish morning tea after Sunday 9am Mass

Will be held on the Sun 2nd Feb 2025.

Our Lady of the Perpetual Help Novena

Will not be held after Christmas and resumed in February 2025.

New Ways of Giving



Support our Church with ease!
simply scan the QR code with your phone camera to donate directly.
Thank you for your generosity and support!

LITURGY ROSTER		SAT 5.30PM	SUN 9.00AM
21/22 Dec	<i>Sacristan</i>	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
4 Advent	<i>Commentator</i>	May Teh	Mark Gregor
	<i>Reader</i>	John Bruce	Tim Landsberg
	<i>Special Ministers</i>	Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gaglardi
		Warwick Wright	Pina La Mattina
		John Bruce	Ricardo La Mattina

Christmas Roster

24 Dec	<i>Sacristan</i>	John Bruce
Christmas Eve 5.30pm	<i>Commentator</i>	John Bruce
	<i>Reader</i>	Jacinta De La Cruz
	<i>Special Ministers</i>	Zina Scalzo
		May Teh
		Martin Teh

25 Dec	<i>Sacristan</i>	Francis & Gloria Ng
Christmas Day 9am	<i>Commentator</i>	Tim Landsberg
	<i>Reader</i>	Christine Landsberg
	<i>Special Ministers</i>	Gloria Ng
		Maria Papalia
		Shirley Pyndiah

28/29 Dec	<i>Sacristan</i>	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
Holy Family	<i>Commentator</i>	Jacinta De La Cruz	Christine Landsberg
	<i>Reader</i>	Rene De La Cruz	Jan McQueen
	<i>Special Ministers</i>	Enza Wilcocks	Grace Cannatelli
		Warwick Wright	Anne Fusca
		John Bruce	Rita Gaglardi

Would you like to pray at home?



Our new Parish Pastoral Worker, Marilyn Robert is an experienced Catholic secondary school teacher and pastoral carer. She is also a person of deep faith and has a rich prayer life. Marilyn would be happy to visit any one of you in the parish who would like to have an opportunity for some guided prayer at home or perhaps just a friendly chat over a cuppa. Marilyn works on Fridays and if you would like her to visit you, please call the parish office.