

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 MARCH 2026

Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies
he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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OUR SOURCE OF LIFE

As we come to the last Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the central meaning of Jesus' life—his gift of life. The story involves Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary. These are Jesus' friends who are from the village of Bethany. When Jesus gets the message about Lazarus' dire illness, strangely, he does not go immediately to be with them but only after two days have passed.

The evangelist's words at this point link to the story from last Sunday: One 'can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by.' It is this Light, Jesus, that then goes to Bethany, to bring the dead Lazarus to life. The interchange that Jesus has with Martha before he comes to Lazarus' tomb summarises a theology which John wants readers to transcend. Rather than wait for the general resurrection at the end time, Jesus is 'the resurrection and the life' now. Faith in him will bring people to life.

Space prevents a detailed examination of the narrative dynamic at play and the depths of the Gospel's symbolism behind the dialogues, Jesus' weeping, the various reactions to Jesus, Jesus' command to Lazarus to come from the tomb and the order to unbind Lazarus. On this final Sunday in Lent our gaze is squarely on Jesus. He is our source of life, now and into eternity. Today's Gospel invites us into a deeper communion with Jesus, who is 'the resurrection and the life'.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v. 7

R. With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, /
Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be
attentive / to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord,
who would survive? / But with you is found
forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count
on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord /
more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the
watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on
the Lord.) **R.**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and
fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will
redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead
is living in you, then he will give life to your own
mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been



justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 11:25, 26

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the
Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

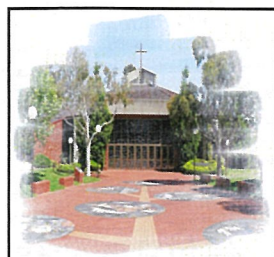
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

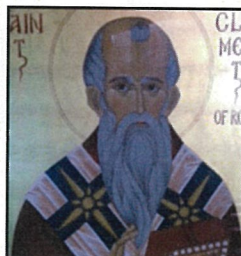
Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'



St Clement of Rome Church

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Mark.Reynolds@cam.org.au

Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Watt (9850 1216)

Parish Administration & Finance : Bernadine De Silva
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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 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's theme is : I am the resurrection and the 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

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

HOLY WEEK

MASS TIMES 2026

Parish Reconciliation for Easter
Wed 25th March : 7.00pm

Palm Sunday 28th & 29th March
Sat 28th March : 5.30pm
Sun 29th March : 9.00am & 11.00am (Italian)

Holy Thursday 2nd April
Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.00pm

Good Friday 3rd April
Stations of the Cross (English/Italian) : 9.00am
Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

Easter Vigil 4th April
Mass in English : 7.00pm
Mass in Italian : 9.00pm

Easter Sunday 5th April
Mass in English : 9.00am
Mass in Italian : 11.00am

Come Away Day

The **Come Away Day** program is a long - time retreat and reflection ministry at Holy Cross. The first **Come Away Day** for 2026 will be held at Holy Cross on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 25th**.

The theme of the day is '**CALL TO LIFE ...**'. As we celebrate the Annunciation, reflecting on Mary's YES to the Mystery yet to become known, we have an opportunity to rest, reflect and focus on the deeper meaning and call of our own life journey and how we respond. The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, silent reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. **BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am.**

The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around **3pm**. The suggested cost is \$30.00 or a donation according to your means. Registration is helpful for planning purposes. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com. Please put this Date in your Diary and consider inviting a friend along to share the Come Away Day experience this year. Everyone is welcome.

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

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 22nd Mar @ 9am—Mass
Sun 22nd Mar @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 24th Mar @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 25th Mar @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Amedeo Sgarbossa
Wed 25th Mar @ 7pm—Parish Reconciliation for Easter
Fri 27th Mar @ 8.40am—Stations of the Cross
Sat 28th Mar @ 3.00pm—Wedding Mass
Sat 28th Mar @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Amedeo Sgarbossa** and for the repose of the souls of **Bianca & Agostino Martini** 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.*

After School Sacramental Program 2026

Please see below the schedule for the Sacrament of First Eucharist preparation classes. Enrolment forms are available on the website.



DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 2 nd May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 1
Saturday 9 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 2
Saturday 16 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 3
Saturday 23 rd May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 4
Saturday 30 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 5
Saturday 6 th June	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 6
Saturday 20 th June	@ 5.30pm Mass	Sacrament of First Eucharist

Congratulations to **Stefan Grisancich & Claire Howells** on the occasion of their wedding at St Clement's next Sat 28th Mar 3pm. We wish them a lifetime of happiness as they begin this wonderful journey together.

Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION

Fifth Sunday of Lent 21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

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
21/22 March	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Livia Tunggal
5 Lent	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Maria Papalia
		Warwick Wright	Shirley Pyndiah
		Virginie Mindiel	Grace Cannatelli
28/29 March	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Carmen Gobbi
Palm Sunday	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Grace Cannatelli
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Tig Chibo
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Anne Fusca
		May Teh	Rita Gagliardi
		Enza Wilcocks	Fulvia Gerosolimo



Where does the word "Synod" come from?

The word *Synod* comes from the Greek *syn-hodos*, meaning "walking together on the road." This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

Prayer for the Melbourne Synod

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

Attributed to St Isidore of Seville (c.560-4 April 636), this prayer been used at councils, synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years. Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus* prayer.