

Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

17 MAY 2026

how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

When reflecting on Jesus' Ascension, our liturgical focus has been heavily influenced by Luke's double version of the Ascension; one set on Easter Day in the concluding scene in Luke's Gospel (24:50-52) as Jesus' blesses his disciples at Bethany and departs from them; the other in the opening chapter of Acts (Acts 1:6-11) as Jesus leaves the disciples and is carried into heaven.

Our Gospel today is quite different. It is the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel. The Risen Jesus gathers with the Eleven on 'the' mountain, the place of divine encounter, already familiar from earlier in the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus is with the *Eleven*—not the Twelve, a reminder of the failure of one of the key members of the apostolic leadership group (Judas). It is to this group of failed leaders that Jesus, God's authoritative agent, entrusts his final teaching and missionary endorsement. They are to make disciples of all nations. This is an important injunction, given that Matthew's audience which is predominantly Jewish is now encouraged to move into the gentile world.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus offers a universal vision. Baptism and Gospel ethical teaching will become key notes for incorporating members into this renewed community of Jesus. The Gospel concludes on a promise of divine companionship. Jesus, called 'Emmanuel' ('God with us') in the birth narrative (Matthew 1:23), reminds his audience that 'I am with you always ... to the end of time.' This affirmation of Jesus' eternal presence is comforting to Matthew's audience, and us, dealing with life's struggles and cultural challenges.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

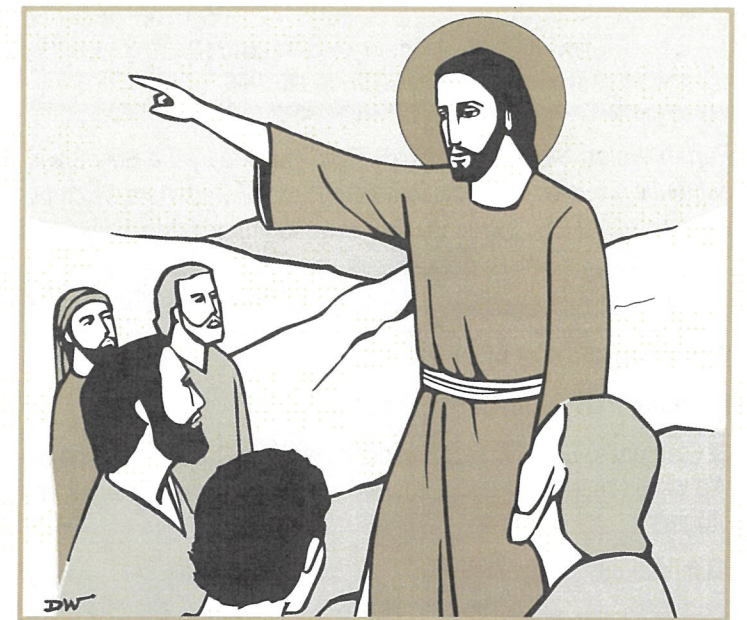
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

■ The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (or Alleluia!)

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**

2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

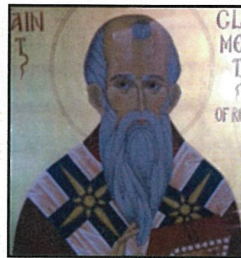
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and



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.

The Ascension of the Lord (A) : 16/17 May 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Planning Partnering of Parishes.

St Clement's, St Keivn's, St Gregory's: will have a joint meeting of parish pastoral councils and finance groups on Tuesday 19th May. We will discuss plans about how we can move forwards, together. Please pray for the group We will keep you informed as we progress.

AI mistakes

A person came to me upset, fearful? when having heard of three days of darkness and that Pope Leo is speaking about that. There is no basis to this claim. It is true that there was a prediction of three days of darkness many years ago – a personal revelation – not Church teaching. It is true that Pope Leo has spoken about light and darkness: in the context of Easter and the light of Christ Jesus. There is no link between the two. Joining the two matters would appear to result from AI making a false association.

Remember: anything from God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, is always grounded in Jesus' self-giving love which he calls us to share. Please, be thoughtful as you use the internet / social media / AI / etc. They cannot think! You can!

Thank you

It is my great honour that you grace Fr Anton and I with your Easter Offerings – in addition to all the anonymous offerings there was Joan, Anna, Sebin, Anna, Molly, K & M, Boris, Rocco, Sheela, Henrieta, Celia, Carmel, Montillees, Jersy, Anthony, Pina, Abhi, Mariam, Chanih, Connie, Angelo, Angeline, J, Freddie, Agnes, Nielia, Dai, Joseph, Amy, Chirstopher, Alice, M, A, E, Adams', Agnes, Charles, James, Pauline, joe, D, L, Frank, Maria, Mary, Max, Carmen, Cecilia, Shirley, Nahia. I am sure there were many more – I list all the names I receive but I thank everyone. I probably am unaware of a lot of names from St Clement's and maybe St Kevin's: you are not forgotten.

Alpha – Pentecost Retreat – sign up details in the church entry space

It's not too late to invite someone to come and/or come yourself to the Alphas Come and See night – find out a little more; scratch the itch of the Holy Spirit guiding you. Come along.

And you can still book in for the Pentecost Retreat – we've got 80 participants so far which is wonderful but still space left. Come and find how the Holy Spirit enlivens you.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For the success of our discernment for partnering of our three parishes.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (*Vigil*), Sun - 9am & 11am (*Italian*)

Tues 9:15am (*Italian*), Wed and Fri 9:15am (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 17th May @ 9am—Mass/Baptism
 Sun 17th May @ 11am—Italian Mass
Mon 18th May @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Lucia De Iulio
 Tue 19th May @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Tue 19th May @ 5.30pm—PPC meeting for all three parishes in the Clifton Centre
 Wed 20th May @ 9.15am—Mass
Wed 20th May @ 11am—Funeral Mass for Joseph Orlando
 Fri 22nd May @ 9.15am—School Mass Grade 3
 Sat 23rd May @ 9am — First Eucharist classes in the parish office
 Sat 23rd May @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, Flavia Gazzi, Joseph Orlando and for the repose of the souls of Anne Fusca, Rosaria Saltalamacchia, Joe Taouk 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.

Weekday Masses:

From this week we will move to having more 9:15 am weekday Masses. The Tuesday Italian Mass remains unchanged. And we will now have Mass in English on Wednesday and Friday. Fr Anton and I will alternate weeks. If Tuesday and Thursday are your preference then there is 9:15 am Mass at St Kevin's that you are most welcome at.

Reconciliation / confession:

As has been the practice in the past, the Sacrament of Reconciliation remains available from 5:30 pm on Saturday evenings. In addition, the Sacrament is available at St Gregory's from 9:30 to 11 on Saturday mornings.

Save the Dates June Parish Seminars 2026

Celebration of the Mass is our central action of worship wherein we seek a close communion with God and our community.

The previously planned and eagerly anticipated seminars on the Mass were postponed and have now been rescheduled.

All are welcome to attend!

Fr. Frank O'Loughlin, retired priest, author and theologian, will lead us in better understanding the structure and purpose of the Mass as the central act of faith in our Catholic tradition.

Session 1:

Exploring the fundamental shape of the Mass.
Saturday June 6, 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Session 2:

Gaining a richer understanding of the Mass.
Thursday June 18, 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Both sessions will be held in St Gregory the Great Church gathering space to ensure we have a relaxed space that is large enough for all.

Father Frank will provide a rich encounter with the Mass and put into context your important role within it. He is an engaging presenter, willing to discuss any questions you may have. His presentations and his answers arise from his experience as a priest, a renowned theologian, and an adult educator. He has researched and taught in the areas of fundamental theology, sacramental theology and liturgy in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the last 50 years. In recent years he has published several books.

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

16/17 May	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Grace Cannatelli
Ascension	Commentator	May Teh	Daniel Abdallah
	Reader	Jacinta Zieba	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi
		Warwick Wright	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Zina Scalzo	Carmen Gobbi

23/24 May	Sacristan	Virginie Mindiel	Shirley Pyndiah
Pentecost	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Grace Cannatelli
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Tig Chibo
	Special Ministers	Virginie Mindiel	Agnes Lu
		Zina Scalzo	Maria Papalia
		May Teh	Shirley Pyndiah

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
24/05/2026	A. Vallese T. Caraffa	Famiglia E. Castriotta	L. Recinella J. Faggion

Congratulations & welcome to God's family at St Clement's Parish
 Sienna, Vincent and Bianca Rachele baptised this Sunday



Pentecost morning tea

The Parish Pastoral Council invites all parishioners to a Pentecost morning tea to be held after the 9 am Mass on Pentecost Sunday, 24th May, 2026. Please bring 'a plate' if you wish. We look forward to seeing you there.



Mass Count 2026

The Third Mass Count will take place this weekend at all the Masses. It will be slightly different from the previous two weekends. The information regarding the sex and age group of the attendees will be gathered over the third and the fourth weekends. Collectors at weekend Masses are kindly asked to read through the instructions provided for obtaining this information. Thank you all for your support in helping collect these statistics.

After School Sacramental Program 2026

Please note that the class dates for the Sacrament of Confirmation have now been scheduled. The dates are available on the website. Please complete the registration process at your earliest convenience.

