

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, 'Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.' Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

■ 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

7 SEPTEMBER 2025

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

What is the 'cost' of being a disciple? What will it require? These questions are addressed in today's Gospel. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem where suffering and death await. He is accompanied by a crowd of people. They, too, are on the 'way'—the earliest expression used of Jesus' followers who, according to Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, are named people of 'The Way' (Acts 9.2f).

It is clear from Jesus' teaching that discipleship will not be easy. We have met this theme already back in August, on the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, when Jesus spoke of the tensions that would arise within households where committed disciples lived. In today's passage, this household division is even more dramatically described. Disciples' relationship to Jesus must trump every other. The word which Luke uses is 'hate'. Disciples must 'hate' parents and siblings. The language of Luke's day employed superlatives and exaggerated speech to make a point. So, the disciple is not to literally 'hate' family members., but the 'hate' expression is a reminder that following Jesus will come at a cost. This cost requires commitment and needs calculation.

This is the point of the two examples which conclude the Gospel: calculation is needed in building materials or the chances of victory in battle. The final note the passage ends on is one of Luke's favourite themes: Disciples must not be possessed by possessions. The disciple must be free, of wealth and even relationships that hinder communion with Jesus.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of the Lord?

'What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,

laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened

and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust / and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' / To your eyes a thousand years / are like yesterday, come and gone, / no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

2. You sweep men away like a dream, / like grass which springs up in the morning. / In the morning it springs up and flowers: / by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

3. Make us know the shortness of our life / that we may gain wisdom of heart. / Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? / Show pity to your servants. **R.**

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; / we shall exult and rejoice all our days. / Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: / give success to the work of our hands. **R.**



SECOND READING

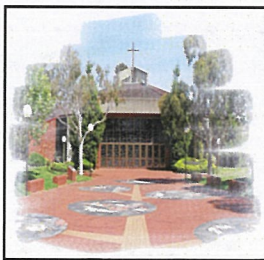
Philem 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

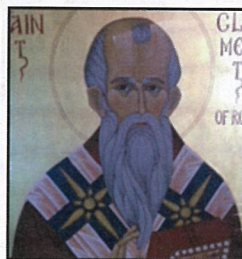
This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

■ The word of the Lord.



St Clement of Rome Church

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<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

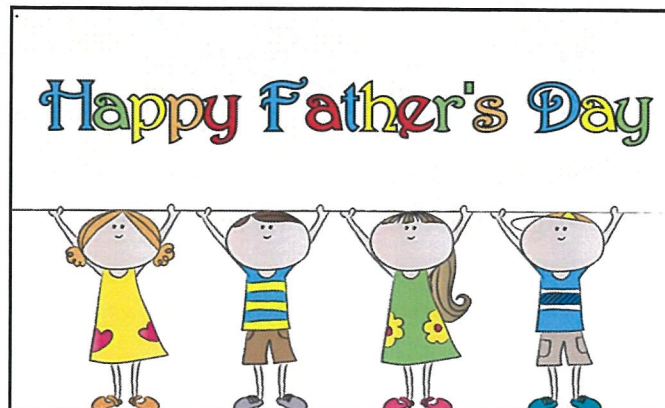
Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Watt (9850 1216)

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 Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Today's theme is : All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass



National Child Protection Week : 7-13 September 2025

This year, National Child Protection Week's theme, "Every conversation matters: Shifting conversation to action," highlights the crucial role that fostering meaningful dialogue plays in building safer environments for children and young people. But we also know that true change requires more than words—it demands action. This NCPW, we're calling individuals, organisations, and communities across the country to step up and take action to prevent child abuse and neglect. We recognise and celebrate the important work already underway to keep young people safe—and now we want to hear from you!

How are you making a difference?
Whether your efforts are big or small, at home or in your organisation, your actions matter.

This Father's Day, we pause to honour the men who have shaped our lives with love, patience and wisdom. A father's role is not only about providing; it's about being present, showing kindness, leading by example and walking beside us through life's challenges. Fathers encourage us when we doubt ourselves, offer guidance when we feel uncertain and celebrate our joys as if they were their own.

The Archbishop's Campaign 2025

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2025 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are still available in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign. I encourage you to please give generously to the Campaign.

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 7th Sept @ 9am—Mass/C Liturgy/Baptism
Sun 7th Sept @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 9th Sept @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 10th Sept @ 9.15am—no Mass
Thurs 11th Sept @ 9.15am—Mass
Thurs 11th Sept @ 6pm—Confirmation faith night
Fri 12th Sept @ 9.15am—Mass
Sat 13th Sept @ 5pm —Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Loreen Pettolino, Elizabeth Crosier** and for the repose of the souls of **Giuliana Mariani, Evangelia Michael, Albert Giuliani** 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.

ASRE—Sacrament of Confirmation 2025

The Confirmation classes have been completed. The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Fri 10th Oct at 6pm.

Children's Liturgy—this Sunday



Father's Day Morning Tea

Please join us this Sunday after the 9am Mass for special morning tea to celebrate Father's Day. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and show our appreciation for all the fathers and father figures in our parish.



Come Away Day

Wednesday 10th September at Holy Cross Monastery, 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe

The theme of our next 'Come Away' is 'Awakening to the New'. The day begins with a "cuppa" at 9.30am and the formal part of the day at 10.00am. The day's programme provides opportunities for prayer, silent reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO Lunch, tea & coffee provided. You are invited to contribute \$30, or a donation according to your means. The day will end with the Eucharist and departure at 2.30pm. It is helpful to know the expected numbers so that we can have handouts ready so please email Sr Brigid on bridget.m64@gmail.com

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 September	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	May Teh	Jan McQueen
	Reader	Jacinta Zieba	Maria Papalia
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah
		Warwick Wright	Grace Cannatelli
		Virginie Mindiel	Anne Fusca

13/14 September	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Maria Papalia
	Readers	Rene De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
		May Teh	Rita Gagliardi
	Special Ministers	Martin Teh	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Enza Wilcocks	Maria Papalia

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
14/09	N BISOGNANO N DI MARZIO	FAM B ROMANIN	L VETTORETTO G VETTORETTO

Congratulations & welcome to God's family at St Clement's Parish
Oscar Di Natale
Conor & Liam Burggraaf
baptised this Sunday 9am



Caritas Australia – Season of Creation

The Season of Creation's call for *Peace with Creation* aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges. This Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October), Caritas Australia is inviting parishes to stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal by: signing the **Turn Debt into Hope** petition – caritas.org.au/debt committing to practical, everyday actions that promote ecological sustainability and care for creation by registering to become a **Catholic Earthcare Household** - caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/