

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

3 MAY 2026

TRUST IN GOD

We all worry from time to time. Worry is one of the great social concerns that surround us. We worry about so much: our families and loved ones, our health, what is going on in the world, finances...and the list is endless. It is into this situation that Jesus speaks to us today. 'Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me.' These words get to the heart of our lives. Jesus invites us to trust in him and his God, despite all that surrounds us. While such an invitation flies in the face of much that distracts us, the Gospel invites us into a space, 'a place', where we can rest with God. Jesus assures John's audience, and us, that he has already prepared this place. It awaits us—and we don't have to wait until death to enjoy it—we can allow ourselves to draw close to Jesus and be with him now.

This is the sense behind Jesus' reassurance to Thomas who questions Jesus about where he is going and how to be where he is. The response is clear: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' These words are clearly important for us to enjoy and relish as our celebration of Easter continues. Jesus offers us companionship ('the Way'), leads us into ultimate communion with God ('the Truth') and brings us into a sense of complete wholeness ('the Life').

The final part of today's Gospel reaffirms Jesus' communion with his Father and that our communion and trust in Jesus leads us into ultimate communion with God. Everything in this Gospel invites us to trust Jesus' words and let go, perhaps just a little, of our worries.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (*or* Alleluia!)

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, / with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; / no one comes to the Father, except through me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

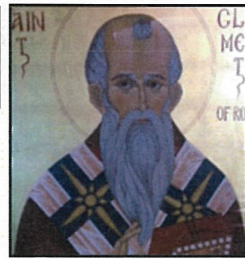
I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am



St Clement of Rome Church

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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.

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Today's theme is : I am the way, the truth, and the life.
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass

Parish Priest: St Greg's and St Kevin's AND St Clement's

On occasion I recognise the movement of the Holy Spirit as it happens. Such a moment was when I received an email saying that Archbishop Peter would like to appoint me to be Parish Priest of St Clement's in addition to St Greg's and St Kevin's. It felt right! Difficult, complex, challenging? Yes! But 'right' – in that deep way that St Ignatius points to when discerning spirits – it fits, it follows on with the gifts and experience already given. I am humbled at the opportunity given me by the Holy Spirit to be shepherd for three such wonderful gatherings of Christ's faithful disciples.

I'm Fr Charles, passed as an applied mathematician, worked in the minerals and petroleum industries for 30 years, married for 36 years but widowed; father of two sons, one granddaughter, ordained permanent deacon in 2012 and priest in 2015, assistant in Melton, Parish Priest for Meredith in all its rich diversity, and parish priest for St Greg's and St Kevin's since late 2021. Now also taking up the additional treasure of St Clement's. I had been pondering retirement at 75 in 2027 but now ... I shall continue as long as my (currently very good) health permits. I suspect I shall be around for some time. This journey will require you and I to work together collaboratively, synodally, towards the future.

If you remember Ephesians 4:1-16 where St Paul talks about charisms/gifts of the Spirit: I am Evangelist / Shepherd / Apostle / Teacher / Prophet. Evangelisation is at the heart of who I am as a priest and a disciple, but gently through shepherding not ordering and guided by the apostolic vision of Jesus himself. So don't be surprised when I continue to be seeking for us to find ways to bring people to come to know Jesus. I don't forget that evangelisation must be grounded in the New Commandment: to love one another and I don't omit that we need to worship with excellence and reach out to the poor: but always so that we and others can come to know Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

This is the 'me' St Greg's and St Kevin's have got to know over the past years and that St Clement's will start to get to know from now on.

God Bless, Fr Charles.

Mass Count 2026

The first Mass Count will take place this weekend at all the Masses. Collectors at weekend Masses are kindly asked to complete the forms. Thank you for your support in collecting these statistics.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For our parishes of St Clement's, St Gregory's and St Kevin's: that we will allow the Holy Spirit to inspire us as we work to find ways forward that will strengthen our faith and our desire to live and spread the Good News.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (*Vigil*), Sun - 9am & 11am (*Italian*)
Tues 9:15am (*Italian*), Wed-Fri 9:15am (currently no Masses being held, 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 3rd May @ 9am—Mass /C Liturgy/Baptism, followed by morning tea in the Clifton Centre
Sun 3rd May @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 5th May @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 5th May @ 11am—Funeral Mass for Mary Klein
Thurs 7th May @ 9.15am—Level Mass—Gr 6
Fri 8th May @ 9.15am—Mother's Day Whole School Eucharist
Sat 9th May @ 9am — First Eucharist classes in the parish office
Sat 9th May @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, Mary Klein 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.

After School Sacramental Program 2026

Classes commenced last Saturday. Please see below the class dates.

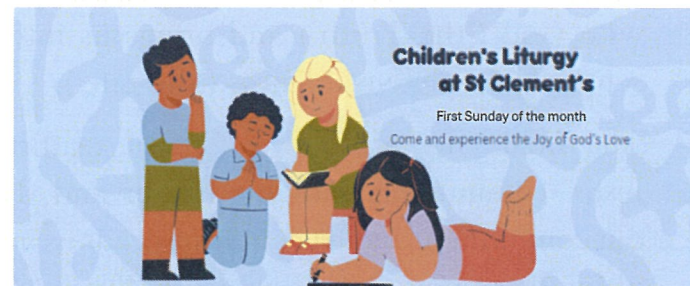


DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 9 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 2
Saturday 16 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 3
Saturday 23 rd May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 4
Saturday 30 th May	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 5
Saturday 6 th June	9.00 -10.00am	ASRE Eucharist 6
Saturday 20 th June	@ 5.30pm Mass	Sacrament of First Eucharist

Congratulations & welcome to God's family at St Clement's Parish
Capri Bressanutti baptised this Sunday



Children's Liturgy—This Sunday at 9am Mass



Parish morning tea this Sunday after 9am Mass

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



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
2 /3 May	<i>Sacristan</i>	Elroy De Witt	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Maria Papalia
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Yamna Taouk
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi
		Warwick Wright	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Zina Scalzo	Carmen Gobbi

9/10 May	Sacristan	Virginie Mindiel	Livia Tunggal
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Yamna Taouk
	Reader	May Teh	Daniel Abdallah
	Special Ministers	Virginie Mindiel	Agnes Lu
		Zina Scalzo	Maria Papalia
		May Teh	Shirley Pyndiah

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
10/05/2026	G. Varasso L. Del Tondo	Famiglia G. Cassini	C. Travaglini T. Recinella

Why listening matters in the Church

Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the Christian tradition, listening is an act of humility and faith. We believe that God can speak through the experiences, joys, and struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us that listening is a form of love and a path to wisdom.



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). CatholicCare Victoria works with those facing homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers, and those experiencing grief and trauma. This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives.