



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”’

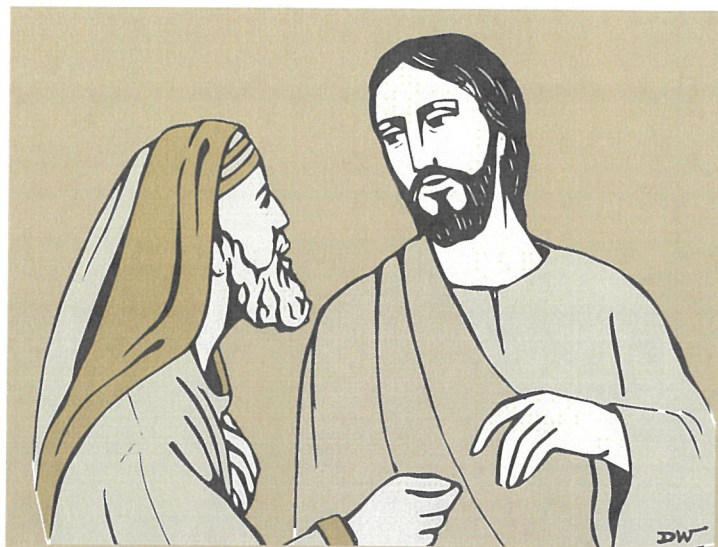
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

■ 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!

GOSPEL

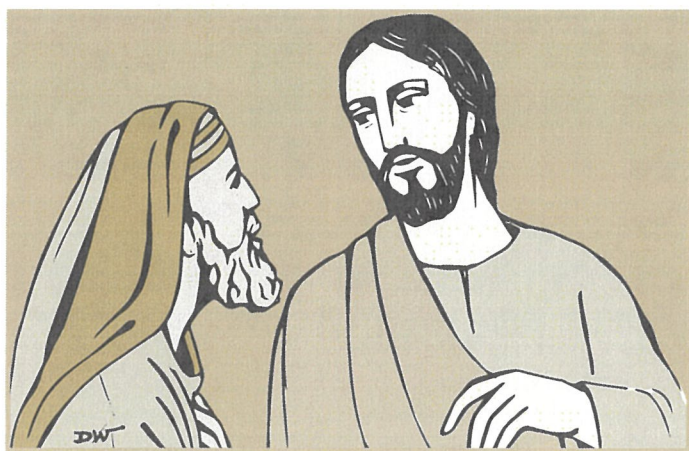
Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

As with last Sunday's Gospel, we find ourselves again on the Temple Mount—the sacred place where the Torah was taught and people were encouraged to live its demands and invitations. As Matthew's Gospel approaches its concluding chapters, however, the Temple also becomes the arena for another trial, continuing from last Sunday. Jesus' religious opponents set theological traps, seeking to expose him as an imposter and false teacher. This time the question concerns the greatest of the 613 commandments discerned in the Torah. It is a formidable test. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus to a Jewish community of followers living decades after the Galilean ministry of Jesus. The teaching Matthew records in the mid-80s CE reaches back to the original teaching of Jesus in the 30s.

Both then and now, Jesus draws upon the Torah to identify the two commandments that stand at the heart of faithful living. The first comes from Deuteronomy: to love God with one's whole being—heart, soul and mind. This command was so central to Jewish faith that it was symbolically carried on the body, clothing and doorposts of the home, and recited frequently each day in prayer. From this all-encompassing love of God flows the second commandment: to love one's neighbour as oneself. The two cannot be separated. Love of God finds its expression in how we love and treat others.

These commandments remain at the heart of our Christian heritage. They continue to shape our relationship with God and with one another, calling us beyond religious observance alone into a life grounded in love.

Fr Michael Trainor



WELCOME TO ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH

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Email: bulleen@cam.org.au Website: www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen
<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: We pray in thanks for the wonders of human ingenuity which, through the power of the Holy Spirit, enables our medical and technical achievements and the great good that arises.



Parish Priest

Fr Charles Balnaves

School Principal

Mr Michael Watt

Italian Chaplain

Fr Vito Pegolo

Parish Admin & Finance

Bernadine De Silva

Office Hours

Tue – Thurs 9am – 5pm

Weekend Mass Times

Sat Vigil 5pm, Sun 9am & 11am (Italian)

St Gregory the Great

Sat Vigil 6.30pm,
Sun 10.30am & 5pm

St Kevin's

Sat Vigil 5.30pm,
Sun 9.15am

Weekday Mass Times

Tue 9.15am (Italian)
Wed 9.15am

St Gregory the Great

Wed 6.30pm & Fri 9am

St Kevin's

Tue 9.15am & Thurs 9.15am

Confession Times

Sat 4.30pm – 4.50pm

St Gregory the Great

Sat 9.30am – 11am

Baptisms

At any Weekend Mass

Weddings

By appointment

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A – 24/25 OCT 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Christmas Gift

"A River Dreaming" I have plenty (hundreds) of copies of this little book – written by Aunty Betty Pike. It presents a challenging allegory about being a person living 'between races' or 'across races' – Aboriginal and Irish in Betty's case.

I recommend it to you to read but also as a gift of young people and older people – an easy read with deep meaning and great illustrations: just \$10 each. Available in the gathering space.

World Youth Day – 2027 August 3-8 Seoul Korea

World Youth Day! Please let us know if you are thinking, dreaming, pondering, wondering about going. E-mail vera.arief@cam.org.au. Vera is enthusiastic for a large number of people from our parishes to go! It's only nine months away. Start thinking! Let us help in guiding you.

Reporting Things

During the week I went into one of our meeting rooms and saw a broken chair. Sitting there. A while ago there was a broken toilet seat. And another time a dripping tap. And also, I've found trip hazards. And dirty toilets. None of these were reported to me or to a sacristan.

Please! Please! Please!

If something is broken | not working | dirty | missing: REPORT IT to me or the sacristan or the parish office. Of course: if you see something you feel is wrong in relation to children particularly: report it (Safeguarding). I want you safe and comfortable so we can properly be the presence of Jesus for the world.

PS: that broken chair? It was for a child to use. When I checked there were six others similar and all of them were ready to break: it seems no harm happened this time but ... having a chair collapse under you is a good way to get an injury: young or old.

Music and Singing at our Masses

Christ Jesus our Lord is at the core of everything we live for and doubly so at the core of our Mass. Thank you to all who are providing us with music and singing: you are treasures of the Lord. It has been wonderful to me to see the arrival of new people into our Music and Singing ministry at our Masses in St Clement's / St Gregory's / St Kevin's – supplementing or expanding our existing music ministries.

Please! Put yourselves forward: if you have some skills as a musician or some ability to sing: every one of our music groups will welcome you. Approach the musicians at the Mass you go to and offer your gifts. Or e-mail / call your parish office.

God bless, Fr Charles.

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.

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.

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!



**PLEASE REMEMBER
IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Recently deceased:
Bernardo Imperatrice
Vincente Minglana
Gil Popit Mantilla
Patricia Huntley

Anniversaries:
Salvatore Nucifore
Leticia Bortz
Anton Mejak
Anton Grbac

PARISH DIARY
Tue 27th Oct @ 9.15am
Mass in Italian

Wed 28th Oct @ 9.15am
Parish/School Mass

Wed 28th Oct @ 11.am
Funeral Mass for
Bernardo Imperatrice

Sat 31st Oct @ 4.30pm
Reconciliation followed
by Mass @ 5pm

LITURGY ROSTER

Date & Time of Mass	Reader	Com	Eucharistic Min	Sacristan
24/10 25/10	May Teh Tig Chibo	Paul Sammut Fulvia Gerasolimo	May Teh, Enza Wilcocks, Warwick Wright Fulvia Gerasolimo, Grace Cannatelli, Agnes Lu	Maria Papalia Carmen Gobbi
31/10 01/11	Jacinta Zieba Daniel Abdallah	May Teh Tig Chibo	May Teh, Enza Wilcocks, Warwick Wright Angela Abdallah, Agnes Lu, Carmen Gobbi	Maria Papalia Grace Cannatelli

ITALIAN LITURGY ROSTER

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
01/11/2026	G Varrasso P Lombardo	Famiglia L Faggion	C Travaglini T Recinella

OTHER NOTICES

Let's start a choir

A few parishioners have been meeting after 9am mass each Sunday for choir practise. If you love singing or play a musical instrument why not come along and join in. Everyone is most welcome.



Holy Souls Memorial Book

Throughout November, you are invited to write the names of your deceased loved ones in the Memorial Book. This book will be taken up in procession during weekend Masses, which will be offered for all those remembered. Please place your offerings in the envelopes provided.

All Souls Day – Masses and Cemetery Visits

In special recognition for those who have died we will have the following procession on All Souls Day – Monday 2nd November. Start and end with Mass and visit three cemeteries to go round and visit the graves of those we know. 9:15 am: Begin with Mass at St Clement of Rome. 10:00 am: Gather at Templestowe Cemetery and go around blessing grave sites. Travel to Eltham ca. 10 mins. 11:00 am: Gather at Eltham Cemetery (in the car park at the side entrance on Metery Road, Eltham), go round blessing grave sites. Travel to Warrandyte ca. 20 mins. 12:30 pm: Gather at Andersons Creek Cemetery (11 Blair St Warrandyte), go round visiting blessing sites. Finish the day with Mass at St Gregory the Great at 5:00 pm. Fr Anton will lead the procession.

Safeguarding Essential Training

A Combined Safeguarding Essential Training Session has been organised at St Kevin's Parish to be held on 21st Nov 4pm, for all the volunteers who have not yet completed this compulsory training. Please make a special effort to attend this session and complete your training module to ensure you are compliant ahead of the Christmas liturgies. Kindly RSVP to the parish office to confirm your attendance.

Christmas Planning

Advent Penitential Service: December 3rd 7:30 pm at St Clement of Rome – a joint penitential service / reflection for all three of our parishes, followed by the opportunity for individual absolution. A full list of Mass times will be posted on the notice board & parish website.

Co-responsibility in the Church

Cardinal Grech is speaking in Melbourne, live, on Co-responsibility in the Church/ On Nov. 4th

It looks to be a well worthwhile talk from an excellent speaker.

I encourage you to go along but you must register – use the QR code on the poster in the gathering space. Or go to notredame.edu.au and search for "Grech" and follow instructions. There is a charge.