

GOSPEL

Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

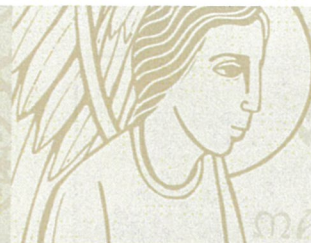
‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer
see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my commandments
and keeps them
will be one who loves me
and anybody who loves me will be loved by
my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

10 MAY 2026

THE SPIRIT IS WITH US

Last week it was worry. Today it is about loneliness. We know loneliness. We know what it feels like, for example, when someone close to us dies. Grief, sadness and loneliness can be palpable. In today's Gospel, John invites us again to draw closer to Jesus who addresses the loneliness which the disciples (and, at times, ourselves) can experience. When we feel God's apparent silence or absence, when we deal with death or tragedy, Jesus promises 'another Advocate'. This is the promise of his very Spirit that will remain with the disciples when he physically leaves them.

By the time John writes, this is already a reality and Jesus' spirit, the Advocate, the 'Spirit of Truth', is with them and 'forever'. They will not be left orphaned as the Spirit accompanies them in every generation to experience his eternal and real, though non-physical, presence. But there is a second promise that Jesus makes. He will return as he offers an eschatological vision, an insight into the final days, in which the disciples will experience their communion and intimacy with God restored. They will discover a love that is eternal and carry them through those days of loneliness.

This is the promise that we need to hear, especially as we grapple with our experiences of loneliness brought on by grief of our beloved dead or the persistent loneliness of life that surrounds us. Jesus' Advocate, his Spirit, is with us.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

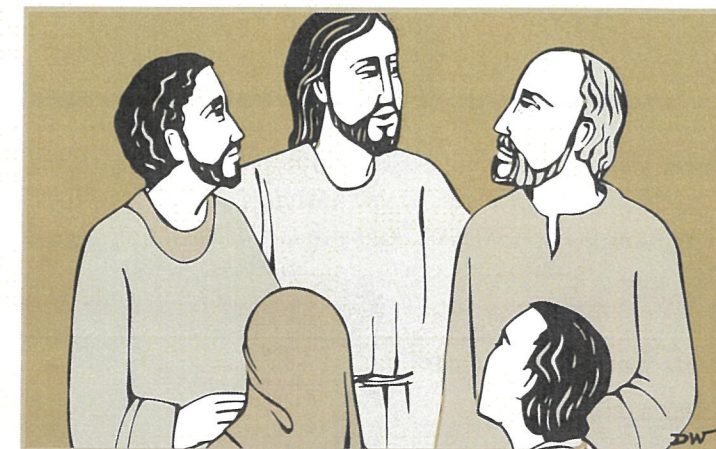
Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. cf. v. 2

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, /
O sing to the glory of his name. / O render
him glorious praise. / Say to God: 'How
tremendous your deeds! **R.**

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; / shall
sing to you, sing to your name!' / Come and
see the works of God, / tremendous his deeds
among men. **R.**

3. He turned the sea into dry land, / they
passed through the river dry-shod. / Let our
joy then be in him; / he rules for ever by his
might. **R.**



4. Come and hear, all who fear God. / I will
tell what he did for my soul: / Blessed be God
who did not reject my prayer / nor withhold
his love for me. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and
always have your answer ready for people who
ask you the reason for the hope that you all
have. But give it with courtesy and respect
and with a clear conscience, so that those who
slander you when you are living a good life in
Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations
that they bring. And if it is the will of God that
you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing
right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he
was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty,
to lead us to God. In the body he was put to
death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

■ The word of the Lord.

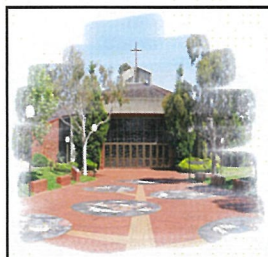
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

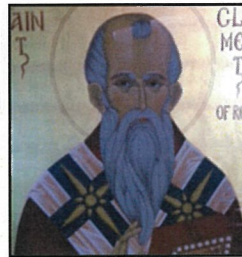
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A) : 09/10 May 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Mother's Day

I have 'screen-shot' memories of my mother checking me as I lay under the netting getting some sun in London – making sure the soot from the air was not falling on me, and of her keeping me quiet for three or six months while I recovered from meningitis, and of her delight at meeting my first son and talking to me across the kitchen table as I tussled with learning to be a dad, and encouraging me to follow my career rather than worrying about her as she went through cancer.

Mothers of all varieties and backgrounds do extraordinary things for us, their children. Not just the gestation and caring as babies but all through our lives bringing the same care that Our Lady brought to Jesus.

Thank you. I give you Gods blessing. A blessing that calls on the Holy Spirit to enliven your hearts with thanks and gratitude and fortitude and care and most of all love – the love that God has for us.

Parish Assembly – deferral

Last week Peter Sheehan and I spoke across the parishes about an Assembly for our three parishes: it is being deferred until October or thereabouts. On Thursday I came to realise the implications of getting settled after my appointment to St Clement's as Parish Priest and the number of other things that are planned in the week we had tentatively scheduled the Assembly. The planning team agreed we need to defer and have tentatively chosen 'October' – six months away to give time for the initial work across three parishes to settle a little.

Partnering Parishes Planning

St Clement's, St Keivn's, St Gregory's: three parishes called to move into the future together. I have formed a small group to help me navigate how we move forwards together. Maria Papalia and another to be finalised from St Clement's; Carmel Purdey and Ashwin D'Costa from St Kevin's; Margaret O'Donnell and Alfred Ablaza from St Greg's' with Suzette Diaz and Nicloe Vine from the archdiocese (they have experience in parish partnering).

This group is about helping me think about issues across the parishes and will meet approximately fortnightly. I am also meeting with the Parish Pastoral Councils for each parish and then will meet with all three Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Groups to come up with some thoughts about immediate steps I can then canvass with you, the broader population of the parishes. It appears to me that we need some basic directions by no later than early-June.

The members of the small group are more than willing to listen to anything you have to say about your dreams for the future as three partnered parishes. We have already been doing a lot together as two parishes (Safeguarding, Vinnies, Alpha, RCIA, some social events, joint meetings) so we have something of a base from which to start including St Clement's with St Gregory's and St Kevin's.

I will seek to keep you informed as we progress.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: In thanks for the great graces given our parishes over the decades since their establishment: that we will continue to open our hearts to receive the graces of the future.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (*Vigil*), Sun - 9am & 11am (*Italian*)

Tues 9:15am (*Italian*), Wed-Fri 9:15am (currently no Masses being held, 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 10th May @ 9am—Mass
Sun 10th May @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 12th May @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 13th May @ 6pm—First Communion Family Faith Night
Sat 16th May @ 9am — First Eucharist classes in the parish office
Sat 16th May @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, Joseph Ormando, Lucia De Iulio and for the repose of the souls of Tony Ucci, Katarina & Gregorio Sverko, Laticia Bortz 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 note that the class dates for the Sacrament of Confirmation have now been scheduled. The dates are available on the website. Please complete the registration process at your earliest convenience.



Parish Emails

I have requested the creation of an email distribution list for all active parishioners and those who have specifically subscribed to the parish bulletin. This will allow the parish to send out important messages in a timely manner to those who are connected via email. The intent to use this list carefully and not overwhelm you with parish matters.

If you don't want to be on this list just use the 'unsubscribe' feature that will be present in all emails using this distribution list.

If you have an email address and have not yet given it to us, please add yourself to the bulletin list by clicking on 'subscribe' and at the same time send an email to bulleen@cam.org.au to have your records updated. Or call the parish on 9850 3262.

Mass Count 2026

The second Mass Count will take place this weekend at all the Masses. Collectors at weekend Masses are kindly asked to complete the forms. Thank you for your support in collecting these statistics.

Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria

CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. The generosity of our parish community means that CatholicCare Victoria can continue their mission; to empower communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Your compassion and generosity ensure individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives. Thank you for helping open the door to safety, dignity and hope. For more information about CatholicCare Victoria, please visit: www.catholiccarevic.org.au

Who participates in a Synod?

A Synod involves the whole People of God: bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful. Each has a distinct role, but all share responsibility for the Church's mission. Synodality does not blur roles—it helps each vocation flourish in service of the Gospel.



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

9/10 May	Sacristan	Virginie Mindiel	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Yamna Taouk
	Reader	May Teh	Daniel Abdallah
	Special Ministers	Virginie Mindiel	Agnes Lu
		Zina Scalzo	Maria Papalia
		May Teh	Shirley Pyndiah

16/17 May	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Grace Cannatelli
Ascension	Commentator	May Teh	Daniel Abdallah
	Reader	Jacinta Zieba	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi
		Warwick Wright	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Zina Scalzo	Carmen Gobbi

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
17/05/2026	J. Faggion E. Castriotta	Famiglia Sor. Ratti	L. Vettoretto G. Vettoretto

Pentecost RETREAT

IGNITE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

.....

SATURDAY, 23RD MAY 2026

ST GREGORY'S CHURCH HALL

71 WILLIAMSONS RD, DONCASTER

9.30AM - 5.30PM

.....

Door opens at 9am. Lunch and light snacks provided

Speaker: MALCOLM LOCK

- Talks • Testimonies
- Praise & Worship
- Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

RSVP BY 16TH MAY 2026
WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DLGUK

This event is open to participants aged 15 years & above. Children under 18 yo must be accompanied by a parent or a guardian.

P: 9412 8425- EMAIL: DONCASTER@CAM.ORG.AU

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.