

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

15 MARCH 2026

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man'.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 9:1-41

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'WE ARE NOT BLIND!'

The rich theological symbolism evident from last Sunday's Gospel of John continues in today's drama between light and darkness. Jesus meets a man born blind and tells him to wash in the sanctified pool of Siloam south of the temple. The blind man returns able to see. Over several scenes in one of the most dramatic and engaging stories in all the Gospels, the man who now has vision is consistently interrogated by the religious authorities who, though they are supposed 'to see', move into spiritual blindness.

The dynamic evident in the story is that each time the man is interrogated, he goes back to his experience of being healed by Jesus. Each reflection moves him to a deeper realisation of what has happened and who Jesus is: at first he calls Jesus simply 'a man', then later, that Jesus is 'from God', until finally, the man worships him. This movement of faith into light is accompanied by a similar movement into darkness by the religious leaders. They fail to see that they have become blind to Jesus and his deeds of healing (which John calls 'signs'). 'We are not blind, surely?' they retort.

This drama is acted out in our day. Jesus' final words to his antagonists and John's audience are forever relevant. 'Blind?' questions Jesus, 'If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.' This clarity of understanding and insight is important in a world where truth is camouflaged as falsehood and lies proclaimed as truth. We need to journey with the man born blind, to reflect on our experiences, to be with Jesus and 'see'.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

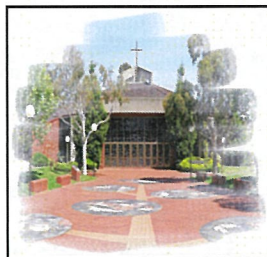
GOSPEL

Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

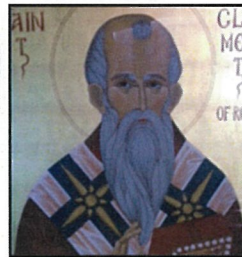
The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.



St Clement of Rome Church

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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 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Today's theme is : The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored

We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass



Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent—We invite you to deepen your Lenten journey by participating in the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 8.40am. We look forward to seeing you as we unite in prayer during this sacred season.

LENTEN REGULATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE NOTICE BOARD

Melbourne Synod 2026



Prayer for the Melbourne Synod

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

Attributed to St Isidore of Seville (c.560-4 April 636), this prayer been used at councils, synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years. Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the Adsumus Sancte Spiritus prayer.

**Congratulations & welcome
to God's family
at St Clement's Parish**
 Isabelle Tosuma
 Eve Nixon
 Zacahry and Luca McNally
 baptised this weekend

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 15th Mar @ 9am—Mass/Baptism
 Sun 15th Mar @ 11am—Italian Mass
Mon 16th Mar @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Philip Mithen
 Tue 17th Mar @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Fri 20th Mar @ 8.40am—Stations of the Cross
Fri 20th Mar @ 11.00am—Funeral Mass for Onofrio Sulfaro
 Sat 21st Mar @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently,
Philip Mithen, Onofrio Sulfaro and for the repose of the souls of **Eustachio Smarrelli** 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.

After School Sacramental Program 2026

Please see below the schedule for the Sacrament of First Eucharist preparation classes. Enrolment forms are available on the website.



DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 2 nd May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 1
Saturday 9 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 2
Saturday 16 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 3
Saturday 23 rd May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 4
Saturday 30 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 5
Saturday 6 th June	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 6
Saturday 20 th June	@ 5.30pm Mass	Sacrament of First Eucharist

Notice to Parishioners

Please note that anonymous letters, notes or complaints cannot be acted upon and will be disregarded.
 Thank you for your understanding.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 14–15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, **FRIEND**, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

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
14/15 March	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Shirley Pyndiah
4 Lent	Commentator	May Teh	Maria Papalia
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		May Teh	Carmen Gobbi
		Warwick Wright	Agnes Lu
21/22 March	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Livia Tunggal
5 Lent	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Maria Papalia
		Warwick Wright	Shirley Pyndiah
		Virginie Mindiel	Grace Cannatelli

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
15/03	A VALLESE T CARAFFA	FAM G CASSINI	C TRAVAGLINI T RECINELLA

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because
 by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world*

HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES 2026

Parish Reconciliation for Easter
 Wed 25th March : 7.00pm

Palm Sunday 28th & 29th March
 Sat 28th March : 5.30pm
 Sun 29th March : 9.00am & 11.00am (Italian)

Holy Thursday 2nd April
 Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.00pm

Good Friday 3rd April
 Stations of the Cross (English/Italian) : 9.00am
 Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

Easter Vigil 4th April
 Mass in English : 7.00pm
 Mass in Italian : 9.00pm

Easter Sunday 5th April
 Mass in English : 9.00am
 Mass in Italian : 11.00am