

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

30 NOVEMBER 2025

STAY AWAKE!

Happy New Year! Today we listen to the Gospel according to Matthew for the first time on this first day of the new liturgical year, Year A. Matthew writes for Jewish followers of Jesus living in the mid-80s of the first century. We shall listen to this Gospel aware that Israelite-Jewish concepts permeate its presentation of the Jewish Jesus, so different from Mark or Luke.

The language of today's Gospel is very Jewish. It is drawn from imagery of the Old Testament—typical, as we shall see, of Matthew—and from a particular style of biblical writing called 'apocalyptic'. Tempted to take our selection literally, it is better and to think of it as 'theological-poetry'. The evangelist uses a familiar Jewish literary style of writing. Its basic theme is that, despite the evil and tragedies that surround people, God will save and protect those who are faithful, especially at that definitive moment of divine judgement at the end of time.

Jesus' injunction is to 'stay awake' to this moment—not to fall asleep or become disheartened by its delay. God will definitively act against evil and vindicate the faithful. Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder. We, too, must 'stay awake' and 'stand ready' to what will unfold in the year ahead and not be dispirited by all that seems negative, fruitless and disheartening. God's presence, the God who 'will be with us' will be revealed in the figure of the 'Son of Man'. This is a recurring theme in the Gospel and throughout this new liturgical year.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and
they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of
the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into
ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v. 1

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / Let us
go to God's house. / And now our feet are
standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**



2. It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes
of the Lord. / For Israel's law it is, / there
to praise the Lord's name. / There were set
the thrones of judgement / of the house of
David. **R.**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: / Peace
be to your homes! / May peace reign in your
walls, / in your palaces, peace! **R.**

4. For love of my brethren and friends / I say:
'Peace upon you!' / For love of the house of
the Lord / I will ask for your good. **R.**

SECOND READING

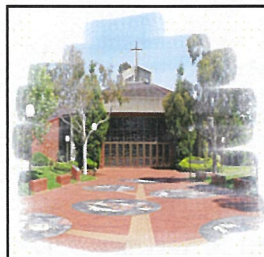
Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

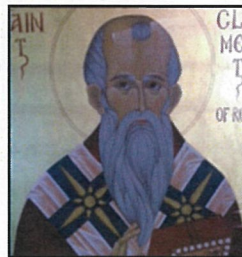
You know 'the time' has come: you must wake
up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was
when we were converted. The night is almost
over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up
all the things we prefer to do under cover of
the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in
the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity
or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy.
Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.



St Clement of Rome Church

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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 First Sunday of Advent

Today's theme is : Stay awake, you must be ready

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

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**.



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

PARISH DIARY

Sun 30th Nov @ 9am—Mass
Sun 30th Nov @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 2nd Dec @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 2nd Dec @ 12.45pm—Advent & Thanksgiving School Mass
Wed 3rd Dec @ 9.15am—Mass
Thurs 4th Dec @ 9.15am —no Mass
Fri 5th Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass
Sat 6th Dec @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass/Baptism @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently,
Joe Belleville, Pasqualino Iovenitti and for the repose of the souls of 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.

Piety Stall

Our parish piety stall has a selection of Christmas cards, candles, medallions, 2026 Columban calendars and many more items for purchase. These make wonderful gifts and are a lovely way to support our parish community during the Christmas season.

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. Your new envelopes will be available for collection from this weekend. Thank you for your support of the parish.

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
29/30 November	<i>Sacristan</i>	Maria Papalia
	<i>Commentator</i>	May Teh
1 Advent	<i>Reader</i>	Jacinta Zieba
	<i>Special Ministers</i>	Warwick Wright
		Virginie Mindiel
		Zina Scalzo
		Agnes Lu

6/7 December	<i>Sacristan</i>	Livia Tungall	Grace Cannatelli
	<i>Commentator</i>	Jacinta Zieba	Grace Cannatelli
2 Advent	<i>Reader</i>	Rene De La Cruz	Tig Chibo
	<i>Special Ministers</i>	May Teh	Maria Papalia
		Martin Teh	Shirley Pyndiah
		Enza Wilcocks	Grace Cannatelli

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
07/12	G BAGLIERI N D MARZIO	FAM SOR RATTI	D L VETTORETTO G VETTORETTO

ACYF Launch and Reception of the WYD Cross & Icon and Pilgrimage Walk Sunday 30 November

All are invited to St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, 30 November as we welcome more than 6,000 young pilgrims from across Australia for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

Let us gather together as the local Church in Melbourne to share in their joy and offer a truly warm Melbourne welcome.

Cathedral Program:

- 1:30 pm – Melbourne Catholic Festa: A joyful celebration of the diversity and beauty of our faith communities, gathering on the Cathedral forecourt.
- 2:30 pm – Reception of the WYD Cross and Icon: Join us as we welcome these powerful symbols of faith which have travelled the world inspiring young Catholics.
- 3:00 pm – Pilgrimage Walk: A pilgrimage of hope, led by the WYD Cross and Icon, journeying 5km from the Cathedral to MCEC (note: only ticketed pilgrims can enter MCEC). A shorter 3km Cathedral → Birrarung Marr → Return route is also available.

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.