

GOSPEL

Mt 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

30 AUGUST 2026

GENUINE DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Gospel follows on immediately from last Sunday's Gospel and the question posed to Jesus' disciples in Matthew's day, and to us, about his identity. Jesus then outlines what awaits him in Jerusalem—his suffering, death and resurrection. These words seem either incomprehensible to his disciples, represented by Peter, or are rejected.

Whatever the reason for Peter's reaction, following God's anointed one on a path of suffering, death and resurrection is unfathomable. The disciples imagine a triumphant, powerful figure who will overcome Roman opposition. Success and status are their vision for the future of discipleship!

Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder that suffering is not excluded from discipleship. Life's tragedies and concerns are not the opposite of following Jesus; they can be authentic expressions of it. Disciples are not called to seek suffering nor to become victims. Rather, suffering can be integrated into genuine discipleship. These are important insights especially for some who think that they must 'prove' their loyalty to Jesus by seeking out further pain or suffering. We know that suffering is part of life; we need not look for it further. We are surrounded by a world of suffering.

Today we acknowledge the sufferings of those who gather with us in our Assembly, especially those borne silently or through violence, including domestic violence.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

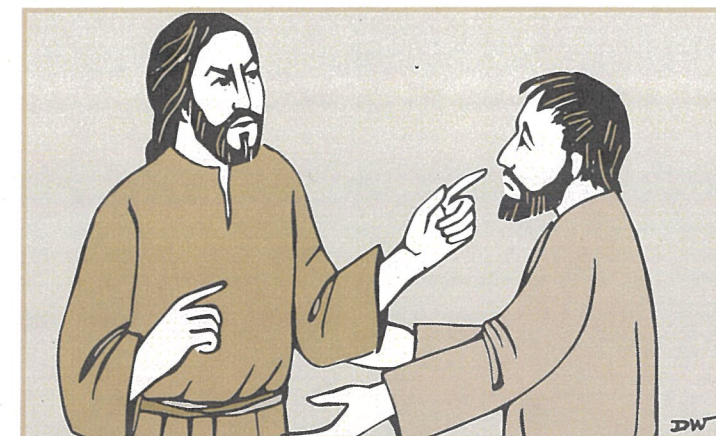
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; / for you my soul is thirsting. / My body pines for you / like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see your strength and your glory. / For your love is better than life, / my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life, / in your name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**



4. For you have been my help; / in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to you; / your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

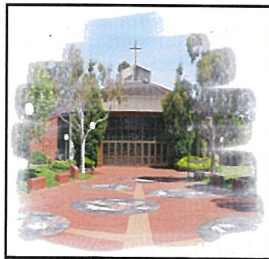
Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

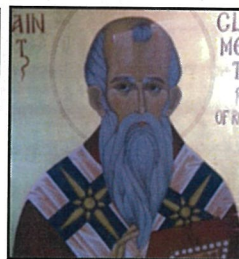
cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!



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—Thurs 9am-5pm



Parish Priest : Fr Charles Balnaves

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.

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year (A) : 29/30 August 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

I have a good number of people who have heard the call to faith and want to follow the path into joining the Catholic Church. There is always room for more. Who do you know who you suspect to be ready to journey in faith: invite them; let them know about RCIA.

It will start on October 3rd and continue (with holiday breaks) through to Easter 2027 (March 28th) for initiation and then till Pentecost (May 16th)

Invite someone. Let me know via the office email (doncaster@cam.org.au) or give me their contact number directly.

Mass Wednesday evening 6:30 pm – St Greg's

We have been consistently getting about a dozen people attending this Mass, which is wonderful. But ... could there be more? Do people know this Mass is happening?

I am wondering if everyone knows about this Mass and its time: perhaps you can spread the word and let others know there is a Mass each week at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evenings.

Safeguarding:

I listened to a radio show a few days ago that talked about a "Robot" that provided simulated interactions between a teacher and a parent, intended to help young teachers to learn how to respond to difficult, sometimes threatening, situations. Co-incidentally, I was walking along the streets nearby and saw targeted graffiti.

It occurred to me, again, that we talk about safeguarding our children and we can forget about other forms of abuse. It is my firm conviction that we cannot properly safeguard our children if we don't care for every person and seek to bring an end to abuse in all its forms.

So – please, report abuse, or suspected abuse, of children under Safeguarding reporting rules. Absolutely!! Or come and tell me and I can action the matter. But ... please don't ignore other abuse that you see happening – if we do nothing we perpetuate abusive behaviours. I myself have made two reports to police of suspicion of abuse – the police said in both cases they couldn't do anything, But they said my report would help them build an understanding over time which may lead to being able to intervene.

If you see something that looks like abuse – find a way to act, with due regard to your own safety.

Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

I was recently asked to give a talk on the practice of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. There are many facets to this beautiful practice but at the core it is about silence with Jesus Christ and the Father in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Silence from physical action; silence from words or songs of prayer; silence from thinking about our needs. The action elements of prayer and song etc are good but at their core are designed to lead us into silence and in the silence ... as Elijah found as he stood outside the cave ... in the silence we hear God's words and call; we feel and are comforted by his presence.

Can it be hard to do? Yes! Does it work if my prayer and silence is imperfect? Yes! Will it work if I prefer more music and words and that actually leads me into internal quiet? Yes!

Please make space for adoration: for silence with Jesus. There is a particular focus when adoration happens in the Real Presence, before the Blessed Sacrament. But you can make space for silence ... anywhere. Please ... make space.

God bless, Fr Charles.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

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

St Gregory the Great : Sat 6:30pm (Vigil), Sun 10:30am & 5pm and St Kevin's : Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun 9:15am

Weekday Mass Times : Tue 9:15am (Italian) & Wed 9:15am

St Gregory the Great : Wed 6:30pm & Fri 9am and St Kevin's : Tue 9:15am & Thur 9:15am

Reconciliation: Sat 4:30pm—4:50pm and St Gregory the Great Parish, Doncaster : Sat 9:30am—11am

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

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For the success of our Youth and Adult Alpha experiences that began this past week: that the Holy Spirit will fill all guests and leaders.

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 30th Aug @ 9am—Mass
 Sun 30th Aug @ 11am—Italian Mass
 Tue 1st Sept @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Wed 2nd Sept @ 9.15am—School Mass (Gr 6 & Prep)
Thurs 3rd Sept @ 10am —Funeral Mass for Mary Stroud
 Fri 4th Sept @ 9.15am—Father's Day School Mass
 Sat 5th Sept @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass & Baptism @ 5pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Mary Stroud** and for the repose of the souls of **Adrian Finadri, Guido Colella, Rocco Dimasi, David Toeng, Robert Carnovale, Ivanka Meacco, Antonio Meacco, Russell Allan** 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.

FEAST OF ST GREGORY THE GREAT

All are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the Feast of St Gregory the Great, our parish patron.

Wednesday, 2 September 6:30pm – Vigil Mass

Thursday, 3 September 10:00am – Mass with the St Gregory the Great School Community

We look forward to celebrating this special occasion together as a parish community.

**13TH SEPTEMBER
MASS 5.00PM**

FROM THE EMPTY TOMB TO
THE ALTAR



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS MASS

**ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH
71 WILLIAMSONS RD, DONCASTER**

Youth & Young Adults led Mass for all ages.

UPCOMING DATES: 13TH SEP, 11TH OCT, 8TH NOV



**COME WITH EXPECTANT HEARTS.
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

STGREGS.ORG.AU

ALPHA
18YO AND ABOVE

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 26TH AUGUST TO 4TH NOVEMBER
AT ST KEVIN'S CHURCH
30 HERLIHY'S ROAD LOWER TEMPLESTOWE



Registration is now open!

Alpha

ALPHA YOUTH
13-17 YEARS OF AGE

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 28TH AUGUST TO 16TH OCTOBER
AT ST GREGORY THE GREAT
71 WILLIAMSONS RD, DONCASTER



Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

Free- Meals included
Donation welcome

Enquiries:
templestowe@cam.org.au, doncaster@cam.org.au, bulleen@cam.org.au
phone 03 9850 5983, 03 9412 8425, 03 9850 3262

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 5.00PM	SUN 9.00AM
29/30 Aug	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Grace Cannatelli
	Commentator	May Teh	Maria Papalia
	Reader	Jacinta Zieba	Christine Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Agnes Lu
		Virginie Mindiel	Angela Abdallah
		Zina Scalzo	Maria Papalia
5/6 Sept	Sacristan	Elroy De Witt	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Christine Landsberg
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Rita Gagliardi
		Elroy De Witt	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		May Teh	Carmen Gobbi

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
06/09/2026	A. Vallese T. Caraffa	Famiglia Sor. Ratti.	L. Vettoretto G. Vettoretto

Morning tea after Mass—Next Sunday

Please join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a chit chat, after the 9am Mass, next Sunday. Please bring a plate to share.



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and encounter Jesus through the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 4th September @ 7pm

At St Gregory the Great Church

All welcome

SAVE THE DATE

Speaker Night

GREG SHERIDAN AO

God is Good For you

A journalist proclaims Christ to a secular world

FRIDAY, 2ND OCT AT 6.30PM

Clifton Centre, 9/21 Egan Dr, Bulleen
Adjacent to St Clement of Rome's Church