

GOSPEL

Mt 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

2 AUGUST 2026

JESUS NURTURES US

Have you ever experienced a time when you needed to rest, restore yourself and, perhaps, even reflect on the direction in which your life is moving? Today's Gospel can speak to this experience. Jesus, accompanied by his disciples, steps ashore from a boat and discovers a troubled crowd in need of healing. It is evening, a *lonely* (literally, 'a desert') place and the crowd needs to eat. Figuratively, this crowd represents how we might feel at times, in need of care, comfort, healing and sustenance.

The disciples have the solution. They want *him* to send the people off to purchase food from the local villages. But Jesus surprises the disciples with another solution: *they* are to find the food that is necessary. The Greek text can also be interpreted, 'You give them *yourselves* to eat!' This gets to the heart of the issue. The disciples retort that they don't have what is needed (either physically or personally?) to satisfy the hungry crowd, only five loaves and two fish, representative of the average food allowance for one household in the ancient world.

Jesus gets the crowd to sit down (literally, 'recline'—the dining posture in the Greco-Roman world) on the 'grass' (but isn't this a desert?) takes the meagre offering of the disciples, prays a eucharistic blessing over the loaves and fish, then gets the disciples to distribute to the crowd. They eat, are satisfied, and there remains enough leftovers, twelve baskets full, for the future. Our deepest need for spiritual restoration and nurture is met in today's celebration of Word and Eucharist. Jesus nurtures us.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good
things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us,
he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and
you give them their food in due time. / You
open wide your hand, / grant the desires of all
who live. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / call on him from their hearts. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

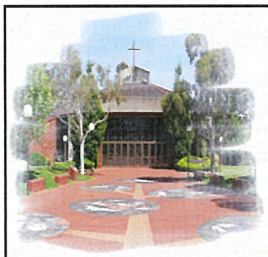
For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

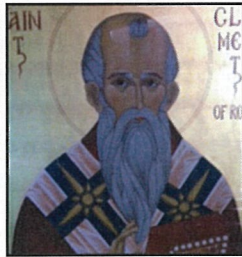
Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread
alone, / but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God. / Alleluia!



St Clement of Rome Church

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<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>
Office Hours: Tue—Thurs 9am-5pm



Parish Priest : Fr Charles Balnaves

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.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year (A) : 1/2 August 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Gathering of three Parish Pastoral Councils:

Your Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC's) met on Wednesday evening to discuss ways forwards for the parishes as partnered parishes.

The first significant outcome is ... we got to know each other and hear a bit about each other's parishes and parish cultures. You might think "so what"? But actually getting to know each other is crucial in building trust and learning to communicate effectively.

The second significant outcome is ... there are a lot of areas where we can work together and we want to discern how to ensure that the possibilities for working together come to fruition.

As a public thank you, I say "Thank you!!!" to all the parish council members and others who came along: it is important work and you have taken a risk to be part of discerning our ways forward. Please say a prayer for all your parish council members.

Archdiocesan Synod

I included some notes a couple of weeks ago. In the time available, is impractical to organise a parish wide or three parishes wide gathering to discuss the three themes set for the Archdiocesan Synod. You can look at the themes by going to [Melbourne Synod 2026](#) | [Melbourne Catholic](#)

In lieu of a formal gathering of the parishes there are two ways you could give input.

1. There is a regional gathering to discuss the three theme areas: it is on 8th August (Saturday). We can send two people along: would you like to go? Please let me know: Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au: - that meeting is just a week away so please act quickly.
2. You can go to the online site [Melbourne Synod 2026](#) | [Melbourne Catholic](#) and read material there and make your own individual or family or small group comments.

This Archdiocesan Synod is important so I encourage participation: please make an effort to look at the themes and make some comment.

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults

I have half a dozen people interested in joining the Catholic Faith. I will start a program in late September with this group – leading to Baptism and Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil 2027. Currently I am planning this to happen on Saturday afternoons on a weekly basis (excluding school holidays).

Do you know anyone who might like to join this journey? Find out what it means to be Catholic and join the community?

Please: be willing to invite people to join.

Clergy Conference August 10th to 14th and after

Fr Anton and I will be away for the week of 10th to 14th August (though I will return early on the 14th) so there will be no weekday Masses that week. That doesn't change weekend Masses at all.

Then Fr Anton goes on holiday for a month – so you'll be having some different faces in the priests celebrating the Masses from mid-August to mid-September.

Regular Mass Wednesday 6:30 pm at St Greg's

We are getting reasonable attendance by wonderful people for the newly initiated Wednesday evening Mass at 6:30 pm.

Please – tell people about it – invite people to come – I can speak about it and no one hears but if you invite people specifically then maybe soon the Mass will have a much larger base.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For the parents and children and staff and principal and Parish Priest at schools of Ss Peter and Paul East Doncaster and St Pius X West Heidelberg: that the Holy Spirit will guide you as your schools journey towards closure at the end of 2026.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

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

St Gregory the Great : Sat 6:30pm (Vigil), Sun 10:30am & 5pm and St Kevin's : Sat 5.30pm (Vigil), Sun 9:15am

Weekday Mass Times : Tue 9:15am (Italian) & Wed 9:15am

St Gregory the Great : Wed 6:30pm & Fri 9am and St Kevin's : Tue 9:15am & Thur 9:15am

Reconciliation: Sat 4:30pm—4:50pm and St Gregory the Great Parish, Doncaster : Sat 9.30am—11am

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 2nd Aug @ 9am—Mass/C Liturgy and morning tea after Mass in the Clifton Centre
Sun 2nd Aug @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 4th Aug @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 4th Aug @ 11am—Funeral Mass for John Gibson
Wed 5th Aug @ 9.15am—Mass
Wed 5th Aug @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Germano Tedesco
Thurs 6th Aug @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Teresa Macciocca
Fri 7th Aug @ 6pm—Sacrament of Confirmation
Sat 8th Aug @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Eduardo Tabing, John Gibson, Germano Tedesco, Teresa Macciocca** and for the repose of the souls of **Leody Mendoza, Sabatino Fattore, Libero Bratovic** 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.*

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to all the school & parish children, who will be confirmed next Friday 7th August. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



Parish morning tea this Sunday after 9am Mass

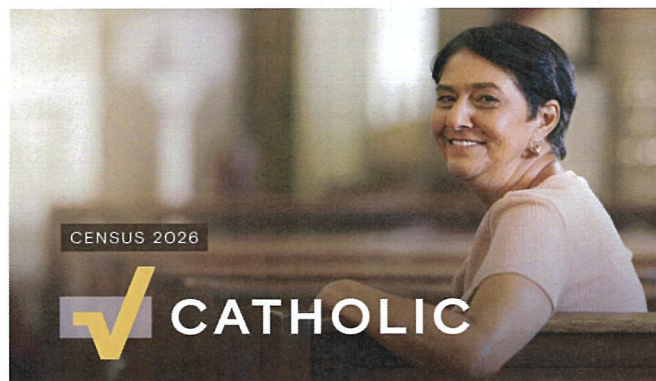
Please join us for a delightful morning tea after Mass in the Clifton Centre. All welcome.

National Vocations Awareness Week

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

The Archbishop's Campaign

Will commence next weekend. We invite you to reflect on what a vibrant faith community means for you and your family, and to consider making a personal, recurring monthly gift in support of the vital ministries that serve our Archdiocese. From next weekend, you will notice campaign materials throughout the parish.



Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

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 5.00PM	SUN 9.00AM
1 / 2 Aug	Sacristan	Elroy De Witt	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Fulvia Gerosolimo
	Reader	Rene Dela Cruz	Christine Landsberg
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Maria Papalia
		Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi
		Warwick Wright	Grace Cannatelli
1/9 Aug	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	Rene Dela Cruz	Christine Landsberg
	Reader	Virginie Mindiel	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		May Teh	Carmen Gobbi
		Enza Wilcocks	Agnes Lu

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
09/08/2026	N.D Marzio G. Baglieri	Famiglia Sor. Ratti.	L. Vettoretto G. Vettoretto

Children's Liturgy—This Sunday at 9am Mass



ST GREGORY'S & ST KEVIN'S
Multicultural DAY
Come in your cultural costumes or colours
Celebrate the vibrant diversity of our community
Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food & fun!
Event Highlights
ENJOY MULTICULTURAL FOOD AND BEVERAGES
BID ON EXCITING ITEMS IN OUR SILENT AUCTION
PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
RSVP: USE SIGN UP SHEETS AT CHURCH, SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO [HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DNFAI](https://www.trybooking.com/DNFAI)
Proceeds go towards funding social activities for our parish and community.
Your generous support is greatly appreciated.
Please be mindful of food intolerances and allergies.
Parents and carers are reminded to please supervise their children at all times
If you're experiencing any flu-like symptoms, we encourage you to rest up and join us in spirit. Your health and the safety of others is most important!

