

you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*All people shall see the salvation of God.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation  
of God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

Today's Gospel places us squarely within history and competing political leadership. Luke introduces us to the ascetic and enigmatic figure of John the Baptist. There are four elements to Luke's presentation of John. He comes into Luke's Gospel within the context of imperial power, local politics and religious leadership; he proclaims a baptism 'of repentance'; his ministry reflects the liberating words of the ancient prophet, Isaiah, to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Significantly, God's word comes to John in the wilderness. This is the symbolic place of nothingness and struggle. It's a marginal and liminal space and links to Israel's encounter with God in their forty years' wanderings.

These four aspects about John speak to us: We seek to live our contemporary discipleship with authenticity and fidelity within a world of power politics and church struggles; we, too, find ourselves at times in life's 'wilderness'—that symbol of struggle and nothingness; at the same time, we seek to honour our baptismal commitment as we desire to orient our lives towards God; we prepare ourselves, in the spirit of Isaiah, for the coming of our Messiah, Jesus.

This Sunday might become a time to invite John the Baptist to be our companion in preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus. In the words of Isaiah, we are invited this Sunday to 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. We ready our hearts for God's coming to us in the anticipated birth of Jesus.

Fr Michael Trainor

# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

8 DECEMBER 2024

## FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

*Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:  
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,  
since the name God gives you for ever will be,  
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights  
and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east  
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant  
that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,

with enemies for an escort,  
now God brings them back to you  
like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening  
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,  
the filling of the valleys to make the ground  
level

so that Israel can walk in safety under the  
glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will  
provide shade

for Israel at the command of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of  
his glory

with his mercy and integrity for escort.

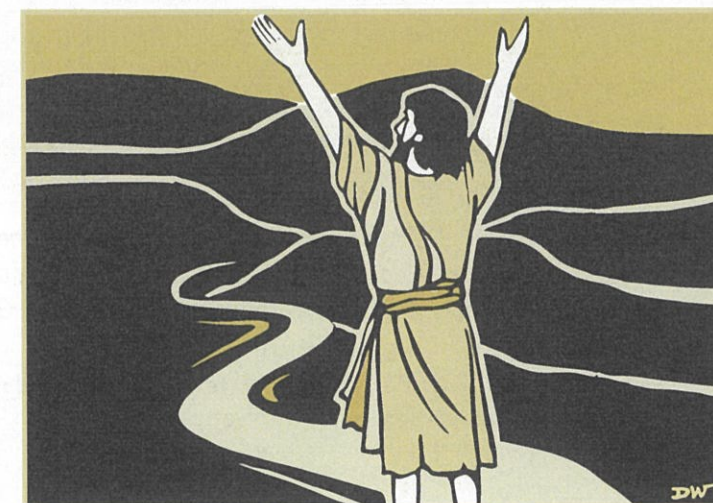
■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

**R.** The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from  
bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was  
our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips  
there were songs. **R.**



2. The heathens themselves said: 'What  
marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What  
marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we  
were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as  
streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in  
tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears /  
carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back,  
they come back, full of song, / carrying their  
sheaves. **R.**

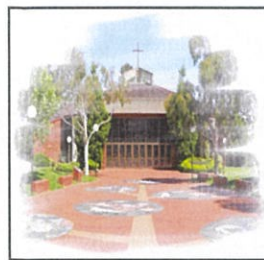
## SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians.

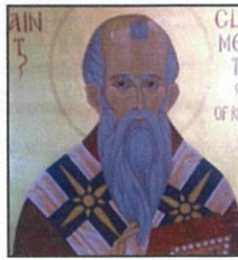
*Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the  
day of Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy,  
remembering how you have helped to spread the  
Good News from the day you first heard it right  
up to the present. I am quite certain that the  
One who began this good work in you will see  
that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus  
comes. God knows how much I miss you all,  
loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer  
is that your love for each other may increase  
more and more and never stop improving your  
knowledge and deepening your perception so  
that you can always recognise what is best. This  
will help you to become pure and blameless,  
and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when



# 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—4pm



**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.

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent  
 Today's theme is : All people shall see the salvation of God  
 We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass.



Reflection.....

The awesome, austere and somewhat formidable figure of John the Baptist appears in our readings today, exhorting us to make straight the path for the Lord. In reflecting upon our own lives, we may often find that the paths which we have travelled (and are still travelling) are very far from straight, but complex, circuitous and indirect. This is an almost inescapable reality in our contemporary world. In listening to the Baptist's words, it is opportune to ask ourselves, 'How could I make the path of my own life a little straighter? What are the unnecessary complexities which I could easily let go of? 'Simplicity is in itself a beautiful and desirable thing. Paradoxically, it is both very difficult to achieve, and yet ready at hand as soon as we desire it. A good first step in drawing near to it is to meditate upon the supreme simplicity of God.

God's Word—Daily Reflections

## CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY, DEC 24<sup>TH</sup>  
 5:00PM – CAROLS  
 5:30PM – VIGIL IN ENGLISH  
 7:30PM – VIGIL IN ITALIAN

## CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY, DEC 25<sup>TH</sup>  
 9:00AM – MASS IN ENGLISH  
 11:00AM – MASS IN ITALIAN



## Advent Series at St Clement's

Parishioners are invited to the Clifton Centre, every Friday at 10am (during Advent) to share and discuss the Advent Series prepared by Garratt Publishing

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## 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: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th 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

Mon 9th Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass  
 Mon 9th Dec @ 6pm—School carols  
 Tue 10th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass in Italian  
 Wed 11th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass  
 Thurs 12th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass  
 Thurs 12th Dec @ 6pm—Yr 6 Graduation Mass  
 Fri 13th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass  
 Sat 14th Dec @ 9.15am—Mass & Reconciliation

## Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Beverley Marcon** 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.

Congratulations & welcome to God's family at St Clement's Parish **Dominic Abdallah** baptised @ 2pm this Sunday



Please put your names on the list in the foyer, to confirm your attendance for the Volunteer Appreciation Gathering. Thank you.

## New Ways of Giving



Support our Church with ease! simply scan the QR code with your phone camera to donate directly. Thank you for your generosity and support!

## LITURGY ROSTER SAT 5.30PM SUN 9.00AM

|          |                   |                 |                     |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 7/8 Dec  | <i>Sacristan</i>  | John Bruce      | Francis & Gloria Ng |
| 2 Advent | Commentator       | Rene De La Cruz | Grace Cannatelli    |
|          | Reader            | Paul Sammut     | Rocco Gagliardi     |
|          | Special Ministers | Enza Wilcocks   | Agnes Lu            |
|          |                   | Warwick Wright  | Gloria Ng           |
|          |                   | John Bruce      | Maria Papalia       |

|           |                   |             |                     |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 14/15 Dec | <i>Sacristan</i>  | John Bruce  | Francis & Gloria Ng |
| 3 Advent  | Commentator       | Paul Sammut | Rocco Gagliardi     |
|           | Reader            | May Teh     | Mark Gregor         |
|           | Special Ministers | Zina Scalzo | Shirley Pyndiah     |
|           |                   | May Teh     | Grace Cannatelli    |
|           |                   | Martin Teh  | Anne Fusca          |

## ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

| DATE  | LETTORI                 | OFFERTORIO       | MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA  |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 15/12 | J FAGGION<br>P LOMBARDO | FAM L VETTORETTO | C TRAVAGLINI<br>T RECINELLA |

## ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH

Join us for a meaningful evening of prayer and fellowship



Parish Advent Reconciliation  
 Personal Absolution  
 with  
 Fr Mark, Fr Vito & Fr Franco  
 6.30pm Wednesday, December 18  
 in the church

## Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

Following the service, we invite all parish volunteers to a gathering in the Clifton Centre as a token of gratitude for your dedication

lite supper and drinks will be served

Please RSVP by December 8<sup>th</sup> to confirm your attendance for catering purpose

we would love to have you all there!



## Would you like to pray at home?

Our new Parish Pastoral Worker, Marilyn Robert is an experienced Catholic secondary school teacher and pastoral carer. She is also a person of deep faith and has a rich prayer life. Marilyn would be happy to visit any one of you in the parish who would like to have an opportunity for some guided prayer at home or perhaps just a friendly chat over a cuppa. Marilyn works on Fridays and if you would like her to visit you, please call the parish office.

## Waiting in joyful hope

In the chaotic lead up to Christmas, this Advent retreat will provide rest in reflection and contemplation. Held in the heart of Melbourne where Mary MacKillop lived, worked and prayed.

When : Mon 9—Wed 11 Dec  
 Where : Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre  
 362 Albert Street  
 East Melbourne  
 Tel : 9926 9300  
 Meals included for day 2-3  
 Facilitator : Rita Malavisi