

heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / C

1 JUNE 2025

AN ETERNAL BLESSING

During Easter our focus has been on John's Gospel. Today we come to the final chapter of Luke and its last scene. Jesus has gathered with his disciples on the day of Easter, dispelled their fears, encouraged them on mission to be his witnesses—thus setting up Luke's second volume, the *Acts of the Apostles* and Pentecost with its gift of the Spirit—and now brings them to Jerusalem's outskirts, to Bethany.

Here, as the Gospel comes to its conclusion, Jesus blesses his disciples (thus completing the priestly blessing which Zechariah was unable to do in the Gospel's beginning) and 'withdraws' from them as he is carried up to heaven. The passive voice of the verb 'carried up' indicates that this is God's act and brings Jesus into the heavenly realm of God's presence. The visual imagery which Luke uses here is not intended as a literal description of a divine elevator that brings Jesus into the heavenly realm. Rather, it is a theology which reminds Luke's audience that Jesus is ultimately and eternally with God and continues, in a priestly gesture, to bless his disciples.

It also identifies that definitive moment when Jesus' earthly presence ceases, but not his divine presence. This presence continues and inspires the disciples' future mission which will unfold in Acts. His blessing continues among us today as we, too, await the coming of his Spirit at our Pentecost, celebrated next Sunday.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

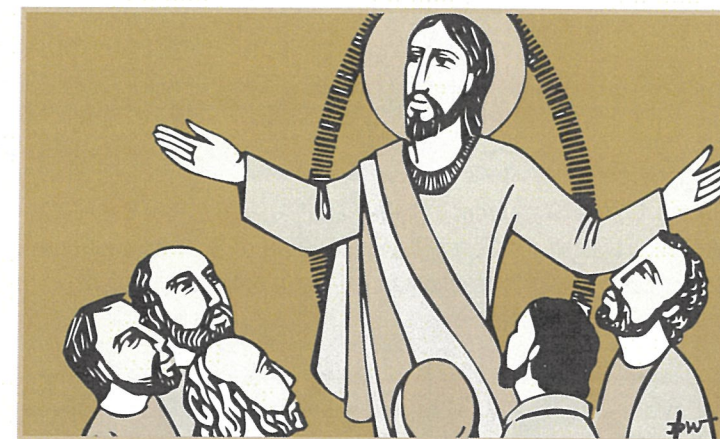
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

■ The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
(or Alleluia!)

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

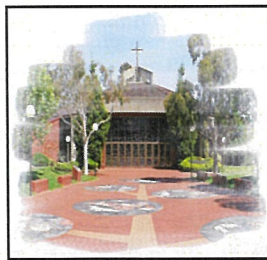
SECOND READING

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

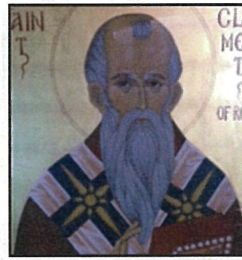
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in



St Clement of Rome Church

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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 Ascension of the Lord
Today's theme is : While blessing them, he was taken to heaven
 We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass



Sacrament of First Communion

Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of First Eucharist this weekend. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



Pentecost Sunday—morning tea

The Parish Pastoral Council invites all Parishioners to a morning tea to be held on Pentecost Sunday, 8th June after the 9 am Mass. Please bring something to share if you wish to do so. We look forward to seeing you there.

Memorial Wall Plaques



If you are considering honouring a deceased loved one, within our faith community, we invite you to add their name to our parish Memorial Wall. Please contact the parish office for more information about having a plaque made.

MELBOURNE CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

"Did not our hearts burn within us while he walked with us....."
 Luke 24:32

When : SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 2025

Procession begins at St Patrick's Cathedral, following 11am Mass, concluding at Federation Square.

Communities are invited to bring their banners.



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 1st June @ 9am—Mass/Sacrament of First Communion/Children's Liturgy/Baptism
 Sun 1st June @ 11am—Italian Mass
 Tue 3rd June @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Wed 4th June @ 9.15am—Mass
 Thurs 5th June @ 9.15am—Mass
 Fri 6th June @ 9.15am—no Mass
 Sat 7th @ 5pm —Reconciliation followed by Mass

Saturday Reconciliation time change

Please note that starting Saturday 7th June, reconciliation will take place at 5pm.

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently,
Mario Nobrega and for the repose of the souls
Maria Mariani 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 Confirmation 2025

We are pleased to announce that the class dates for the Sacrament of Confirmation have been scheduled. Please see the dates listed below. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website. We encourage you to complete and email your forms as soon as possible to secure your place in the program.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 2 nd August	9.00-10.15am	ASRE Confirmation 1
Saturday 9 th August	9.00-10.15am	ASRE Confirmation 2
Saturday 16 th August	9.00-10.15am	ASRE Confirmation 3
Saturday 23 rd August	9.00-10.15am	ASRE Confirmation 4
Saturday 30 th August	9.00-10.15am	ASRE Confirmation 5
Saturday 6 th September	9.00-10.15am	ASRE Confirmation 6 including Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) 10am
Friday 10 th October	6.00pm	Sacrament of Confirmation

Children's Liturgy—this Sunday



We warmly invite your children to take part in our Children's Liturgy, where they can enjoy fun and engaging activities that help them understand and reflect on the Sunday readings in a way that's meaningful to them.

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
31 May/1 June	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Francis & Gloria Ng
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Grace Cannatelli
	Reader	May Teh	Rocco Gagliardi
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Agnes Lu
		May Teh	Gloria Ng
		Martin Teh	Maria Papalia
7/8 June	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Francis & Gloria Ng
	Commentator	May Teh	Rocco Gagliardi
	Reader	Jacinta Zieba	Mark Gregor
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah
		Warwick Wright	Grace Cannatelli
		Sue De Bortoli	Anne Fusca

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
08/06	J FAGGION P LOMBARDO	FAM L VETTORETTO	C TRAVAGLINI T RECINELLA

Caritas—Project Compassion Receipts

Please collect your receipts from the Church foyer.
 Thank you.

"A Mother's Life Shouldn't Be Left to Chance"

Thursday 5 June | 7:00 PM | St Peter's Parish Centre, Toorak

Featuring Abraham Muma, Health Coordinator – Chilonga Mission Hospital, Zambia

It's a rare opportunity to hear from a frontline leader supporting mothers who walk for days - while in labour - just to give birth in makeshift shelters.



**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.**