

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Col 3:15,16

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, / and the fullness of his message live within you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 2:13–25, 19–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.’ So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod’s death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead’. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / A

28 DECEMBER 2025

LIVING OUT ISRAEL'S HISTORY

With today’s feast we return to one of Matthew’s special heroes, Joseph. As we have already seen, Matthew’s Joseph is like the Old Testament patriarchal figure—he is a ‘dreamer’ who leads God’s family. In this Gospel Joseph has a dream, a privileged religious experience of divine communication. In this dream, an angel, the Gospel’s representation of the presence of God, appears and again directs Joseph. This time it is to escape into Egypt; Herod is out to execute the child Jesus. Like ancient Israel through the Old Testament story of the other Joseph who goes to Egypt, Matthew’s Joseph leads Mary and the child into Egypt and safety, paralleling the story of Israel.

For Matthew, Jesus is the symbolic representation of Israel’s story and sums up in his being the desire of God to free the people from disaster. After Herod dies, Joseph—perhaps now an insomniac!—gets another dream to go back to Israel. Instead of returning to his hometown, which in Matthew is Bethlehem, he takes the family ‘into exile’ to Nazareth because of the murderous intent of Herod’s son, Archelaus. In this last movement, Jesus completes the cycle of Israel’s story—being called, to Egypt, to the exodus and finally, into exile. It is from this perspective that the rest of Matthew’s Gospel unfolds. The evangelist, writing to Jewish followers of Jesus, is keen to show how Jesus is a true Israelite, living out Israel’s history.

Two things might be reflectively helpful for the contemporary family: God always accompanies the family of Jesus in its journey, no matter where it leads; trust one’s dream. God can communicate in different and, sometimes, unpredictable ways.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

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

Ps 127:1–5. R. cf. v.1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord/ and walk in his ways!/ By the labour of your hands you shall eat./ You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine/ in the heart of your house;/ your children like shoots of the olive,/ around your table. **R.**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed/ the man who fears the Lord./ May the Lord bless you from Zion/ all the days of your life! **R.**

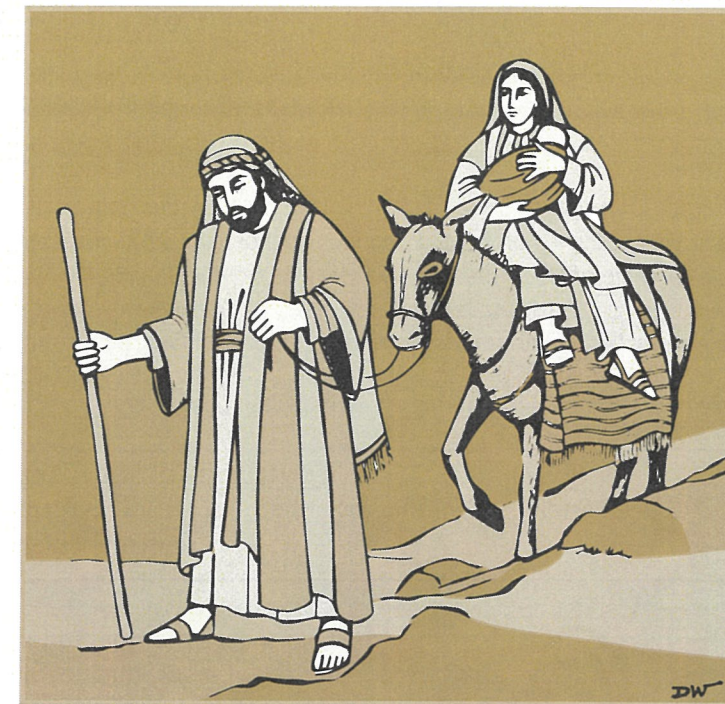
SECOND READING

Col 3:12–21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere

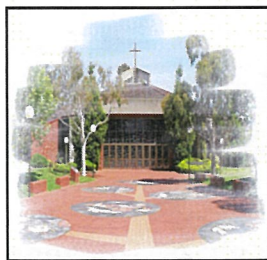


compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

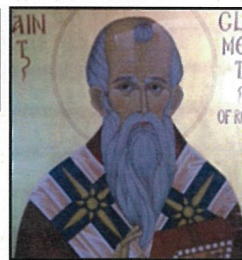
Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



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
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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Today's theme is : Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass

CONCLUSION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

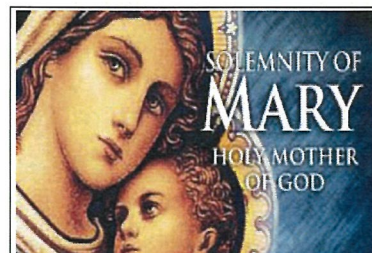
Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Peter is now available on our website and notice board for your information



What makes the Holy Family holy? Not simply the fact that Mary and Joseph are the parents of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God. Mary, Joseph and Jesus are holy because each of them lived a life of loving obedience to God without compromise. As Jesus says of his mother: she is the one who heard the word of God and obeyed it. And, numerous times in the Gospel, Joseph hears the command of the Angel of God and obeys. Jesus, too, affirms that he came to do the will of his Father. St Therese of Lisieux says: Holiness consists in doing God's will and being what God wants us to be.

Being holy, however, is no protection against the difficulties and sufferings of life. In the Gospel, we hear of the hardships that the Holy Family endured, having to escape multiple times from those who wished to do them harm. The family unit is under threat today with the rise of selfish individualism and aggressive assertiveness. St Paul exhorts us to live lives of holiness by being compassionate, kind, humble, patient, gentle and forgiving. In this way we will live in peace within our families and God will reign in our hearts and homes.

.....God's Word—Daily Reflections 2025



Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am on Thurs 1st January 2026.
All welcome

Our next Parish morning tea : will be held after 9am Mass on Sun 1st February 2026.

Children's Liturgy : will resume on Sun 1st February 2026

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

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 28th Dec @ 9am—Mass
Sun 28th Dec @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 30th Dec @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 31st Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass
Thurs 1st Jan @ 9.15am—Feast day Mass of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Fri 2nd Jan @ 9.15am—no Mass
Sat 3rd Jan @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Iole Pase** and for the repose of the souls of **Mark Landsberg** 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.

Monthly YOUTH MASS

Youth and Young Adults led Mass

EVERY SECOND SUNDAY AT 5PM

UPCOMING DATES:
11TH JANUARY 2026
8TH FEBRUARY 2026
8TH MARCH 2026
12TH APRIL 2026

All are Welcome

More information:
St Gregory the Great Parish
71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster
03 9412 8425 Doncaster@cam.org.au
stgregs.org.au

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
27/28 December	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Christine Landsberg
Holy Family	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Jan McQueen
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Agnes Lu
		Martin Teh	Maria Papalia
		Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah
3/ 4 January	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Grace Cannatelli
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Jan McQueen
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Maria Papalia
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Grace Cannatelli
		Zina Scalzo	Anne Fusca
		May Teh	Fulvia Gerasolimo

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
04/01	A VALLESE T CARAFFA	FAM G CASSINI	C TRAVAGLINI T RECINELLA

Schedule for the weekday Masses in January 2026

Please be advised that, due to the holidays, there will be a change to our weekday Mass schedule, except for the feast day Mass on the 1st of Jan. This means, no 9.15am Mass (English) will be held after Christmas, until end of January 2026. However, the Italian Mass on Tuesdays will continue as normal. We will return to our regular Mass (English) schedule from February 2026. The weekend Masses will be held as usual during this period. We appreciate your understanding.

Important notice—Parish/School Switchboard

Due to the scheduled replacement of the switchboard, the power will be cut off during the week 19th to 23rd January 2026. As a result, there will be no Italian Mass on Tuesday, 20th of that week. Thank you for your understanding.

Parish office availability notice, post Christmas

Following Christmas, the office will operate with restricted hours through to the end of January 2026. 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. **As advised, the office will be closed from 20th—23rd Jan to allow for the scheduled replacement work of the switchboard.**