

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of 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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

25 AUGUST 2024

'LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?'

We come to the end of the five weeks with the Gospel of John', chapter 6. As it concludes we could imagine ourselves standing with the disciples complaining that the teaching was too difficult. The Judeans had twice confronted Jesus on this teaching. Now we hear, 'The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' If it is hard to understand these words, then for some it would be hard to believe, and that is acknowledged by Jesus.

We are affirmed in that, as the narrator advises, Jesus knew from the beginning that some would not believe, and who would betray him. This is a crisis moment. We can remember that in the first part of this chapter, aligned to Passover and with the miracle of the loaves, the crowd was looking for signs. At this point, we can see that the reinterpretation of the Mosaic law caused upset and division. With many disciples leaving, Jesus challenges the Twelve: 'do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter speaks up as leader and representative of the Twelve. Those, called by Jesus, recognise that his words are 'spirit and life.'

What about us? Do we find believing too hard? Or do we line up with Simon Peter affirming our faith and saying 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.' We are in this for the long haul.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Josh 24:1-2, 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God. Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESP PSALM**

Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. R. v. 9

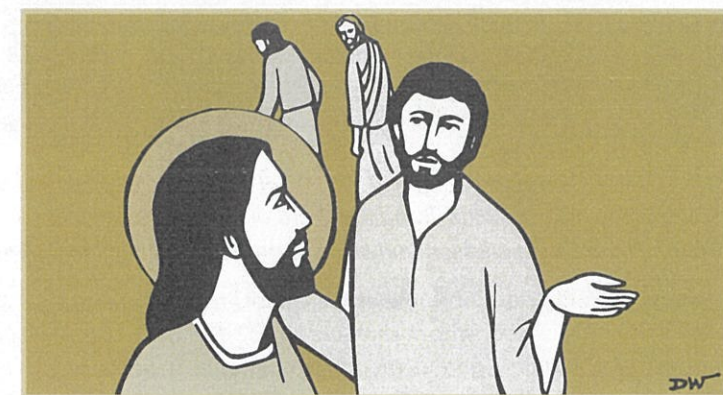
R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked / to destroy their remembrance from the earth. / The Lord turns his eyes to the just / and his ears to their appeal. **R.**

3. They call and the Lord hears / and rescues them in all their distress. / The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R.**

4. Many are the trials of the just man / but from them all the Lord will rescue him. / He will keep guard over all his bones, / not one of his bones shall be broken. **R.**



5. Evil brings death to the wicked; / those who hate the good are doomed. / The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

SECOND READING

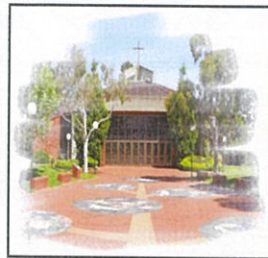
Eph 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

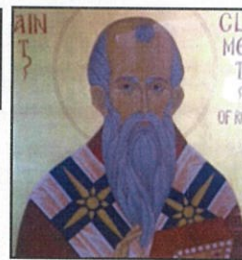
Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



St Clement of Rome Church

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<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>
Office Hours: Mon (closed) Tue—Fri 9.00am-4.30pm



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

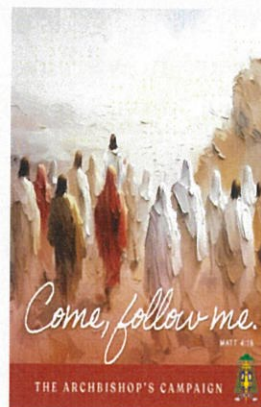
Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Watt (9850 1216)
Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262) **St Vincent de Paul Helpline** (1800 305 330)

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.

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate **The Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time.**
Today's theme is : Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass.

The Archbishop's Campaign—One major collection

The first Archbishop's Campaign will continue this weekend. Through this new annual campaign, the Archdiocese simplifies its approach, for the first time combining several special collections into one unified effort. Gifts will support vital ministries within the Archdiocese, including seminarian formation and evangelisation initiatives, including World Youth Day, as well as retired priests. Donors can choose to make either a tax-deductible or non-deductible gift. Non-deductible gifts go towards the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund, funding seminarian education and evangelisation efforts. Tax-deductible gifts will go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund, which benefits the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, Priests Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission and the University of Divinity Building Fund, among other important charitable causes.



The campaign envelopes and the information brochures are available in the foyer. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR code.

Attention Readers, Eucharistic Ministers & Sacristans

Please note that there will be a change in the way we prepare and distribute the roster. Starting from next month, the roster will be prepared and sent out on a quarterly basis. To ensure accurate rostering, we kindly ask that you let the parish office know if you are unavailable within the period September to end of November. This information is important for us to prepare the roster effectively. Once the roster has been sent out, any changes will be your responsibility. If you need to make a change, please arrange for another member on the roster to cover your duty.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment.

St Clement of Rome Parish—new website

Please check out our new website for all the latest news and updates <https://www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen>

To help us reduce printing costs and stay environmentally friendly, we encourage you to **subscribe** to our digital newsletter via the website.

Thank you for your support and for helping us make a positive impact!

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

Wed 28th Aug @ 6pm—Baptism preparation in the parish office
Thurs 29th Aug @ 9.15am—No Mass
Fri 30th Aug @ 9.15am—Whole School Eucharist/ Father's Day (Gr 4)
Sun 1st Sept @ 10am—Morning tea in the Clifton

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for the repose of the souls of **Robert Carnovale, Severino Marchi, Michael Meehan** 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

Enrolments now open for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please visit our website to see the class dates. Thank you.



The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate. Online Diaconate information meeting Tuesday, 24 September / 19:30 – 21:00
Location: via ZOOM
Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

Season of Creation in 2024 - Catholic Earthcare Convocation!

We are called together during this convocation to 'wonder', 'weave' and 'heal' Earth and the whole of creation. Gather online during Day 1 and 2 to engage in keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences. Day 3 gather together in diocesan hubs to transform learning into action. (There is an online option if you are unable to attend a hub) For more information email catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au

CO.AS.IT. through the Visitation Program offers friendship and social support to elderly and socially isolated Italians. The organization is currently looking for Italian speaking female individuals in the East who are willing to volunteer one hour per week to visit an elderly person who is lonely and in need of some companionship. By assisting an elderly person on a social level, you have the chance to make a difference to someone's life. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would like to know more about the program, please call the Regional Coordinator Tania Barbaro on 0481603702
Please note, we require that the Volunteer be fully vaccinated against Covid19.

Covid 19 update : Following the latest Liturgical guidelines, Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship. They are recommended in crowd settings. No vaccination requirements for attendees. Please check the government website for updated isolation rules.

LITURGY ROSTER		SAT 5.30PM	SUN 9.00AM
24/25 Aug	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Christine Landsberg
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Shirley Pyndiah
		John Bruce	Grace Cannatelli
		Zina Scalzo	Anne Fusca
31 Aug/ 1 Sep	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Tim Landsberg
	Reader	May Teh	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Fulvia Gerasolmo
		Warwick Wright	Pina La Mattina
		John Bruce	Ricardo La Mattina

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
01/09	J FAGGION P LOMBARDO	FAM. L VETTORETTO	C TRAVAGLINI T RECINELLA

Being Hope

Sharing in indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing...

Venue: Masudo Room Box Hill Town Hall 1022
Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill VIC 3128, Australia

When: Saturday 21st September. 9.00 a.m. registration for 9.30am start and 3.00pm finish.

The Forum is free, but people are asked to provide their own lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits

Booking essential:

Website: <https://events.humanitix.com/being-hope>

Flyer on the notice board