

the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.’
 ‘Sir,’ said the woman, ‘give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir’ said the woman. ‘Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.’ Jesus said:

‘Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.’

The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.’ ‘I who am speaking to you,’ said Jesus ‘I am he.’

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman’s testimony when she said, ‘He told me all I have ever done,’ so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, ‘Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 4:5-42

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

8 MARCH 2026

FOR WHAT DO WE THIRST?

The first two Sundays of Lent are from Matthew’s Gospel, the Gospel of this liturgical year. They recall Jesus’ temptation (Mt 4: 1-11) and his experience of being transfigured (Mt 17: 1-9). For the remaining Sundays of Lent, we listen to John’s Gospel. These Sundays will explore the central religious and theological questions especially relevant for contemporary disciples in their Lenten journey: For what do we truly thirst (today’s Gospel)? How might our eyes be opened to Jesus (next Sunday)? What is the life for which we deeply desire (the final Sunday of Lent)?

In today’s Gospel a Samaritan woman comes to a well at noon—the brightest moment of the day—and encounters the source of Light, Jesus. She comes to draw water and only later realises that she has met the one who can quench her deepest spiritual thirst. The whole scene is replete with theological symbolism, a characteristic of John, as Jesus invites the woman to explore the depths of her thirst that only he can address. We learn that she has had several ‘husbands’. This is not an admission of the woman’s adventurous liaisons, as many commentators have interpreted, but an acknowledgement of her attraction to the ‘husbands’ (the ‘Baals’) of religions that are ‘not her own’. She is looking for the true one from God, not these other counterfeits.

Jesus reveals himself to her: He is the ‘I AM’, the Old Testament name for God. Through him the woman comes to encounter the Sacred and sets her on a journey back to her townspeople. Like the woman, we, too, thirst, for God and for a deeper religious life as we journey through Lent.



Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt?’ they said. ‘Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?’ Moses appealed to the Lord. ‘How am I to deal with this people?’ he said. ‘A little more and they will stone me!’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.’ This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, ‘Is the Lord with us, or not?’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / ‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God’s glory. This

hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; / give me living water, that I may never thirst again. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

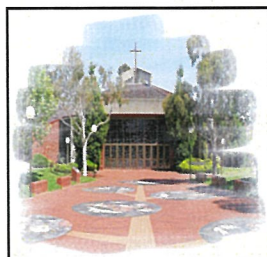
Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’ His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?’ – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

‘If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.’

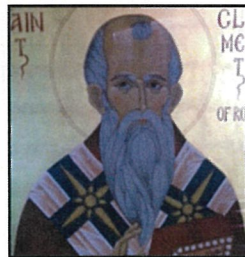
‘You have no bucket, sir,’ she answered ‘and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?’ Jesus replied:

‘Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again:



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
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 Third Sunday of Lent
Today's theme is : The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life
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—Take the Way of the Gospel

On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4). There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern: young discipleship, missionary leadership, formation and participation

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

In the synodal Church 'the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions (ITC 68) for mission' (Final Document, §87).

Please collect your copy of The Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli in the Church Narthex.

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 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

PARISH DIARY

Sun 8th Mar @ 9am—Mass
Sun 8th Mar @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 10th Mar @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 11th Mar @ 9.15am—no Mass
Thurs 12th Mar @ 9.15am—no Mass
Thurs 12th Mar @ 11am—Funeral Mass for Corrado De Ruvo
Fri 13th Mar @ 8.40am—Stations of the Cross
Fri 13th Mar @ 9.15am—no Mass
Sat 14th Mar @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass & Baptism @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently,
Corrado De Ruvo and for the repose of the souls of
Mario Di Berardino, Giovanna Maggiore, Giuseppe & Anna Marinelli 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

Sign up Sheets for Holy Week Ministries

This weekend is the last opportunity to add your availability to the sign-up sheets for our Holy Week ministries. After this weekend, we will gather the information from the sign-up sheets and begin preparing the Holy Week Ministry Roster. Thank you for your willingness to serve during this sacred season.

St John The Evangelist Catholic Parish Heidelberg

A great way to enrich your Lenten Journey
As part of our 175th Anniversary Celebrations in 2026 we are holding talks on The Gospel of St John
A UNIQUE VISION OF FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP
Associate Professor Joel Hodge will give series of 3 individual talks on Tuesdays, 10th & 17th March.
No bookings required, Flyer on the notice board.

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
7/8 March	Sacristan	Elroy De Witt	Carmen Gobbi
3 Lent	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Jan McQueen
	Reader	May Teh	Maria Papalia
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Grace Cannatelli
		Warwick Wright	Anne Fusca
		Virginie Mindiel	Rita Gagliardi

14/15 March	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Shirley Pyndiah
4 Lent	Commentator	May Teh	Maria Papalia
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Yamna Taouk
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		May Teh	Carmen Gobbi
		Warwick Wright	Agnes Lu

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

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

The Melbourne Octet presents



VIA DOLOROSA SACRED MUSIC, PRAYERS AND READINGS with the Stations of the Cross

ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, DONCASTER
FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026
@7PM



www.melbourneoctet.com



Third Sunday of Lent
7–8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

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



**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.**