

GOSPEL

Lk 6: 27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

LOVE THE ENEMY

We are now into the heart of Luke's Sermon on the Plain. We are also presented with the most important Gospel teaching that characterises Jesus' followers: Love and forgiveness of the enemy. But this is also dangerous teaching, for it is easy to misunderstand what Jesus is asking of his disciples. He is not addressing disciples individually, but together. The response to the 'enemy' comes from the total gathering of the Gospel household who support each other as they deal with the enemy. It is not the individual disciple who bears responsibility for enemy love. It is a collective response.

The response is also agential or active, never passive or submissive. Disciples disarm by their attitude of 'love'—a desire that the aggressor comes to know their own self-worth in their relationship to God and others. It is not about feeling affection or warmth towards the enemy, an impossible response in the face of suffering or hurt. 'Turning the other cheek' is a form of passive resistance to the aggressor, rather than responding with tit-for-tat assault, a response culturally expected. Luke's audience who are wealthy are encouraged to be generous. Jesus encourages disciples to act compassionately, like God.

Today's Gospel is challenging, especially in the context of the issues that today's believers are concerned about. Luke offers sage advice. A spirit of kindness and non-aggression towards the assailants of our world can help create a society shaped by peace rather than violence. Such a spirit ideally characterises our faith communities imbued with today's Gospel.

Fr Michael Trainor



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

23 FEBRUARY 2025

FIRST READING

1 Sam 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 102: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**



2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 15: 45-49

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

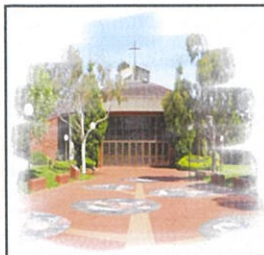
■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

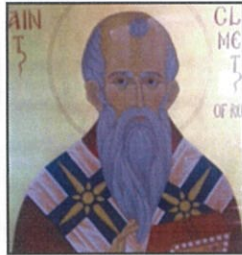
Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!



St Clement of Rome Church

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<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>
Office Hours: Mon (closed) Tue—Thur 9am-5pm Fri 9am—4pm



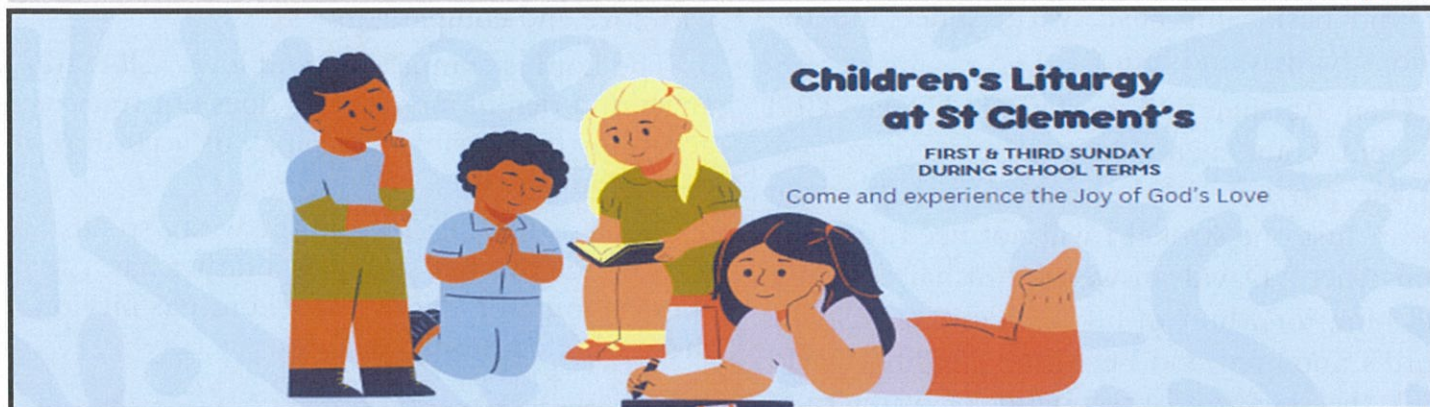
Parish Priest : Very Rev Mark Reynolds EV (Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools)
Mark.Reynolds@cam.org.au

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.

JUBILEE 2025—PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Today's theme is : Be merciful as your Father is merciful.



Lent 2025

The Rite for the burning of the Palms :
Next Sunday 2nd March at 9am Mass.

Ash Wednesday Masses : Wed 5th March at 9.15am
(School Mass) & 7pm (Parish Mass).

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from meat.

Stations of the Cross

Will commence from Friday 7th Mar before Mass at 8.40am. All welcome to attend.

Project Compassion 2025

You can donate through donation boxes and envelopes available in the Foyer, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Important reminder for all Parish Ministry Volunteers

Please ensure that you are up to date with the safeguarding requirements, whether or not it involves direct or indirect contact with children and young people. We encourage you to visit our website for more details and to complete or finalise any necessary documentation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Virtual Lent Series by Garratt Publishing

A series of 6 Virtual Lent Talks by 3 Australian biblical scholars from Yarra Theological Union, a College of the University of Divinity. Tuesdays 4,11,18,25 Mar and 1,8 Apr from 7-8pm via zoom. Online registration is essential. Zoom meeting details will be forwarded upon registration.

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 24th Feb @ 9.15am—no Mass
Tue 25th Feb @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 25th Feb @ 6pm—School Reconciliation family Evening in the Clifton Centre
Wed 26th Feb @ 9.15am — no Mass
Wed 26th Feb @ 6pm—Bap preparation in the PO
Thurs 27th Feb @ 9.15am— Mass
Thurs 27th Feb @ 9.45am—School Reconciliation 1
Fri 28th Feb @ 9.15am— Mass
Sat 1st Mar @ 9.15am—Mass & Reconciliation
Sat 1st Mar @ 9.00am— ASRE Reconciliation
Sun 2nd Mar @ 9.00am—Children's Liturgy

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Alfio Bonanno** and for the repose of the souls of **Ada Galano, Corazon Equibal** 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 Reconciliation 2025

While we work on the class dates for the Sacraments of First Eucharist & Confirmation, Please see below class dates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 22 nd Feb	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Reconciliation 2
Saturday 1 st Mar	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Reconciliation 3
Saturday 15 th Mar	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Reconciliation 4
Saturday 22 nd Mar	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Reconciliation 5
Saturday 29 th Mar	9.00 -10.00am 9.45am	ASRE Reconciliation 6 Sacrament of Reconciliation



St Kevin's Templestowe, Playgroup and Youth Group

Little Kev's Playgroup every Monday & Youth Group every Saturday. Please see the notice board for more information or call the parish office 9850 5983.

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
22/23 Feb	Sacristan John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	Commentator May Teh	Christine Landsberg
	Reader John Bruce	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers Enza Wilcocks	Agnes Lu
	Warwick Wright	Gloria Ng
	John Bruce	Maria Papalia

1/2 Mar	Sacristan John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	Commentator John Bruce	Tim Landsberg
	Reader Jacinta De La Cruz	Jan McQueen
	Special Ministers Zina Scalzo	Shirley Pyndiah
	Sacristan May Teh	Grace Cannatelli
	Martin Teh	Anne Fusca

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
02/03	G BAGLIERI G VARASSO	FAM SOR RATTI	L VETTORETTO G VETTORETTO

Come Away Day

The first **Come Away Day** for 2025 will be held at Holy Cross on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 5th – ASH WEDNESDAY**. The theme of the day is '**LET GO ... LET GOD**'. This is an opportunity to focus on the deeper meaning of our Lenten journey. 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.

World Day of Prayer

Friday March 7th

Theme "I made you wonderful"
Writer country—The Cook Islands

Morning service—10am

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
106 Church Road, Doncaster
Speaker :
Rev Fr Kevin Dillon AM

Evening Service - 7.30pm

St Kevin's Catholic Church
26 Herlihy's Road, Lwr Templestowe
Speaker: Pastor David Jonassen