



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day / and praise
your name for ever. / The Lord is great,
highly to be praised, / his greatness cannot be
measured. **R.**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course,
is Christ, but then death would bring me
something more; but then again, if living in this
body means doing work which is having good
results – I do not know what I should choose.



I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone
and be with Christ, which would be very much
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body
is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! / Open our hearts,
O Lord, / to listen to the words of your
Son. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of
heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak
to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an
agreement with the workers for one denarius a
day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out
at about the third hour he saw others standing
idle in the market place and said to them, "You
go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair
wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour
and again at about the ninth hour, he went out

Breaking Open the Word

BE GENEROUS

Greed often dominates our world, interactions between global leaders and, sometimes, our own relationships. Today's Gospel offers a different value system. Generosity is the Gospel standard that should dominate relationships.

This teaching comes in the form of another parable from Jesus. The context would be familiar to Matthew's audience, in a society dominated by injustice, hierarchy and poverty. In this world, unemployment was rife, as it is today. Workers in Jesus' day would go to the village or town square to seek employment. In this setting, the landowner comes to the square to hire labourers for his vineyard with a promised day's wage. The owner repeats the hiring practice at different hours of the day, even into the late afternoon. When it comes time to pay the wages of the labourers, the landowner begins with the last hired and pays them the full day's wage though they have worked less hours. Those hired first complain that they should have been paid more. The landowner's response summarises the main teaching point of the parable: 'Why be envious because I am generous?'

Generosity rather than greed characterises this landowner. It is also a mirror of Jesus' essential teaching. God is generous, not restrictive or calculating. This challenges a world governed by exactness and tit-for-tat thinking. God and God's kingdom are characterised by generosity. God is generous toward us – and invites us to be generous toward others.

Fr Michael Trainor

and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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WELCOME TO ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH

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<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: I see the Holy Spirit is moving in our parishes in many ways: I pray that we can all open our hearts and be led into Christ's future for us.



Parish Priest

Fr Charles Balnaves

School Principal

Mr Michael Watt

Italian Chaplain

Fr Vito Pegolo

Parish Admin & Finance

Bernadine De Silva

Office Hours

Tue – Thurs 9am – 5pm

Weekend Mass Times

Sat Vigil 5pm, Sun 9am & 11am (Italian)

St Gregory the Great

Sat Vigil 6.30pm,

Sun 10.30am & 5pm

St Kevin's

Sat Vigil 5.30pm,

Sun 9.15am

Weekday Mass Times

Tue 9.15am (Italian)

Wed 9.15am

St Gregory the Great

Wed 6.30pm & Fri 9am

St Kevin's

Tue 9.15am & Thurs 9.15am

Confession Times

Sat 4.30pm – 4.50pm

St Gregory the Great

Sat 9.30am – 11am

Baptisms

At any Weekend Mass

Weddings

By appointment

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A – 19/20 SEPT 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Go gently but don't hesitate to invite someone to become a Catholic. Let me know via email doncaster@cam.org.au or give me a contact number.

Parish Groups / Ministries:

What are your gifts?

How can you bring them to bear.

Call me, email me: 0417319556, Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au

Last weekend I called for new members for various of our ministries. They were all important! But ... the list was not exhaustive. You might have a different calling: Social Justice for instance. Or Money counting. Or flowers or cleaning the church or morning tea or pastoral home visits with Holy Communion, or our St Vincent de Paul chapter, or ... You have a calling! YOU are called and gifted.

We all receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation – St Paul tells us that each of us is graced with specific gifts of the Spirit which enable us to be truly a full part of the body of Christ: if we use those gifts actively.

Please step forwards and chat about what YOU might be able to bring. Thank you to those who have stepped forward. Thank you to everyone for being here in our gathering. And thank you in advance for you who are going to respond to the call.

Greg Sheridan: *God is Good for YOU!*

Greg has a lot to say about how God leads and guides us and how we can use the lessons of the early church to help us speak into an increasingly challenging world today.

I know Greg – he has challenged me to look at faith differently in the world today (same faith – a slightly shifted lens).

Sign up!! Please register and book in and come along on October 2nd at 6:30 pm.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Road Works & Carpark

The Carpark will be re-painted this weekend and Monday – don't forget!!! Manningham City council will begin installing a speed bump on the top of Egan Drive – starting on Tuesday – so watch out for the traffic management and blockages during the day and into the night for three or more days. This will improve safety for our children especially.

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.

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.

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!



**PLEASE
REMEMBER IN
YOUR PRAYERS**

Recently deceased:
Concetta Cutugno
Frank Plesnicar

PARISH DIARY

Thurs 24th Sep 11am
Funeral Mass for
Angela Rigoni

Sat 26th Sep 9am
Alpha Youth Retreat
in the Clifton Centre

LITURGY ROSTER

Date & Time of Mass	Reader	Com	Eucharistic Min	Sacristan
19/09 5pm	Paul Sammut	Virginie Mindiel	Warwick Wright, May Teh, Enza Wilcocks	Virginie Mindiel
20/09 9am	Fulvia Gerasolimo	Tig Chibo	Rita Gagliardi, Angela Abdallah, Grace Cannatelli	Rita Gagliardi
26/09 5pm	May Teh	Paul Sammut	Warwick Wright, May Teh, Enza Wilcocks	Maria Papalia
27/09 9am	Christine Landsberg	Fulvia Gerasolimo	Rita Gagliardi, Fulvia Gerasolimo, Carmen Gobbi	Carmen Gobbi

ITALIAN LITURGY ROSTER

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
27/09/2026	G Varasso L Del Tondo	Famiglia A Vallese	L Ciampa G Baglieri

***Congratulations & welcome to God's family at St Clement's Parish
Iszac Curic, baptised this weekend***



OTHER NOTICES

Chapel Use

I had thought we had a workable set of rules in place for use of the chapel during school hours: **register with the school office before going to the chapel and then tell them you are leaving (unless you are only going to the Tuesday or Wednesday morning Mass).** And if you have a car make sure you move it out of the green carpark immediately after Mass if you are staying.

Please – help others understand the rules – we have reached a workable balance between your prayer and the safeguarding of our children. But only if you abide by the requirement to register with the school.

I am aware that some people don't speak English much so please, if you know someone who can't understand, help them or point them to someone who can speak their language in English and walk them through the importance of this simple act of registering.

Accountant

Our parish needs an accountant. Not an onerous role but an important one. Bernadine does most of the work, but some guidance is sometimes needed for her. And some insights with the Finance Group for our meetings as well.

Please, if you have the skills/gifts or know someone – give me a call 0417319556 or Charles.balnaves@Cam.org.au

Formation sessions for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

If you've signed up for being a person who assists with distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, please make yourself available for one of the following two dates:

- October 1st 6 pm to 7:30 pm
- October 3rd 9 am to 10:30 am

This is for all ministers at St Kevin's, St Clement's, St Gregory's: English or Italian Masses.

These sessions will be a refresher for those who have been ministering already – and a beginning for those who are just signing up.

We will talk about the reasons why this is a ministry and not a job. And we will step through the practicalities. For convenience for me these sessions will be held at St Gregory the Great in the church. The process is essentially the same at all three parishes at all Masses so ...

Please come along – no need to sign up – just turn up with a willing love of Christ and desire to learn.