

GOSPEL

Jn 6:51-58

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the Jews:

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.’

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood

has eternal life,

and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food

and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate:

they are dead,

but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST / A

7 JUNE 2026

THE LIVING BREAD

Have you ever sat at the deathbed of someone you love, or looked at media reports of destruction of people's houses and living quarters in parts of the world dominated by violence, or realised the effects of global warming, or seen the tragedy of life in the faces of the young that flash across our TV screens? In our depths, we desire life; life for those who are dying, for those close to us, for those whose lives are tragically shortened by war, for our natural world, for the young.

This very theme is the focus of today's Gospel text from John 6. Called the 'bread of life discourse', this chapter unpacks John's theology of the Eucharist. The final section of this long Chapter is about the life that Jesus offers. This life comes from the 'living bread which has come down from heaven'. This is a rich theological symbol at many levels: it is the life, the 'bread', given to the Jews through God's gift to them in the Torah (the first 5 books of the Bible). There they find how to live in covenantal partnership with God; it is the wisdom that comes from Jesus' teaching; it is the Eucharistic bread received into the community in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The reality of this symbol is underscored using the word 'flesh'—another rich symbol emphasising Jesus' presence in its abundance. To eat this eucharistic bread and drink his blood offers communion with him in his fullness, and the promise of a life that will outlive the grave and any suffering and tragedy that confronts. Communion with him brings us true life.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Deut 8:2-3, 14-16

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

He gave you food which you and your ancestors did not know.

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and to know your inmost heart – whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

‘Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

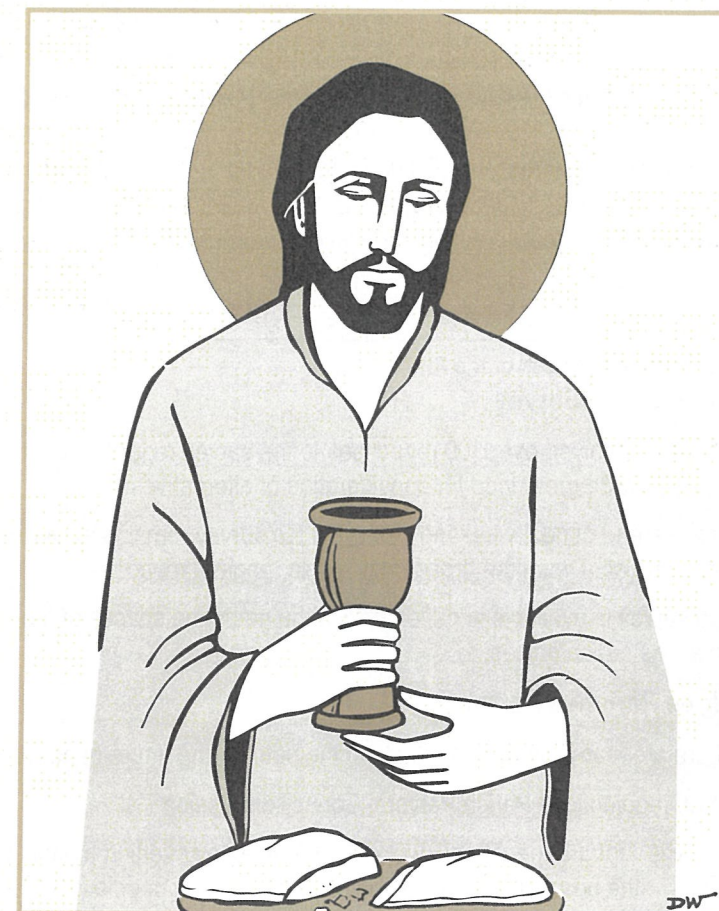
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20. R. v. 12

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. (or Alleluia!)

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! / Zion, praise your God! / He has strengthened the bars of your gates, / he has blessed the children within you. **R.**

2. He established peace on your borders, / he feeds you with finest wheat. / He sends out his word to the earth / and swiftly runs his command. **R.**

3. He makes his word known to Jacob, / to Israel his laws and decrees. / He has not dealt thus with other nations; / he has not taught them his decrees. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 10:16-17

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

Though we are many, we form a single body because we share this one loaf.

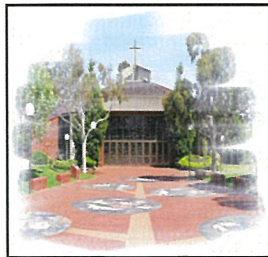
The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

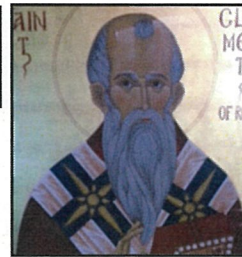
Jn 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; / whoever eats this bread will live for ever. / Alleluia!



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.

Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (A) : 6/7 June 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Mass Times Survey

We have received over 100 responses to the survey regarding changing Mass times. The responses are very varied, and the comments provide great food for consideration of alternatives.

Until the end of next weekend (June 7th) the survey remains available for your input. If you haven't provided your thoughts, then please do so. I want the broadest possible range of responses.

The survey is available in paper form in the gathering spaces of the churches and on the websites for the three parishes or you can email the parish offices.

Three Parishes Partnering

There are many things coming along the path for the future of our parishes.

On-going joint Parish Pastoral Council discussion.

The Alpha Experience – we spent Wednesday evening planning our next adult experience from August 19th to October 28th with the possibility of a separate Alpha for young people (13-17).

We are piloting a new approach to developing faith in our children – Andrew's Ministries. Small groups of children discussing the things affecting them in a context of faith and in a safe setting.

Perhaps a follow on from the Pentecost Retreat in the Holy Spirit. A follow on for adults and another for young people.

Opportunities for our three liturgy groups to gather and imagine ways we can help each other enrich our Masses.

Opportunities for our safeguarding groups to build upon each other's learnings and enhance the already well-advanced practices that we have.

Possibilities for shared events.

This is just a beginning. It will take your participation to help us move ahead with these and all the things that the Holy Spirit has in store for us.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: : For the successful discernment of the Spirit and its ways leading us to implement revised Mass times for 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), & 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 7th June @ 9am—Mass/Children's Liturgy, morning tea afterwards in the Clifton Centre
 Sun 7th June @ 11am—Italian Mass
 Tue 9th Jun @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
 Wed 10th Jun @ 9.15am—Mass
Wed 10th June @ 11am—Funeral Mass for Marisa Ferrari

Thurs 11th June @ 6pm—Three parishes forum in the Clifton Centre
 Fri 12th June @ 9.15am—School Mass Grade 1
 Sat 13th Jun @ 9am — Confirmation classes in the parish office
 Sat 13th Jun @ 5pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass/First Communion Group 3 @ 5.30pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Marisa Ferrari** and for the repose of the souls of **Leonilda Natoli, Maria Mariani** 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

Sacrament of Confirmation—enrolments closed. Classes commence on the Sat 13th June at 9am in the parish office. The class dates are available on the website.



Morning Tea—This Sunday

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

Children's Liturgy—This Sunday



Chapel Use:

As I announced in the bulletin last Sunday we have significantly changed access times for the chapel. It grieves me to need to do this but the needs for Safeguarding our children and ensuring the safety of users. I had discussions with the Parish Pastoral Parish Council, the Child Safeguarding group and the School Principal and in addition there has in the past been advice from the Police about safety in the chapel.

The availability of a place to pray before the true presence of the Blessed Sacrament is indeed important. But it is not the only important consideration. I have tried to keep a balance between the importance of prayer and of physical safety.

For clarity: Access is during Weekday Mass times and for 15 minutes after Weekday Masses; and also from 4-7 pm Monday to Friday and from 7 am to 7 pm on weekends.

First Reception of Holy Communion:

Last weekend we celebrated the first two Masses where our children received Holy Communion for the first time. They both went well and it was wonderful to see the look of joy on the faces of the children and to see that same sense of joy on the faces of so many parishioners whose own first communion was sometimes decades ago. Each Eucharist is indeed the same wonder at the first and the thousandth reception.

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
6/7 June	Sacristan	Maria Papalia/ Virginie Mindiel	Maria Papalia
Corpus Christi	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Christine Landsberg
	Reader	May Teh	Tim Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Carmen Gobbi
		May Teh	Agnes Lu
		Enza Wilcocks	Maria Papalia
13/14 June	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	May Teh	Tim Landsberg
	Reader	Virginie Mindiel	Jan McQueen
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Carmen Gobbi
		May Teh	Grace Cannatelli
		Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
14/06/2026	G. Varasso L Del Tondo	Famiglia Sor. Ratti	L. Vettoretto G. Vettoretto

Congratulations & welcome to God's family at St Clement's Parish
Luca Dirito
Lavinia and Luca Maiolo baptised this weekend



Come and delve into "The Mass" with Fr Frank O'Loughlin : Session 2

Theme : Gaining a richer understanding of the Mass.
Thursday June 18, 7.00pm to 9.00pm at St Gregory the Great Church gathering space. Father Frank will provide a rich encounter with the Mass and put into context your important role within it. **Please RSVP to Mary Tonti-Filippini** mary.tontif@gmail.com or **Carmel Purdey** carmelpurdey@gmail.com

Catholic Mission Appeal—This weekend. Envelopes available

ONE IN CHRIST UNITED IN MISSION
 100 YEARS OF WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission and the Church in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home.

Through projects like St Peter's Nkhosondo Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn, be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs.

As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'.

Join with us in celebration and action by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the provided appeal envelope, scan the QR code, or visit catholicmission.org.au/100years to make a difference today.

Free call: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/100years