

GOSPEL

Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

14 DECEMBER 2025

THE ONE WHO IS TO COME

Today's Gospel focus continues with John the Baptist, introduced to us last Sunday. From prison he sends his followers to Jesus to find out if he is the 'one who is to come or have we to wait for someone else?' This question picks up an early memory that some thought John might have been the Messiah. Jesus explicates his Messianic credentials to John's enquirers: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead raised to life. In other words, Jesus affirms that he is the one who brings restoration, community and healing. Jesus' self-identification further affirms the blessedness of those who remain faithful to him.

In the biblical world, 'faith' was another way of affirming fidelity and commitment to another. This leads Jesus to attest, in this spirit of fidelity and commitment, John's prophetic mission of desert ascetism and preparation for the coming of the Messiah. As we come into these final days before Christmas, our role becomes like John: we align ourselves in fidelity and faith to the one who is to be born, who will bring healing and hope to our world that struggles to know this.

But we also hear Jesus' affirming words – the final sentence in today's Gospel passage addressed to us. Despite John's greatness as the one who prepares for the coming of Jesus, 'yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he'. The Gospel's audience, including us, are affirmed. We have unique status in the eyes of God. This divine promise accompanies us in the days ahead.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy in their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /
who raises up those who are bowed down, /
the Lord, who protects the stranger / and
upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**



3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to
age. **R.**

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the
Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

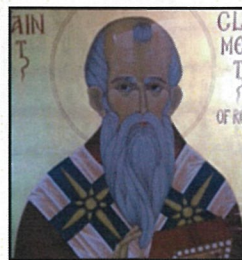
Alleluia, alleluia!

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!**



St Clement of Rome Church

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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.

JUBILEE 2025—PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate The Third Sunday of Advent
Today's theme is : Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025



PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE
THURSDAY, DEC 18TH 7PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
WEDNESDAY, DEC 24TH
5:00PM – CAROLS
5.30PM – VIGIL IN ENGLISH
7:30PM – VIGIL IN ITALIAN

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

Sunday Reflection....

John laboured diligently preparing the people to welcome the Messiah who, he believed, was coming as a judge to punish the wicked and reward the good. However, languishing in his prison cell, John hears of the healing and forgiving ministry of Jesus. He is perplexed and filled with doubt, because Jesus does not conform to his expectations. So, John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus answers simply: Go and tell John what you see and hear. Clearly in Jesus' ministry the prophecies of Isaiah(29:18-19;35:5-6;61:1) are being realised and the kingdom of God is being inaugurated. And so, Jesus declares blessed those who can see the connection between his ministry and the kingdom of God. These are the ones who keep faith in him.

Although Jesus holds John in the highest regard, as the greatest born of women, he nevertheless adds rather surprisingly: yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is. Who are the least? They are those who have had the privilege of knowing and accepting Jesus as their Saviour. Today, we, the disciples of Jesus, are blessed to be the least in the kingdom.

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

PARISH DIARY

Sun 14th Dec @ 9am—Mass
Sun 14th Dec @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 16th Dec @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 17th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass will be held in the Church
Thurs 18th Dec @ 9.15am —Mass
Thurs 18th Dec @ 7pm—Parish Penitential Service
Fri 19th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass
Sat 20th Dec @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently,
Francesco Menis, Rev Michael Leonard Shadbolt PE
and for the repose of the souls of 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.

Erection of the Crib at Bulleen Plaza
For over **34 years**, the **Doncaster/ Templestowe Branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross** has erected a **Nativity Crib at Bulleen Plaza**. This long-standing tradition is the Branch's way of sharing the **true story and spirit of Christmas** with the general public visiting the shopping centre. This year, the Nativity Crib will be on display at Bulleen Plaza from **6 December through 3 January 2026**.



Schedule for the weekday Masses in January 2026

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 26th Dec 2025—Fri 23rd Jan 2026. However, the Italian Mass on Tuesdays will continue as normal. We will return to our regular Mass (English) schedule on the Wed 28th Jan. The weekend Masses will be held as usual during this period. We appreciate your understanding.

Important notice—Parish/School Switchboard

Due to the scheduled replacement of the switchboard, the power will be cut off during the week 19th to 23rd January 2026. As a result, there will be no Italian Mass on Tuesday, 20th of that week. Thank you for your understanding.

Parish office availability notice, post Christmas

Following Christmas, the office will operate with restricted hours through to the end of January 2026. 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. **As advised, the office will be closed from 20th—23rd Jan to allow for the scheduled replacement work of the switchboard.**

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

13/14 December	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Tig Chibo
3 Advent	Reader	Paul Sammut	Mark Gregor
		Warwick Wright	Anne Fusca
	Special Ministers	Virginie Mindiel	Rita Gagliardi
		Zina Scalzo	Fulvia Gerasolimo

20/21 December	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Shirley Pyndiah
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Mark Gregor
4 Advent	Reader	May Teh	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Agnes Lu
		Martin Teh	Maria Papalia
		Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
21/12	G VARASSO L DEL TONDO	FAM E VETTORETTO	L CIAMPA G BAGLIERI

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.