

GOSPEL

Mt 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

TOWARDS UNKNOWN SHORES

There are times when we struggle, as though we are personally battling against a strong headwind and can't move out of our physical or spiritual slump. Today's Gospel reflects something of this experience. Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat (a symbol of Matthew's Gospel household) to sail to the 'other side'. This 'side' is unfamiliar and frightening. Jesus spends time on the land praying while the boat, in the meantime, is battling heavy seas and a strong headwind.

All this is a powerful image of the community of Jesus' disciples and, at times, like us or our experience of Church: battling, trying to move forward as we feel alone. At this point in the story, Matthew draws on imagery used of God from the First Testament to describe Jesus walking on the water, coming towards a boat filled with terrified disciples. When they see Jesus, their terror heightens thinking he is a ghost. Jesus reassures them.

Peter, the leader and spokesperson, then asks to come out to be with Jesus on the water. While Peter's focus is on Jesus all is safe as he steps from the boat on to the water. But when he becomes distracted by the wind and waves and takes his gaze off Jesus, he begins to sink. Jesus responds immediately to his plea for rescue and the scene concludes with the disciples worshipping Jesus as God's saving agent. This story speaks forcefully to our community of struggling believers. Jesus seeks to be with us in this 'boat' called 'Church' as we sail together, in that synodal spirit, towards unknown and frightening shores while subject to fearful and unsettling conditions.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

9 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

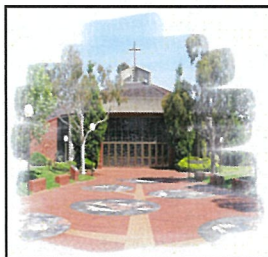
What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

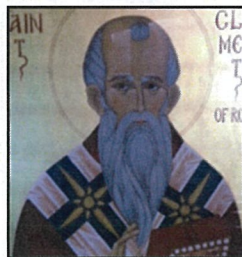
Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!



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.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year (A) : 8/9 August 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Archdiocesan Synod

Look at the themes by going to [Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](#) read the material 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

Do you know anyone who might like to join this journey? Find out what it means to be Catholic and join the community? Please let me know their details or get them to talk to me or email the office doncaster@cam.org.au

Clergy Conference August 10th to 14th and after

Fr Anton and I will be away for the week of 10th to 14th August so no weekday Masses. Then Fr Anton goes on holiday for a month – so we will have supply priests for some of the Masses on the weekends and just me for all daily Masses.

Safeguarding

Please make sure you are up to date with your details and WWCC etc. And if you're new to your role/ministry please contact the office to get yourself properly set up with the various requirements for ministering.

Drop Off / Pick up / Parking

An incident at a Mass last weekend (no harm caused) says three things to me:

If you are picking someone up or dropping them off – be careful and don't block entry to the church for more than a few minutes – if you need to wait longer park and bring your car back later

If you arrive and the carpark is full, park safely, drop family or friends off and go to the side streets to park so the carpark remains safe for all (don't park illegally).

Keep your cool – we are all present for the greater glory of God – but there are competing needs – look at the situation from other eyes, Jesus' eyes.

Alpha

Our next Alpha sessions are coming up starting in just a few weeks. You'll be hearing some testimonies about the value of Alpha for invigorating faith or opening the path to faith in Jesus Christ. Invite people – come yourself if you haven't been – young or not: there's a space for you. People will be around to help you sign up. If you have an acquaintance who is finding life hard: invite them. Atheist or Catholic or any faith at all: invite people to come – they can only say no – every invitation is a success in itself because it says Jesus is important.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For the blessings that abound in our lives – perhaps going unnoticed as we pursue our own desires.

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 9th Aug @ 9am—Mass
Sun 9th Aug @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 11th Aug @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 11th Aug @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Leonilde Guidara
Wed 12th Aug @ 9.15am—Please note that there is no Mass
Sat 15th Aug @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Leonilde Guidara** and for the repose of the souls of **Domenico Cerio, Peter Balnaves, Giuseppe Biondo, Venancio Mendoza, Dario Soci, Udan Perera** 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

We give thanks to the Lord for the grace he has given our children who were confirmed on Friday evening. (And thanks to Bishop Les who presided for the Sacrament).

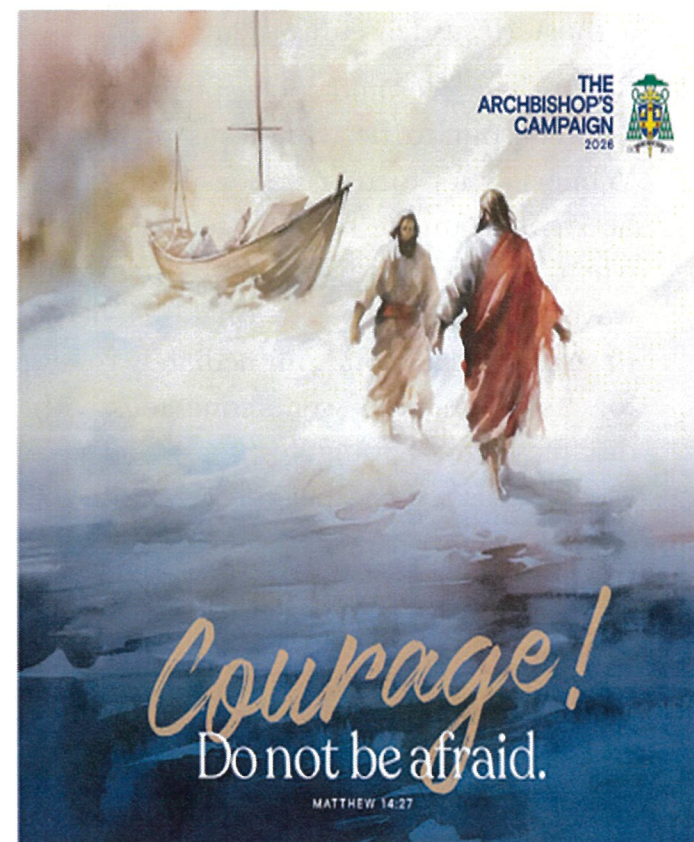


National Vocations Awareness Week

Please pray for our priests today in thanksgiving for their ministry and presence in our community. Please pray for the religious who do so much in pastoral care, education, health care and many other ministries. Pray also that the saints may inspire many vocations to consecrated life and priesthood, especially from our community.

The Archbishop's Campaign

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. Campaign envelopes will be available from next weekend.



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
8/9 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

15/16 Aug	Sacristan	Virginie Mindiel	Rita Gagliardi
	Commentator	Virginie Mindiel	Tim Landsberg
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Jan McQueen
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Maria Papalia
		Zina Scalzo	Angela Abdallah
		May Teh	Grace Cannatelli

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
16/08/2026	N. Bisignano P. Lombardo	Famiglia E. Castriotta	L. Recinella J. Faggion

Carpark

Don't forget: no safe / practical access to the church from 1 pm Sunday and all through Monday as the external carpark is cleaned and repainted.

