



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Sir 27:30–28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience
the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by
the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not
bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and
overlook the offence.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

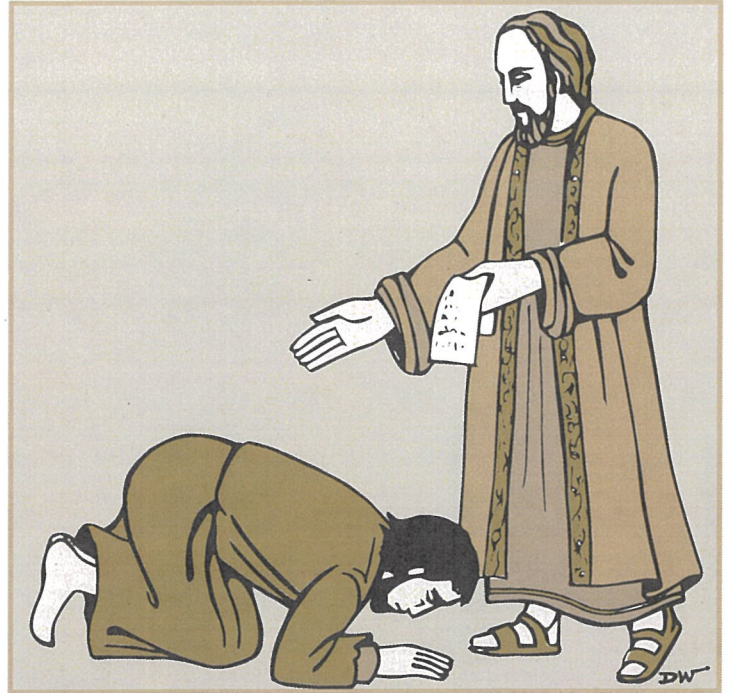
R. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my
being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give
thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his
blessings. **R.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who
heals every one of your ills, / who redeems
your life from the grave, / who crowns you
with love and compassion. **R.**

3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will
not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us
according to our sins / nor repay us according
to our faults. **R.**

4. For as the heavens are high above the
earth / so strong is his love for those who fear
him. / As far as the east is from the west / so
far does he remove our sins. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 14: 7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence
on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and
if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or
dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why
Christ both died and came to life, it was so that
he might be Lord both of the dead and of the
living.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new
commandment: / love one another as I
have loved you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*I tell you that you forgive not seven times but
seventy times seven.*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how
often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs
me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered,
'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

Breaking Open the Word

FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said, “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me,” he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Have you ever been hurt by another? How do you act? Can you forgive? Hurts, misunderstanding and at times serious ruptures can occur amongst Jesus’ members. The question which Peter asks Jesus is relevant. ‘How often should one forgive another? Seven times?’ Jesus replies, ‘Seventy times seven,’ meaning forgiveness is beyond calculation.

Jesus then offers a parable to highlight the essential truth about forgiving others ‘from the heart’. The story involves two servants. One owes his king 1000 talents. In Matthew’s day a talent was worth a year’s wage. The servant owes the king 1000 years’ wages! An impossible debt to honour, even though the servant promises to pay it in time. The king, out of compassion, cancels the debt. Whew! Leaving the judgement hall, that same servant comes across a fellow servant who owes 100 denarii. A denarius is a day’s wage, so the debt is a hundred days’ wages, a paltry sum by comparison. But in this second scenario, compassion and debt cancellation are absent. The king gets to hear of this and imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness.

Meanness of spirit and forgiveness of heart will have their divine repercussions, the point of the final words of today’s Gospel. Matthew’s Jesus invites us to reflect upon our own forgiving and compassionate spirit towards those who have hurt or wronged us. As we pray in the Lord’s Prayer, ‘...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.’ The measure of our forgiveness is ultimately not God but our own hearts.

Fr Michael Trainor



WELCOME TO ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH

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

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For all who are vulnerable in their lives, especially children: that they can be nurtured warmly and experience the generous love of Jesus Christ and his Holy Spirit.



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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A – 12/13 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.

Safeguarding:

This is Safeguarding Sunday: a Sunday dedicated to helping us to grow in active awareness of safety for all who are vulnerable, especially children. Please continue to join me and our safeguarding committee in becoming ever more effective in caring for everyone with God's "agape" self-giving love and compassion.

Parish Groups / Ministries:

The Holy Spirit is active in our parishes, inspiring people to offer their services as part of parish groups / ministries.

If you feel moved / called / led by the Holy Spirit to do something more than you are – please come forwards.

Lectors / Holy Communion (at Mass or to the home or the aged) / Liturgy Group / Safeguarding / Social group / Knitting / Men's Group / Sacristans / Musicians and Singers / Youth group / Children's Liturgy / Young Adults / Play Group / RCIA / Alpha / Sacramental Preparation / Evangelisation.

Some groups are present in each parish and some in only one and some work across all three parishes – you can join a group across a border or that crosses borders – and then we can support all three parishes more effectively.

God bless, Fr Charles.

This weekend's bulletin is presented in a new format! We'd love to hear your thoughts and feedback.



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:

Angela Rigoni

Anniversaries:

Renato Morfuni

Bianca Pucci

PARISH DIARY

Wed 16th Sep 9.15am
Gr 6 & Prep Mass

Sat 19th Sep 5pm
Mass & Baptism

LITURGY ROSTER

Date & Time of Mass	Reader	Com	Eucharistic Min	Sacristan
12/09 5pm 13/09 9am	Virginie M Tig C	Rene D Grace C	May T, Enza W, Warwick W Angela A, Rita G, Fulvia G	Maria P Grace C
19/09 5pm 20/09 9am	Paul S Fulvia G	Virginie M Tig C	Warwick W, May T, Enza W Rita G, Angela A, Grace C	Virginie M Rita G

ITALIAN LITURGY ROSTER

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
20/09/2026	N. Bisignano P. Lombardo	Famiglia E. Castriotta	L. Recinella J. Faggion

OTHER NOTICES

PARKING

For your information: the third attempt at repainting the carpark markings is scheduled for the afternoon of the 20th and all day 21st of September (till evening) so: no access to the church during that period. Sunday Masses as normal but after they are over – no access.

PARISH FINANCE GROUP

Maria Papalia has resigned from the parish finance group after many years of wonderful service: thank you Maria. And Rocco Gagliardi is looking to reduce his involvement in the group as well over time – he has been Parish Accountant for well over a decade. Thank you too to you Rocco.

This means that I need to add members to the Parish Finance Group – not an onerous task – but real. I need someone willing to take up the volunteer Accountant role (significant but not onerous) and I need two or three people to join the group. Quarterly meetings is the norm.

COME AWAY DAY

The *Come Away Day* program is a long - time retreat and reflection ministry at Holy Cross. The next Come Away Day for 2026 will be held at Holy Cross on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16th. The theme of the day is 'COME TO THE WATERS'. The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, silent reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am in the Holy Cross Main Dining Room. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around 3pm. The suggested cost is \$30.00 or a donation according to your means. Registration is helpful for planning purposes. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com

SPEAKER NIGHT WITH GREG SHERIDAN

Greg Sheridan is a journalist proclaiming Christ into a secular world.

When: Fri 2nd Oct 6.30pm in the Clifton Centre

More details in the flyer on the noticeboard

RSVP via the signup sheet in the foyer or via trybooking QR code (in the flyer)