

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the
Good News of the kingdom / and healed
all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today's Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today's southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won't be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew's Jewish audience, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel', and, later, 'It is not fair to take children's food and throw it to house-dogs'. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the 'children', rather than on gentiles ('house-dogs!'). Jesus' derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, 'Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'.

Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman's great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew's Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman's request being granted. Her daughter is healed.

From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

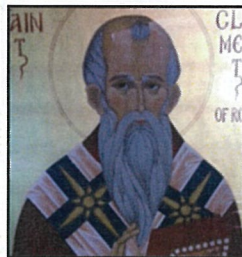
Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



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.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year (A) : 15/16 August 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Archbishop's Collection

This weekend: the formal GIVING weekend for the Archbishop's Collection.

Please be generous – your gift helps meet the costs of many of the charitable and faith words of the Archdiocese. What more can I say: St Paul was reminded to remember the universal church in his collections for those in need – we are reminded that the body of Christ that is the church is more than just us – we are called to support the Archbishop in helping those in need across the diocese of Melbourne, and help those following a vocation to diaconal, priestly or consecrated life.

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

"Becoming a Catechumenal Church" – Bishop Etienne presented four talks on this topic during the Clergy Conference during the past week. A marvelously gifted and intentional disciple. Lots of messages. An hour and a half to begin to delve into the meanings of the story of the "Samaritan woman at the well." An hour on the amazing influx of young people (15-40) into the church in France (alongside a decline in traditional participants in faith).

He provides a strong call towards / affirmation of what we are seeking to become: parishes who work together; parishes who are welcoming and willing to invite people to come to being to know Jesus; parishes whose worship strives for excellence; parishes who reach out to the poor and marginalised. All those things at the same time.

His most surprising, though also most wonderful words were (and I paraphrase a little): "I can't explain it – we did all sorts of things reaching out, inviting, praying and nothing seemed to work: this big influx of catechumens (of people seeking to grow into the faith Jesus calls them to) this influx is "the word of God"

His words suggest strongly to me that what our evangelising, charitable and worship efforts do is open US to the work of the Holy Spirit so that we can see and respond to the people around us whom the Holy Spirit is leading into our hands. If we aren't looking we won't see.

Much more to do – but we are on the journey.

Safeguarding

Real change: about a week ago, I provided input about our Safeguarding efforts as part of a panel of parish priests talking to the whole current group of seminarians. This is a big change from the past: safeguarding is being taught and discussed and worked on from early on – so new priests will already know a lot before entering parish life, even during their years of formation. This is how we build a culture of safety for our children and for all: talk about it; share our knowledge; take responsibility; be willing to speak up when things don't seem as they should be.

Multicultural Festival

Thank you to the Social Group and Safeguarding and Music and Children's Liturgy and so many others: you made this marvellous event possible with the work you've done over the past two months. The 300 or so people who came to eat the wonderful food and chat and talk and mingle made it happen.

An amazing day through which are able to gather and share and talk and get to know each other. Thank you to all those from St Clement's and St Kevin's who came along as well as St Greg's – it made a difference having your new faces present.

We raised \$5040. Raffle prize winners were: 1st Jenny T; 2nd Rob R; 3rd Lucy; ; 4th Mei Tin C; 5th Florence Noonan.

3 Parishes

Initial follow up from our gathering of the three parish pastoral councils recently suggests our top priorities are: to develop a plan for how we communicate (so it's not just ad-hoc/accidental); to have a common calendar (a way forwards here is already in test mode); to have the youth / young adults across all three parishes meet / talk about things they want / need.

There is more to do to put flesh to these ideas but ... things are moving steadily.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For the grace to be intentional disciples who invite others to know Jesus, who worship faithfully and who joyfully help those in need.

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 16th Aug @ 9am—Mass
Sun 16th Aug @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 18th Aug @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 18th Aug @ 10.30am—Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—School Mass
Wed 19th Aug @ 9.15am—Mass
Wed 19th Aug @ 4.30pm—PPC Meeting in the parish office
Thur 20th Aug @ 10.45am—Funeral Mass for Teresa Mossuto
Fri 21st Aug @ 10.30am—Funeral Mass for Ereo Di Genova
Sat 22nd Aug @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, Teresa Mossuto Ereo Di Genova, Antonina Michalski, Dario Pretto and for the repose of the souls of Irene Lecordier, Evelina & Luke Ithier, Vincent Mancini, Maria Scalzo, John Ruggieri, Simon Dedrick 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.

Alpha

August 26th – for Adults 18 and up.

August 28th – for children (13-17) and parents as needed.

SIGN UP NOW – PLEASE, if you haven't already done so or participated before.

Be willing to ask the people around you – people how are perhaps struggling in their lives but have no faith or have drifted away.

Alpha is one of the ways through which we can become 'a catechumenal church' – a church that thrives on bringing people to know Jesus and become his disciples.

ALPHA

18YO AND ABOVE

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 26TH AUGUST TO 4TH NOVEMBER
AT ST KEVIN'S CHURCH
30 HERLIHYS ROAD LOWER TEMPLESTOWE

Registration is now open!

ALPHA YOUTH

13- 17 YEARS OF AGE

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 28TH AUGUST TO 16TH OCTOBER
AT ST GREGORY THE GREAT
71 WILLIAMSON'S RD, DONCASTER

REGISTER VIA QR CODE:

Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

Free- Meals included
Donation welcome

Enquiries:
templestowe@cam.org.au, doncaster@cam.org.au, bulleen@cam.org.au
phone 03 9850 5983, 03 9412 8425, 03 9850 3262

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.

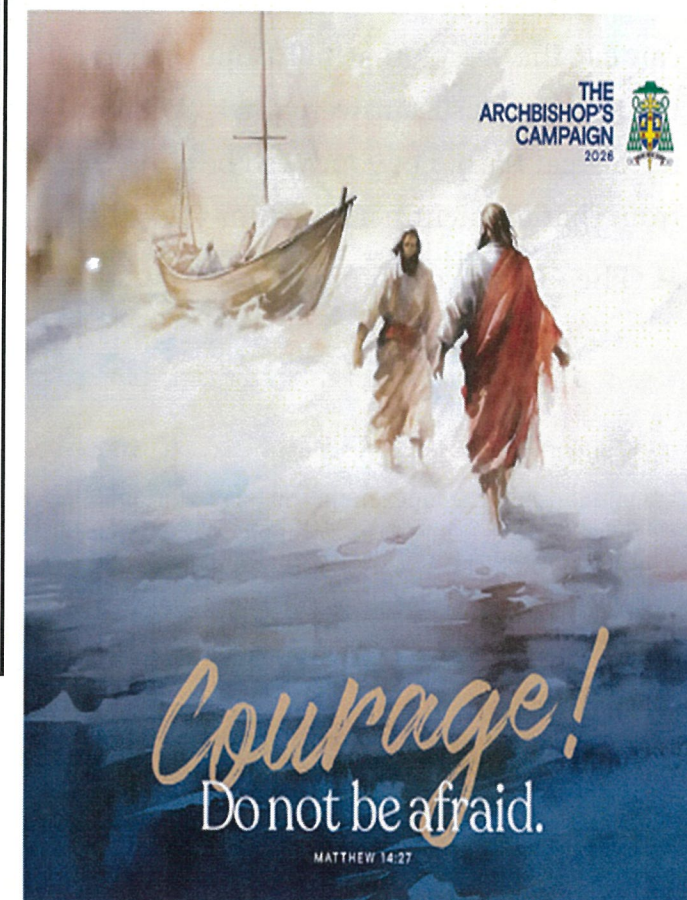
Thank you for your generosity!



LITURGY ROSTER		SAT 5.00PM	SUN 9.00AM
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
22/23 Aug	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Maria Papalia
	Commentator	Paul Sammut	Jan McQueen
	Reader	May Teh	Maria Papalia
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Rita Gagliardi
		Virginie Mindiel	Carmen Gobbi
		Enza Wilcocks	Fulvia Gerosolimo

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
23/08/2026	G. Varasso L. Del Tondo	Famiglia A. Vallese	L. Ciampa G. Baglieri



Carpark – painting didn't happen

Rain: no painting of the carpark – a new date will be notified when it is known.