

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock
on which I will build my Church / the
gates of hell will not hold out against it. /
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

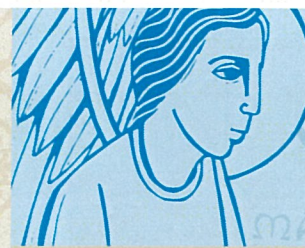
*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the
kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea
Philippi he put this question to his disciples,
'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And
they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist,
some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of
the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you
say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You
are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living
God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you
are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and
blood that revealed this to you but my Father
in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter
and on this rock I will build my Church. And
the gates of the underworld can never hold
out against it. I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth
shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever
you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in
heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders
not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2026

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Who is Jesus? What would I want to say
to him? Today's Gospel brings us to one of
the most important questions posed by the
evangelist to the Gospel's audience – and to
us: Who is Jesus for us?

Jesus first asks the disciples about the gossip
circulating concerning him and who they
believe him to be. Their response reflects
how the disciples understand Jesus and how
they will follow him as they draw closer to
Jerusalem, the city where Jesus' ministry will
conclude in his death and resurrection. The
disciples respond to Jesus' question as to what
others say about him: He is John the Baptist,
or Elijah who will return at the end of time,
or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asks them,
'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter, speaking for the group,
acknowledges Jesus as 'the Christ', the Greek
for the Hebrew word 'Messiah', literally 'the
anointed one'. Jesus is God's emissary anointed
with the Spirit. Jesus affirms Peter's response
as divinely inspired and declares that Peter –
Petros, 'rock' – will be the foundation or 'rock-
base' for the growth of the Jesus movement.

For Matthew's audience, this is an affirmation
of the movement's authority through time and
history. It is within this graced community that
we gather today. As contemporary followers
of Jesus, we are invited to give our response
personally and communally as to Jesus'
identity: Who do you, who do we say Jesus
is? Our response will shape how we act, with
whom we engage and the kind of community
of Jesus' followers we will be.

Fr Michael Trainor**FIRST READING**

Isa 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I place the key of the House of David upon his
shoulder.*

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the
master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;

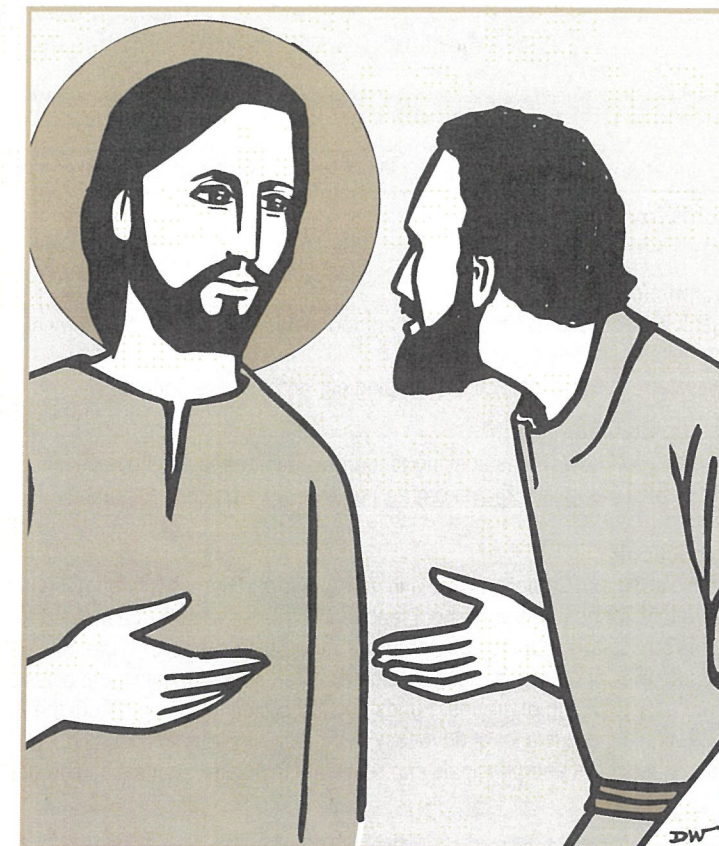
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you
have heard the words of my mouth. / Before
the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before
your holy temple. **R.**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love /
which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the
day I called, you answered; / you increased the
strength of my soul. **R.**



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly /
and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your
love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work
of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

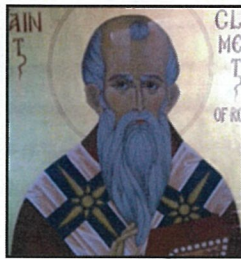
How rich are the depths of God – how deep his
wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible
to penetrate his motives or understand his
methods! Who could ever know the mind of
the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?
Who could ever give him anything or lend him
anything? All that exists comes from him; all is
by him and for him. To him be glory for ever!
Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



St Clement of Rome Church

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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.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year (A) : 22/23 August 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Archbishop's Collection

Thank you for your generosity. It is not too late to give. Envelopes / brochures / QR-code are in the gathering space for you. Please be generous if you haven't already done so.

This is an important collection – helping our archdiocese flourish.

Adults: Coming to Faith

Who do you know who is seeking to journey in faith. Maybe they can join the RCIA program heading for Easter 2027. Ask them, let them know the office email (doncaster@cam.org.au) or give me their contact number.

Our Schools

Please keep our Catholic Schools in your prayers. There is a large upheaval going. Our teachers will gain a well-deserved pay rise flowing from the results for government school teachers. This rise results in a major funding shortfall for independent schools including Catholic schools. In light of this particularly, but also other budget impacts, all school and the MACS corporate structure are being required to significantly reduce their budgets with significant consequences. As a rule in future, minimum class sizes will be 25 students, resulting in changes to staffing levels and, in some cases, joining of grades. Funds for Catholic schools come from the Federal Government. The next scheduled funding adjustment is not until 2029. While there is a lot of advocacy being done to seek additional government assistance, it is essential to move now to manage the shortfall so that our teachers and principals can receive a fair wage. As I said: keep our schools in your prayers.

Safeguarding

We are very well advanced in our Safeguarding culture and compliance – kudos to all of you for helping us get to such an excellent situation.

But ... !!!

Time can get away from us – there are renewals needed for WWCCs and training and such: have a look at your status and make sure you stay up to date. Often we will remind you of needs as well, but your vigilance is important too.

Based on recent advice I need to let you know: if we've gone longer than six months seeking for you to get a WWCC or other compliance needs and you aren't up to date, I will have to ask you to step aside from your ministry until you are compliant. This reflects the requirements of Victorian Law and Archdiocesan requirements. I do not want to take such a step but please be aware that it will come if you are not compliant soon.

Alpha

August 26th – for Adults 18 and up.

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

Both sessions have critical mass and are proceeding (Praise the Lord – Alleluia!!!)

But we have plenty of spare space for more people.

Look around you with fresh eyes and see the people you know who may benefit from coming to a closer friendship with Jesus the Christ.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: Our school system is going through significant funding challenges – we pray the Holy Spirit will guide all leaders in this difficult time.

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 23rd Aug @ 9am—Mass
Sun 23rd Aug @ 11am—Italian Mass
Tue 25th Aug @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 25th Aug @ 11am—Funeral Mass for Antonina Michalski
Wed 26th Aug @ 9.15am—School Mass (Gr 2.3 & 4)
Thur 27th Aug @ 10.00am—Funeral Mass for Matteo Soccio
Fri 28th Aug @ 11am—Funeral Mass for Antonio Di Pietro
Sat 29th Aug @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Matteo Soccio, Antonio Di Pietro** and for the repose of the souls of **Antonia Alviamo, Russell Allen** 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.*

Parking

Clarification: during the week: **it is ok** to park up near the church for weekday Masses – as long as you clear the carpark by about 10:30 am so the children can come out to play. In limiting week-day chapel access some weeks ago, we limited the times for parking outside the church. You can still park on the 'green' parking area as well as in the asphalted area, but the green area needs to be cleared for children to use.

Clifton Centre

Might you have been using the Clifton Centre without booking it on or near 5th July or 2nd August? We've found food packaging and refuse spread across the floor. Most unacceptable that it be there. If you know anything please let me know so we can resolve any issues.

Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

I was recently asked to give a talk on the practice of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. There are many facets but to this beautiful practice but at the core it is about silence – silence from physical action; silence from words or songs of prayer; silence from thinking about our needs. The action elements are designed to lead us into silence and in the silence ... as Elijah found as he stood outside the cave in last week's first reading ... in the silence we hear God's words and call; we feel and are comforted by his presence. Hard to do? Yes! Does it work if my prayer and silence is imperfect? Yes! Please make space for adoration, even if it can't be before the Blessed Sacrament itself. Make space for silence. Make space for God's presence.

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
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
29/30 Aug	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Grace Cannatelli
	Commentator	May Teh	Maria Papalia
	Reader	Jacinta Zieba	Yamna Taouk
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Agnes Lu
		Virginie Mindiel	Angela Abdallah
		Zina Scalzo	Maria Papalia

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
30/08/2026	J. Faggion E. Castriotta	Famiglia G. Cassini	C. Travaglini T. Recinella

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:
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phone 03 9850 5983, 03 9412 8425, 03 9850 3262

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Come and encounter Jesus through the Blessed Sacrament

Friday,
4th September
7PM Start

WORSHIP
TESTIMONY
ADORATION
FELLOWSHIP

All Are Welcome

St Gregory the Great Church
71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster
Info: doncaster@cam.org.au