

GOSPEL

Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

SHARING THE EARTH'S GOODS

This Sunday's Gospel continues with John Baptist. His voice now becomes more demanding, urging his audience to live in ways typified by generosity, kindness and justice, themes which will appear throughout the Gospel. Those whom John addresses reflect the audience of Luke's Gospel, including tax agents and soldiers, with a focus on wealth. This will be a major theme in the Gospel.

Luke intends to speak to those who have rank and influence, to bring about change and status reversal, themes that begin here in today's Gospel. John responds to his enquirers coming for baptism about how they are to live. He encourages them to share their clothing with those who have nothing and food with those who are hungry. This presumes that his audience (and Luke's Gospel audience) have possessions and food to share. They are not impoverished. When similarly asked by tax collectors—agents of Rome's imperial household—they are told not to extract taxes beyond what is due. In other words, they are not to become wealthy at the expense of others. Soldiers (again members of Luke's community) are told to act without violence and extortion, content with their pay.

All these that John addresses are invited on to a path of economic restraint and generosity. This will allow them to be ready for the coming of the one whom John prepares his audience for, and the focus of the second half of the Gospel. Today's Gospel offers us an Advent moment to reflect on our own use of Earth's goods and possessions and how we share them.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

15 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

Zeph 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

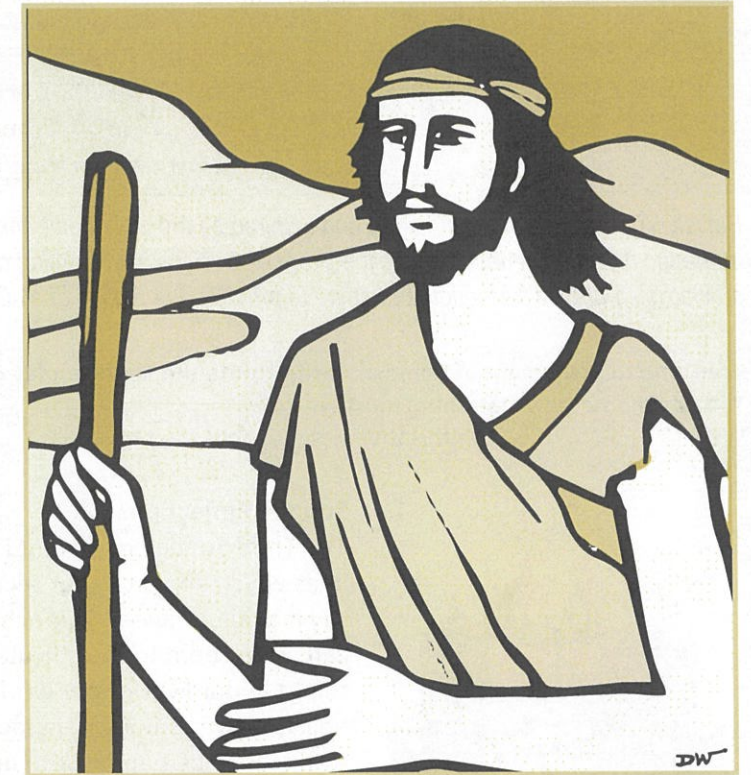
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust,
I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength,
my song, / he became my saviour. / With
joy you will draw water / from the wells of
salvation. **R.**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to
his name! / Make his mighty deeds known
to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his
name. **R.**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done
glorious deeds, / make them known to all the
earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for joy /
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 4:4-7

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

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

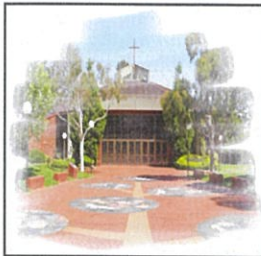
■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

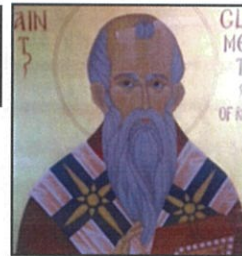
Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the
poor.
Alleluia!



St Clement of Rome Church

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Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, **Web:** <https://www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen>
<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>
Office Hours: Mon (closed) Tue—Thur 9am-5pm Fri 9am—4pm

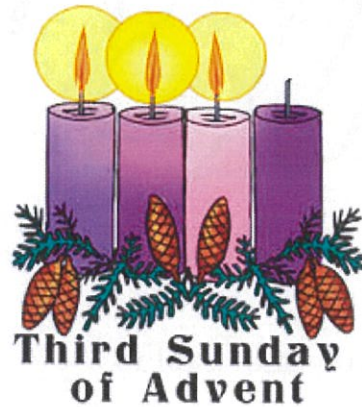


Parish Priest : Very Rev Mark Reynolds EV (Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools)
Mark.Reynolds@cam.org.au

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.

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent
Today's theme is : What, then, must we do?
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass.



Sunday Reflection.....

The Third Sunday of Advent is often known as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, after the lines which appear in our second reading today, 'Rejoice in the Lord always: I shall say it again, rejoice!' This exhortation to joy, while deeply encouraging and inspiring, can often seem to be difficult or impossible to put into practice. Perhaps there are things in our lives or our world which we cannot rejoice over, and which weigh our hearts down. But joy is, in fact, the natural human condition. God as a loving Creator, wants us to be happy, both in this world and the next. Let us ask ourselves, 'What are the things in my life and heart which may be holding me back from happiness—pride, fear, unforgiveness, envy, ambition, resentment?' Let us open our hearts to Jesus, to come in with his winnowing fan and sweep them all away.

God's Word—Daily Reflections

Please come along to share the Advent Series, prepared by Garratt Publishing in the Clifton Centre—Friday 10am

CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY, DEC 24TH
5:00PM – CAROLS
5.30PM – VIGIL IN ENGLISH
7:30PM – VIGIL IN ITALIAN

CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY, DEC 25TH
9:00AM – MASS IN ENGLISH
11:00AM – MASS IN ITALIAN



St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal

Thank You everyone for your generous donation of \$1,570 last weekend. Remember to return appeal envelopes if you took one home last week and for anyone donating through the SVDP website, make sure that you mention the Bulleen Conference on the form.

Christmas will be a happier time for many less well off people in our community
Thanks to You.

Your Conference Members

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

Sun 15th Dec @ 9am—Mass & Baptism
Mon 16th Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass
Tue 17th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass in Italian
Tue 17th Dec @ 12.45pm—Whole School Mass
Wed 18th Dec @ 9.15am—School Staff Mass
Wed 18th Dec @ 6.30pm—Parish Advent Reconciliation
Thurs 19th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass
Fri 20th Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass
Sat 21st Dec @ 9.15am—Mass & Reconciliation

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently,
Antonio Slaviero, Antonella Bandiera and for the repose of the souls of 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.

Congratulations & welcome
to God's family
at St Clement's Parish
Alessio Panaccio
Harvey Pope
baptised at 9am
this Sunday



Christmas envelopes

Will be available from next weekend for your kind contribution.

Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

Thank you to all the volunteers who signed in to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Gathering. We look forward to welcoming you all, where we will share some food and express our gratitude for your dedication and hard work.

ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH

Join us for a meaningful evening of prayer and fellowship

Parish Advent Reconciliation

Personal Absolution
with
Fr Mark, Fr Vito & Fr Franco
6.30pm Wednesday, December 18
in the church

Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

Following the service, we invite all parish volunteers to a gathering in the Clifton Centre as a token of gratitude for your dedication
lite supper and drinks will be served
Please RSVP by December 8th to confirm your attendance for catering purpose

we would love to have you all there!

New Ways of Giving



Support our Church with ease!
simply scan the QR code with your phone camera to donate directly.
Thank you for your generosity and support!

LITURGY ROSTER

		SAT 5.30PM	SUN 9.00AM
14/15 Dec	<i>Sacristan</i>	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
3 Advent	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Rocco Gagliardi
	Reader	May Teh	Mark Gregor
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Shirley Pyndiah
		May Teh	Grace Cannatelli
		Martin Teh	Anne Fusca
21/22 Dec	<i>Sacristan</i>	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
4 Advent	Commentator	May Teh	Mark Gregor
	Reader	John Bruce	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi
		Warwick Wright	Pina La Mattina
		John Bruce	Ricardo La Mattina

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
22/12	G BAGLIERI G VARASSO	FAM SOR RATTI	L VETTORETTO G VETTORETTO



Would you like to pray at home?

Our new Parish Pastoral Worker, Marilyn Robert is an experienced Catholic secondary school teacher and pastoral carer. She is also a person of deep faith and has a rich prayer life. Marilyn would be happy to visit any one of you in the parish who would like to have an opportunity for some guided prayer at home or perhaps just a friendly chat over a cuppa. Marilyn works on Fridays and if you would like her to visit you, please call the parish office.

Parish Office closure and availability during the holiday season

Please note that the parish office will be closed after Christmas until 7th of January 2025. Following that, we will be opened with restricted hours until the end of January. During this period, our phone lines will be monitored and we encourage you to leave messages. We will make every effort to respond promptly. Please also note that bulletins will not be printed in the month of January.

Our next Parish morning tea after Sunday 9am Mass
Will be held on the Sun 2nd Feb 2025.