

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

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

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

GOSPEL

Lk 13: 1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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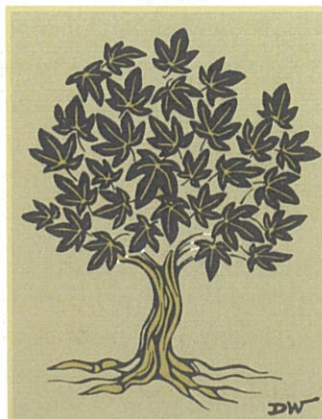
Breaking Open the Word

A CHANGE OF HEART

Last week our Lenten focus was on prayer. This Sunday is about conversion and a change of heart. In the first part of today's reading, Jesus reminds his audience that suffering or persecution is not the result of guilt or sin. Terrible events remind us to have a spirit of repentance. "Repentance" is more of an openness of heart and mind to God, the essential and primary quality of a disciple, and less the codified legalistic need to address one's infringement of ethical or moral standards.

The second part of today's Gospel moves in an ecological direction. Repentance implies ecological conversion. The parable of the fig tree and its owner highlights the attitude of its owner to what is grown on his property. He sees the tree as unproductive and therefore unable to provide a cash return. The owner is greedy. Earth's gift, the tree, is seen as a commodity whose lack of fruitfulness means for the landowner that it is to be "cut down" because it is "taking up the ground" (literally in the Greek, "using up Earth").

What appears as ecological sensitivity is rather an economic or materialistic agenda. But the one who cares for the Earth and the tree, its gardener, offers a more viable and environmental friendlier solution. Leave the tree, offer it fertiliser, and it may bear fruit in the future. He pleads for patience for Earth's fruitfulness. This is instructive for contemporary disciples: tender horticultural practice that cares for Earth is preferred to pragmatic, utilitarian destruction.



Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / C

23 MARCH 2025

FIRST READING

Ex 3: 1-8, 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 102: 1-4, 6-8, 11. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. The Lord does deeds of justice, / gives judgement for all who are oppressed. / He made known his ways to Moses / and his deeds to Israel's sons. **R.**

4. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 10: 1-6, 10-12

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

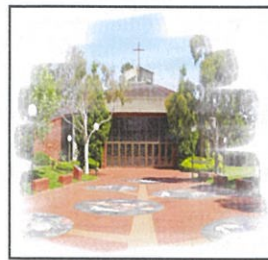
All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

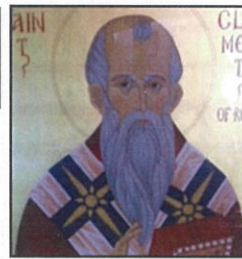
All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

■ 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: Mon (closed) Tue—Thur 9am-5pm Fri 9am—4.30pm



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 Secretary: Bernadine De Silva, **Parish/School Sacramental Coordinator:** 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 Third Sunday of Lent.
Today's theme is : Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.
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

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER
Individual confession available in English & Italian
Wednesday 9th April : 7.00pm

PALM SUNDAY – 12TH & 13TH APRIL
Saturday 12th April : 5.30pm
Sunday 13th April : 9.00am & 11.00am (Italian)

HOLY THURSDAY 17TH APRIL
Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY – 18TH APRIL
Stations of the Cross (English/Italian) : 9.00am
Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

EASTER VIGIL – 19TH APRIL
Mass in English : 7.00pm
Mass in Italian : 9.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 20TH APRIL
Mass in English : 9.00am
Mass in Italian : 11.00am

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

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

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

Reconciliation: Sat 9.45am (and on request). **Marian Devotions & Eucharistic Adoration :** Sat 8.40am

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



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Third Sunday of Lent 22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.
Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion
Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413.

ASRE Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the children who will be receiving their First Reconciliation next Sat 29th at 5.30pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

PARISH DIARY

Mon 24th Mar @ 9.15am—no Mass
Tue 25th Mar @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 26th Mar @ 9.15am—no Mass
Wed 26th Mar @ 6pm—Baptism preparation
Thurs 27th Mar @ 9.15am—Mass followed by
Reconciliation Penitential Service (Gr 3)
Fri 28th Mar @ 8.40am—Stations of the Cross
Fri 28th @ 9.15am—Mass
Sat 29th Mar @ 9am—ASRE Reconciliation classes
followed by the first Sacrament of Recon at 9.45am
Sat 29th Mar @ 9.15am—Mass & Reconciliation

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for the repose of the souls of **Alfio & Concetta Bonanno, Gabriella DiGrazia** 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 Reconciliation 2025

While we work on the class dates for the Sacraments of First Eucharist & Confirmation, Please see below class dates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation being held in the parish office.



DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 29 th Mar	9.00 -10.00am 9.45am	ASRE Reconciliation 6 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Important notice for all Parish Ministry Volunteers

For Parishioners who wish to become volunteers or continue as volunteers, it is necessary that all Safeguarding Requirements are current. The necessary requirements include :

1. A valid Working with Children Check
2. A signed Code of Conduct
3. Completion of the safeguarding training module

Over the coming weeks, to help our volunteers, the Parish will be contacting people who currently do not meet all the requirements. We understand that meeting the requirements may seem daunting but we are keen to help, so that you are able to continue the very valuable work that you do for our Parish.

The Safeguarding Requirements for Parish volunteers have been determined by the Archdiocese of Melbourne in response to Victorian Government Legislation, Australian Government Legislation and critical incidents. To ensure that our Parishes continue to be safe spaces for children, young people and vulnerable adults, the Archdiocese of Melbourne and its Parishes will this year, be audited, by *Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited*.

Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring the safety and well-being of all in our parish community.

Notice from St Vincent de Paul

Please note, donations to the St Vincent de Paul collection box will no longer be collected at St Clement of Rome. Please visit your nearest Vinnies Stores, located at 735 High Street East Kew : 9359 8685 or 40-44 The Mall Heidelberg West : 9458 3428, for your future donations. Thank you for your co-operation.

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
22/23 Mar	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
3 Lent	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Yamna Taouk
	Reader	May Teh	Daniel Abdallah
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Grace Cannatelli
		Warwick Wright	Anne Fusca
		John Bruce	Rita Gaglardi
29/30 Mar	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
4 Lent	Commentator	May Teh	Daniel Abdallah
	Reader	John Bruce	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Agnes Lu
		May Teh	Gloria Ng
		Martin Teh	Maria Papalia

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
30/03	J FAGGION P LOMBARDO	FAM L VETTORETTO	C TRAVAGLINI T RECINELLA

Virtual Lent Series by Garratt Publishing

A series of 6 Virtual Lent Talks by 3 Australian biblical scholars from Yarra Theological Union, a College of the University of Divinity. Tuesdays 4,11,18,25 Mar and 1,8 Apr from 7-8pm via zoom. Online registration is essential and the link is :
<https://garrattpublishing.com.au/event/lent-series-4-march-8-april-2025>

Participants then need to click on the Green '**REGISTER HERE**' button to go to the registration page where you will be asked for your name and email address. That email address will receive the link to the zoom webinar, which you need to click on at the appropriate time (just before each Tuesday, 7pm). If you join early (before the host has logged on) you will see a screen with the message "Waiting for the host to start the webinar." While you are waiting, you could click on the message "Test speaker and microphone" to check that the sound level is suitable. Otherwise, you just need to wait. A video file may be available afterwards, for the missed sessions.

**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.**