

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

‘But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

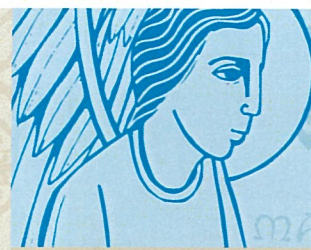
‘You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 JULY 2026

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

For the next several Sundays we will be in the very heart, the centre, of Matthew's Jewish-oriented Gospel. Jesus absorbed Jewish wisdom and sayings and taught them to his followers. He wanted to teach them about God's 'kingdom'. Today's Gospel has Jesus surrounded by a large crowd. He gets into a boat, sits down in the posture of a rabbinic teacher and instructs the crowd on the lakeside.

The parable that he offers is the most important in the whole Gospel. The principal agent is a sower scattering seed in typical fashion of the time. The farmer is oblivious to where the seed falls but intent that a harvest comes. The seed falls in places characteristic of the Galilean countryside: on the edge of paths and eaten by birds, on rocks, amongst thorns and in places with little depth of soil. But the seed also falls in rich soil and produces an extraordinarily abundant harvest. To a Galilean farmer, a twelve-fold harvest would be a wonderful gift. It would offer food for the coming year and pay off the taxes imposed by Rome and the Jewish religious authorities for the support of the Temple. The production is not twelve-fold, but a *hundred-fold, sixty or thirty!* This would be like a farmer winning the mega-lottery!

And this, says Jesus, is what the Kingdom is about. Despite apparent signs of frustration and even death, God's reign will be spectacularly rich and abundant. Jesus' parable teaching is an invitation to the Gospel audience and to us to believe in the ongoing abundant blessings of God's presence despite what appears to the contrary.



Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth give growth.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims over / to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. / Abundance flows in your steps, / in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till

now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to him will live for ever. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

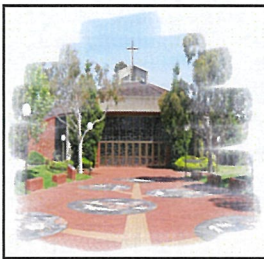
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

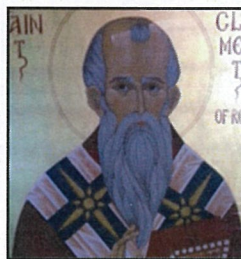
He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:



St Clement of Rome Church

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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.

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year (A) : 11/12 July 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Please Welcome New People: Say hello

I know people have changed Masses and changed the church in which they attend Mass. This change is still new. Please – be doubly aware of the people around you – welcome those who are new to you. If you are new in one of our congregations, please, introduce yourself.

Home Visits:

If you or a relative are unable to get around much, mostly at home, unable to attend Mass, in an Aged Care home: let us know. We can organise someone to come and visit regularly.

Fr Anton or I are available to provide the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and/or Reconciliation (Confession) if you wish – as well as bringing Holy Communion.

Please let us know. Call or email the parish office (any of our three partnered parishes – see your bulletin for phone / email addresses).

World Youth Day 2027 – Seoul – South Korea – August 3-8, 2027:

If you are interested in going, or know someone interested in going, to World Youth Day as a pilgrim or as a leader: please let us know soon. You don't have to know for sure – but we need to begin getting ready with numbers, fund raising needs, forming groups ...

Email the office and let us know numbers, contact details so we can begin coordinating.

Society of Saint Pius X: Sadness:

You may have heard that, with great sadness, Pope Leo has formally promulgated that anyone officially and intentionally a part of the Society of St Pius X (SSPX) is now in schism from the Catholic Church, and formal member may be in a state of excommunication.

This is a great sadness to me, and, I imagine, to all of us. That there should be such great division without room for reconciliation grieves me deeply. Please hold everyone involved in your prayers: calling on the Holy Spirit to guide everyone towards a return to unity.

PS: This is not about going to a legitimately approved Old Rite (Tridentine) Mass – that is still allowed when approved by Archbishop Peter. This is about acting deliberately and consciously against teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and especially Vatican II.

We pray. We pray.

Archdiocesan Synod 2027:

I just received a pile of papers about parish and regional consultations in preparation for the Archdiocesan Synod. Please keep a look out for more information about this important moment in taking a synodal path, journeying together, towards the church we are inspired to be today. Three themes: Formation and Participation; Mission Leadership; Youth Discipleship. We will need a gathering to reflect on these themes so we can provide input to the synod itself that happens late in the year. Stay tuned!!

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For the broad population of Bulleen, Doncaster, and Templestowe: that everyone will come to know Jesus' healing and loving touch.

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 12th Jly @ 9am—Mass
Sun 12th Jly @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 14th Jly @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 14th Jly @ 11am—Funeral Prayers for Teresa Kiernan
Wed 15th Jly @ 9.15am—Mass
Wed 15th Jly @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for John Mohovich
Sat 18th Jly @ 9am—Confirmation classes in the parish office
Sat 18th Jly @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.00pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Teresa Kiernan, John Mohovich** and for the repose of the souls of **Kevin Smith, John Szabo, Ermanno Cappola, Quintino Cappola** 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

The classes have commenced. The sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Fri 7th Aug at 6pm.



Parish Finance Group

The Parish Finance Group met on 8th July. Much to discuss about the balance of the budget; about renting our two Town Houses at 57 Summit Drive; about needs for maintenance; about other sources of revenue. The parish remains in very difficult financial circumstances with a sizeable projected deficit, and very little room to cut costs.

Your contribution counts. Thank you for your renewed pledges in the Stewardship Campaign in 2025. Please, make every effort to remain up to date in your planned giving. Given our financial situation, anything you might contribute extra would be most truly appreciated.

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

11/12 July	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Daniel Abdallah
	Reader	Virginie Mindiel	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		May Teh	Carmen Gobbi
		Enza Wilcocks	Agnes Lu

18/19 July	Sacristan	Virginie Mindiel	Maria Papalia
	Commentator	Virginie Mindiel	Grace Cannatelli
	Reader	May Teh	Tig Chibo
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Maria Papalia
		Enza Wilcocks	Angela Abdallah
		May Teh	Grace Cannatelli

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
19/07/2026	G. Varasso L. Del Tondo	Famiglia A. Vallese	L. Ciampa G. Baglieri

Refurbished Liturgical Equipment

Please pay attention to detail: the paschal candle stand (which fell and nearly broke), the large ciborium from the tabernacle, the book stand, some other items less visible: thanks to some very generous donations from parishioners these items have been very beautifully restored. Thank you indeed.

