

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 1:18–24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

GOD WITH US

With Christmas only days away, today’s Gospel announces Jesus’ birth. Unlike the perhaps more familiar story from Luke’s Gospel, with the annunciation by Gabriel to Mary, Matthew’s focus is on Joseph, a heroic character for the Gospel’s Jewish audience, reminiscent of the Old Testament patriarch, Joseph. Matthew’s story is different from Luke’s. In Matthew’s Jewish world marriage occurred in two stages. The first was engagement; the second, cohabitation. Mary and Joseph are married according to Jewish law, though not living together. We must remember, too, that the Gospel in general and this story in particular is a *theological* narrative. Matthew is not concerned with gynaecology, but *theology*. It is about God and the Holy Spirit. Mary’s pregnancy is the fruit of God’s action. As this becomes known to Joseph, he wants to step out of the scene and divorce her quietly without bringing her shame—an option open to him from Jewish law.

Through an angel in a dream—reminiscent again of the Old Testament patriarch, ‘the dreamer’—Joseph comes to a profound theological truth. Mary’s conception is the work of God’s Spirit. This is God’s act. Joseph is then instructed to name the child, an important Israelite convention that incorporates the one to be born into Joseph’s kinship group. Matthew concludes the scene with a second naming, now provided by the prophet Isaiah. The child will be ‘Emmanuel’, ‘God with us’, a theme that will continue throughout Matthew even to the Gospel’s concluding scene on Easter day. We celebrate and affirm God ‘being-with-us’ this Christmas. We want this God to ‘be with us’ for the year ahead.

Fr Michael Trainor



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

21 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 7:10–14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No,’ Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’

Then Isaiah said:

‘Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the
patience of men

without trying the patience of God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Emmanuel,

a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 23:1–6. R. cf. vv. 7, 10

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

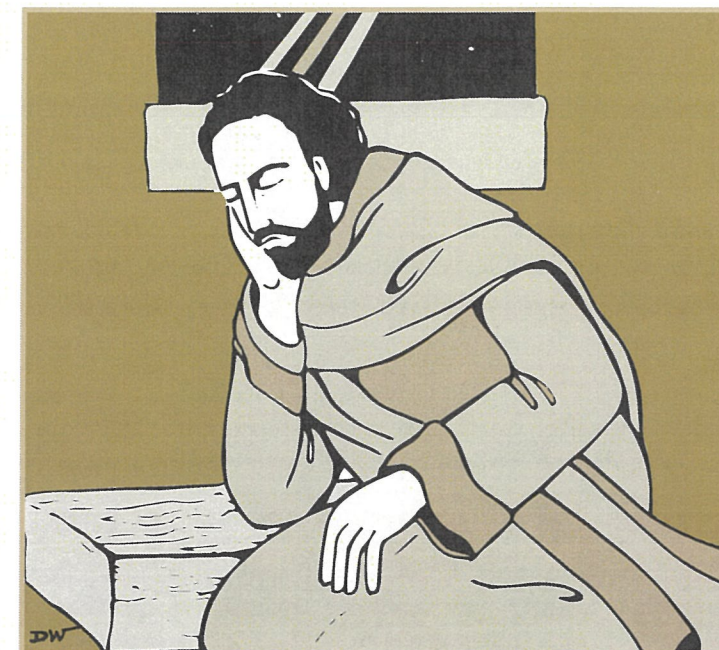
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 1:1–7

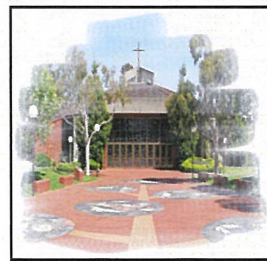
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

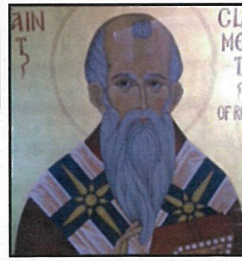
This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

■ The word of the Lord.



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.

JUBILEE 2025—PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Today's theme is : Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass



May the joy of Christmas fill your hearts with love, and may the New Year bring blessings of peace, prosperity, and good health to each member of our Parish



Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Mass at 9.15am on Thurs 1st January 2026. All welcome

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

A letter from Archbishop Peter following the ACYF celebrations in our Archdiocese—is available on the notice board for your information.

Announcement—Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod

A letter from Archbishop Peter is now available on the notice board for your information.

A Statement from Archbishop Peter regarding the horrific events in Bondi, NSW. Is available on the notice board for your information.

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 21st Dec @ 9am—Mass/Baptisms
Sun 21st Dec @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 23rd Dec @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 24th Dec @ 5pm—Carols followed by Mass at 5.30pm (English) & 7.30pm (Italian)
Thurs 25th Dec @ 9am (English) & 11am (Italian)
Fri 26th Dec @ 9.15am—no Mass
Sat 27th Dec @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for the repose of the souls of **Carmen Attard, Josip Sverko, Lina Sverko** 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.

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCARISTIA
28/12	J FAGGION E CASTRIOTTA	FAM A VALLESE	L VETTORETTO G VETTORETTO

Congratulations & welcome
to God's family
at St Clement's Parish
Chiara Marazita
Thomas Graziani
baptised this Sunday



Christmas Envelopes : are available in the current set of stewardship envelopes and in the Church Foyer.

Our next Parish morning tea : will be held after 9am Mass on Sun 1st February 2026.

Children's Liturgy : will resume on Sun 1st February 2026

Schedule for the weekday Masses in January 2026

Please be advised that, due to the holidays, there will be a change to our weekday Mass schedule, except for the feast day Mass on the 1st of Jan. This means, no 9.15am Mass (English) will be held from Fri 26th Dec 2025—Fri 23rd Jan 2026. However, the Italian Mass on Tuesdays will continue as normal. We will return to our regular Mass (English) schedule on the Wed 28th Jan. The weekend Masses will be held as usual during this period. We appreciate your understanding.

Important notice—Parish/School Switchboard

Due to the scheduled replacement of the switchboard, the power will be cut off during the week 19th to 23rd January 2026. As a result, there will be no Italian Mass on Tuesday, 20th of that week. Thank you for your understanding.

Parish office availability notice, post Christmas

Following Christmas, the office will operate with restricted hours through to the end of January 2026. During this period, our phone lines will be monitored and we encourage you to leave messages. We will make every effort to respond promptly. Please also note that bulletins will not be printed in the month of January. **As advised, the office will be closed from 20th—23rd Jan to allow for the scheduled replacement work of the switchboard.**

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
20/21 December	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Shirley Pyndiah
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Mark Gregor
4 Advent	Reader	May Teh	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Agnes Lu
		Martin Teh	Maria Papalia
		Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah

Christmas Roster

24/25 December	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	May Teh	Tim Landsberg
Christmas	Reader	Jacinta Zieba	Christine Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Anne Fusca
		Grace Cannatelli	Rita Gagliardi
		Zina Scalzo	Carmen Gobbi
27/28 December	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Christine Landsberg
Holy Family	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Jan McQueen
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Agnes Lu
		Martin Teh	Maria Papalia
		Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah