

GOSPEL

Mt 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for
what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the
cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

TRUE BLESSEDNESS

What is discipleship about? This becomes the focus of Matthew’s Gospel over the next few Sundays as we turn to Jesus’ first major moment of teaching, what we know as the ‘Sermon on the Mount’. Jesus, like Moses in the Old Testament, gathers with his disciples on a mountain. They surround him and listen to his teaching. He teaches them about blessedness in eight ‘Beatitudes’. Each Beatitude begins with ‘Blessed are those...’ and then names those who are blessed by God.

Some translations unhelpfully have ‘Happy are those...’ There is a theological distinction between being ‘blessed’ and ‘happy’. Being happy relies on one’s self-referential internal disposition. The focus of ‘blessedness’ is different. It is God. The Greek (*makrios*) is about God’s action to those who are without status (‘poor in spirit’), know their own humble status (‘gentle’), seek comfort amidst life’s sadness (‘mourn’), are passionate for justice (‘hunger and thirst for what is right’), show compassion to others (‘merciful’), are thoughtfully genuine and authentic (‘pure of heart’), seek to bring about peace where there is division (‘peacemakers’) and who suffer for their conviction to act justly with integrity (‘persecuted in the cause of right’).

Those named as blessed have an ultimate openness to God in all life’s experiences. God will respond to them, will bless them and will allow the Kingdom (rather ‘Kin-dom’) to be revealed in them. The Beatitudes are framed with the promise, ‘the kin-dom of God is theirs’. A final Beatitude is tacked on to the original eight. It acknowledges the suffering and persecution now experienced by Matthew’s community. A lingering contemplation of any of these Beatitudes can remind us how much we are blessed by God now.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

1 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord

all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility:

you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,

and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge
in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,

will tell no lies;

and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145: 7-10

R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (or **Alleluia!**)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /
who raises up those who are bowed down, /
the Lord, who protects the stranger / and
upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion’s God, from age to
age. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 26-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God’s doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad:

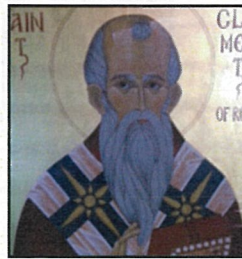
your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!



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.

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's theme is : Happy are the poor in spirit

We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass

Parish Morning Tea—This Sunday

We are excited to welcome everyone back for our first Morning Tea of 2026! Please join us for a cuppa and fellowship after 9am Mass in the Clifton Centre. We would love to see you there!



Children's Liturgy is back this Sunday @9am



Readers & Eucharistic Minister's Roster

Roster for February and March has been prepared and emailed. As we begin planning for the Holy Week roster, we kindly ask that you let us know as soon as possible, if you will not be available during that period. Thank you for your continued support.

Congratulations & welcome to God's family at St Clement's Parish
 Chiara Drago baptised this Sunday 11am



Lent 2026

As we prepare for the season of Lent, parishioners are invited to bring their old palms and place them in the basket located in the foyer. Please note the following Mass Times for Ash Wednesday 18th February :

Whole School Mass at 9.15am

Parish Mass at 7.00pm

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from meat.

Stations of the Cross : will commence from Fri 20th Feb before Mass at 8.40am in the Church.

Project Compassion : You can donate through donation boxes and envelopes available in the Foyer in a couple of weeks.

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

PARISH DIARY

Sun 1st Feb @ 9am—Mass/C Liturgy
 Sun 1st Feb @ 10am—Morning Tea in the C Centre
 Sun 1st Feb @ 11am—Italian Mass /Baptism
 Tue 3rd Feb @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Wed 4th Feb @ 9.15am—no Mass
 Thurs 5th Feb @ 9.15am—no Mass
 Fri 6th Feb @ 9.15am—no Mass
 Sat 7th Feb @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Vincenzo Coco, Hilda Zupancic** and for the repose of the souls of **Anna Maria Chen Kiem Hwa, Mi Hwa** 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 class dates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please register your interest by completing the registration form available on the website.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sat 14 th February	9.00 – 10.10am	ASRE Reconciliation 2
Sat 21 st February	9.00 – 10.10am	ASRE Reconciliation 3
Sat 28 th February	9.00 – 10.10am	ASRE Reconciliation 4
Sat 7 th March	9.00 – 10.10am	ASRE Reconciliation 5
Sat 14 th March	9.00 – 10.10am	ASRE Reconciliation 6
Wed 18 th March	6.00pm	Family Faith Night
Wed 18 th March	6.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation

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
31 Jan/1 Feb	Sacristan	Sue De Bortoli	Grace Cannatelli
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Grace Cannatelli
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Tig Chibo
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Anne Fusca
		May Teh	Rita Gagliardi
		Enza Wilcocks	Fulvia Gerasolimo
7/8 February	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Tig Chibo
	Reader	May Teh	Mark Gregor
		Enza Wilcocks	Carmen Gobbi
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Agnes Lu
		Virginie Mindiel	Maria Papalia

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
08/02	A VALLESE T CARAFFA	FAM G CASSINI	C TRAVAGLINI T RECINELLA

Schedule for the weekday Masses in February 2026

Please be advised that, due to health reasons, Fr Mark is unavailable during the month of February. Therefore, there will be a change to our weekday Mass schedule. Weekday Masses will be celebrated on Fridays only, commencing Friday 13th February at 9.15am. However, the Italian Mass on Tuesdays and all weekend Masses will continue as normal. We thank you for your understanding and continued prayers.

Important notice—Parish/School Switchboard

Please be informed, that the switchboard replacement works planned to be carried out last month were postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. Further updates will be communicated as they become available.

Important reminder for all Parish Ministry Volunteers

Please ensure that you are up to date with the safeguarding requirements, whether or not it involves direct or indirect contact with children and young people. We encourage you to visit our website for more details and to complete or finalise any necessary documentation. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

**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.**