

happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2153. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 JULY 2026

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Today we continue to hear from the central chapter in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' parable teaching about the kin-dom of God. Over the past Sundays we have been hearing parables concerned with sowed seed (15th Sunday) and the mystery of the darnel sown among the wheat (last Sunday). Today we hear that the kin-dom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, a common banking technique by peasant farmers to protect their most valuable possessions. Someone discovers this treasure; hides it again and then sells every possession to buy the field and claim the treasure. Between the discovery and the purchase, the finder goes off "happy". The overwhelming joy of the discovery leads the merchant to sell everything to buy the field. This is an image of the disciple, of us, in discovering that the true encounter with God, the experience of the kin-dom, is most precious. Nothing can substitute it.

The second parable that concludes today's Gospel is like the first. It is about a merchant's search for valuable pearls and, in finding one, sells everything to have the pearl. In the ancient world, in the time of Jesus and Matthew, the pearl represented purity, beauty, power, wealth, even divinity. The discovery of the pearl by the parable's merchant leads, as in the first parable, to the selling of everything possessed to gain the pearl.

Both parables speak into our desire for ultimate and intimate communion with the God revealed through Jesus. When we experience such communion, we realise how valuable it is; nothing can compare to it. Intimate communion with God cannot be bought nor can anything else in human existence substitute for it. This communion is deepened in every celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130. R. v. 97

R. Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, / is to obey your word. / The law from your mouth means more to me / than silver and gold. R.
2. Let your love be ready to console me / by your promise to your servant. / Let your love come to me and I shall live / for your law is my delight. R.
3. That is why I love your commands / more than finest gold. / That is why I rule my life by your precepts: / I hate false ways. R.
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; / therefore I obey it. / The unfolding of your word gives light / and teaches the simple. R.



SECOND READING

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

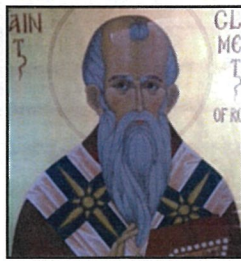
He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off



St Clement of Rome Church

Address: 9 –21 Egan Drive, Bulleen 3105 - **Phone:** 9850 3262
Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, **Web:** <https://www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen>
<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.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year (A) : 25/26 July 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Partnering of three parishes:

In June, the parish councils of our Bulleen, Templestowe, and Doncaster parishes started looking at what it means to 'partner' as parishes. Partnering is not about losing parish identity. At the same time, it must mean something more than just having one parish priest (and assistant priest). What are your thoughts?

What could we do more? What could we do better? What do you dream of for your parish (be it St Gregory's or be it St Kevin's or be it St Clements)?

Some things are obvious: I will run the RCIA program for all three parishes at once. We will run Alpha across all three parishes. We've already aligned Mass times to be manageable (and thank you for the gracious way you've accepted that change). But ... what more could be.

The three PPC's will meet again on 29th July to discuss this – please email me your thoughts at charles.balnaves@cam.org.au.

Stewardship / Thanksgiving: Thank you

It is late July already – nearly a month into the new financial year. June financial reports have arrived on my desk and so I am prompted to say a big "THANK YOU" to all of you who contribute so generously to the life of the parish and to the livelihood of myself and Fr Anton.

I know that your generosity extends beyond the parish into the special collections that occur quite often during the year, but I want to thank you especially for ensuring that your parish can continue to thrive as a presence of Christ in the world.

Registering with the parish / Communicating with you

I know we've done a census as part of our thanksgiving / stewardship campaigns but ... contact details change and new people arrive in our parish.

For new arrivals: please fill in a census form (forms are available at the entrance of the church) and provide your details: especially please your current and best email and phone details.

For existing parishioners: please make sure we have your current details. Emails change and phone numbers change – we need these things up to date please.

Especially: please provide your current email address.

If we have your email address: we can send the bulletin (you see it early) and we can provide urgent messages and we can save vastly on postage when we need to send something out.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For our parish pastoral councils as they begin to discern what it actually means for our parishes to be partnered.

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

PARISH DIARY

Sun 26th Jly @ 9am—Mass
 Sun 26th Jly @ 11am—Italian Mass
 Tue 28th Jly @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Wed 29th Jly @ 9.15am—Mass
 Wed 29th Jly @ 11am—Funeral Mass for Brian Atherton
 Wed 29th Jly @ 6pm—Bap Preparation in the parish office
 Thurs 30th Jly @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Rina D'Agostino
 Sat 1st Aug @ 9am—Confirmation classes in the parish office
 Sat 1st Aug @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.00pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Rina D'Agostino, Thomas Ludya** and for the repose of the souls of **Fr Des Pantan** 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.



Parking: three things

Please park in spots / places that don't block others from proper entry / exit / movement in the parking.

During school weeks: if you come to a weekday mass or come to use the chapel: move your car by just after 10 am so the carpark is safe.

9th and 10th August: the whole carpark inside and outside the gates will be un-available as the whole area will be cleaned and have the markings repainted from mid-day Sunday afternoon and all through Monday.

Grandparents Day

This weekend, we will be celebrating Grandparents Day. Prayer cards are available in the foyer for you to pick up. Please take one and keep our grandparents in your prayers as we celebrate and give thanks for them.

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
25/26 July	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Grace Cannatelli
	Commentator	May Teh	Tig Chibo
	Reader	Jacinta Zieba	Fulvia Gerasolimo
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Rita Gagliardi
		Virginie Mindiel	Carmen Gobbi
		Enza Wilcocks	Agnes Lu
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

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
02/08/2026	A. Vallese T. Caraffa	Famiglia Sor. Ratti.	L. Vettoretto G. Vettoretto

Morning tea next Sunday after 9am Mass

Please bring a plate to share. Thank you



WE ARE Called VOCATIONS EXPO

ACU Campus Ministry and Vocations Melbourne invite you to come and explore what life looks like in Catholic Religious Orders, Diocesan Priesthood, and Married life. Hear from speakers who will share what answering a call looks like, what challenges lie ahead and the many joys you find along the way.

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST
 9AM-1PM
 GREG CRAVEN CENTRE,
 LEVEL 7, ST TERESA OF KOLKATA BUILDING,
 ACU MELBOURNE

Free event
 Book via - trybooking.com/DNKHK

with Archbishop Peter Comensoli

Campus Ministry

ST GREGORY'S & ST KEVIN'S Multicultural DAY

SUNDAY, 9TH AUGUST 2026
 FOLLOWING THE 10.30AM MASS

ST GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH HALL
 71 WILLIAMSON'S ROAD
 DONCASTER

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!

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.