

GOSPEL

Mt 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025. No 2119. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

7 DECEMBER 2025

CHANGE ONE'S THINKING

Today, John the Baptist arrives to assist us in our Advent preparation. Matthew presents him as a figure from Israel's wilderness. From this setting John invites Matthew's audience, and us, to repentance. There are three things about the Gospel's opening verses that are important to note. First, the 'wilderness' was a place of nothingness. Israel encountered God in its forty year's desert wanderings. Often our own lives are filled with desert wanderings and nothingness. We sometimes feel the loneliness of our lives and perhaps, at times, directionless. Contemplating our personal wilderness can be a fruitful place to begin our Advent preparation.

Second, from the wilderness comes the call to repentance. John says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This is a powerful message. The word, 'repent' comes from the Greek, 'metanoia', a combination of two Greek words, 'meta' + 'noia'. 'Meta' is the basic root word in English linked to 'change' (metamorphosis, metabolism). 'Noia' is the root for the English 'knowledge'. In other words, John's first call to 'repent' literally means (from the Greek) to 'change one's thinking', to be open minded and not hard hearted. It is a challenging call to us as we enter into this new time of the year.

Third, John reminds us to be aware that 'the kingdom of heaven has come near'. It is not distant but close and present; it is among us, a repetitive theme throughout the Gospel, flagged in two Sunday's time, in the birth of the child called 'Emmanuel', 'God with us'. We need today, more than ever, this God to be with us.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PS

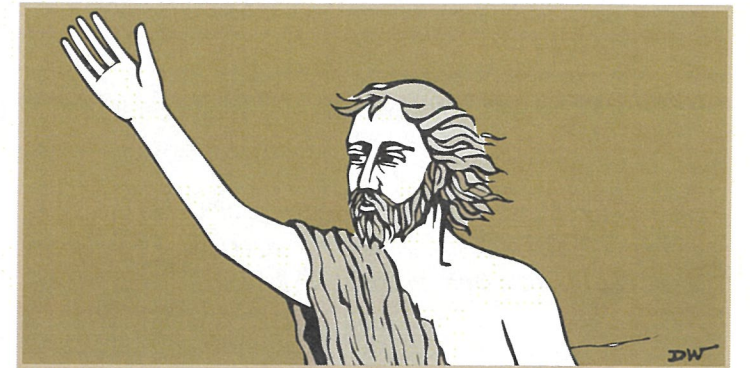
Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, /
to a king's son your justice, / that he may
judge your people in justice / and your poor in
right judgement. **R.**

2. In his days justice shall flourish / and
peace till the moon fails. / He shall rule from
sea to sea, / from the Great River to earth's
bounds. **R.**

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry /
and the needy who are helpless. / He will have



pity on the weak / and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

4. May his name be blessed for ever / and
endure like the sun. / Every tribe shall be
blessed in him, / all nations bless his name. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

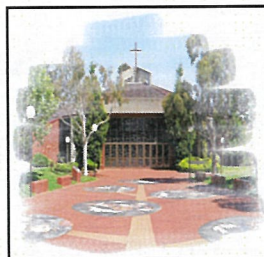
It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

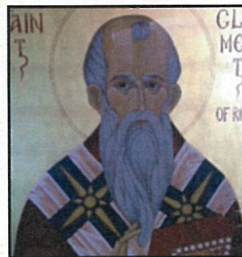
Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia! / Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. / 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—Thur 9am-5pm



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 Administration & Finance : Bernadine De Silva, **Pastoral Worker:** 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 Second Sunday of Advent

Today's theme is : Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand

We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025



PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE
THURSDAY, DEC 18TH 7PM

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

CHRISTMAS DAY
THURSDAY, DEC 25TH
9:00AM – MASS IN ENGLISH
11:00AM – MASS IN ITALIAN

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

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

Tues 9:15am (*Italian*), Wed-Fri 9:15am (unless informed)

Reconciliation: Sat 5:00pm (and on request)

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd weekend every month. Weddings: By Appointment

Congratulations & welcome
to God's family
at St Clement's Parish
Chris Tsoukas
Allegra & Francesca Platt
baptised this weekend



Parish morning tea this Sunday after 9am Mass

Please join us for a delightful morning tea after Mass in the Clifton Centre. All welcome.



Stewardship Envelopes from December 2025

Your envelopes have been re-numbered. Your giving records have been linked to your new envelope number. **Please do not use your old envelopes from December onwards.** Please let the parish office know if your circumstances have changed and the envelopes are no longer required. For those who haven't collected their envelopes, they are now available for collection in the Church foyer. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

PARISH DIARY

Sun 7th Dec @ 9am—Mass/C Liturgy/Baptism, followed by morning tea in the Clifton Centre
Sun 7th Dec @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 9th Dec @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 10th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass
Thurs 11th Dec @ 9.15am —Mass
Thurs 11th Dec @ 6pm—Gr 6 Graduation Mass
Fri 12th Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass
Sat 13th Dec @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass/Baptism @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Alessandro Centofanti** and for the repose of the souls of **Ivo Moscatelli** 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.

Children's Liturgy—this Sunday at 9am Mass



Erection of the Crib at Bulleen Plaza

For over 34 years, the Doncaster/Templestowe Branch of the **Knights of the Southern Cross** has erected a **Nativity Crib** at Bulleen Plaza. This long-standing tradition is the Branch's way of sharing the **true story and spirit of Christmas** with the general public visiting the shopping centre. This year, the Nativity Crib will be on display at Bulleen Plaza from **6 December** through **3 January 2026**.



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!

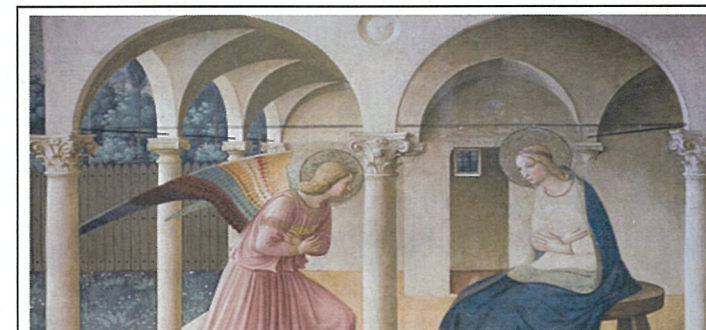


LITURGY ROSTER		SAT 5.30PM	SUN 9.00AM
6/7 December	<i>Sacristan</i>	Livia Tunggal	Grace Cannatelli
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Grace Cannatelli
2 Advent	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Tig Chibo
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Maria Papalia
		Martin Teh	Shirley Pyndiah
		Enza Wilcocks	Grace Cannatelli

13/14 December	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Tig Chibo
3 Advent	Reader	Paul Sammut	Mark Gregor
		Warwick Wright	Anne Fusca
	Special Ministers	Virginie Mindiel	Rita Gagliardi
		Zina Scalzo	Fulvia Gerasolimo

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
14/12	N BISIGNANO P LOMBARDO	FAM E CASTRIOTTA	T RECINELLA J FAGGION



"She conceived by the Holy Spirit"

An Advent Retreat

Mass | Spiritual Talks | Confessions | Adoration



Saturday, 13th December 2025

Starting with 9:00am Mass and conclude with Benediction by 5:00pm

St Dominic's Parish

816 Riversdale Road, Camberwell

\$20 Registration fee (Lunch included)

Please register online:

<https://www.trybooking.com/DHPYF>

For enquiries, please contact Carlo on
pastoral.associate@stdominics.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.