



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

4 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes.
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?
Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.
I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 5:7

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; / to plant it you drove out the nations. / It stretched out its branches to the sea, / to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**



2. Then why have you broken down its walls? / It is plucked by all who pass by. / It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, / devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

4. And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. / God of hosts, bring us back; / let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia! / I call you friends, says the Lord, / because I have made known to you / everything I have learnt from my Father. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

A RICH ALLEGORY

Jesus continues from last Sunday to question the attitudes of religious leaders of his day and, by inference, those who assume religious leadership and authority in Matthew's day.

Jesus' teaching looks like a parable, but it is an allegory, where each element of the story represents historical events or figures. Its focus is another landowner (God) who plants a vineyard (the image of Israel), cares for it and leases it to tenants. At vintage time his servants (the prophets) go to collect the produce. But the tenants maltreat all those sent to collect the produce, even to the point of finally killing the son of the viticulturalist (Jesus), the last emissary sent.

The parable is an allegory of salvation history, the story of Israel, the action of God to cultivate Israel's goodness with the eventual rejection of God's final emissary, Jesus. The allegory is not anti-Jewish. Matthew writes for a Jewish audience. The evangelist reflects on the mystery of Israel's history and the failure of the Jewish leaders' intent to do away with God's final prophet and emissary, Jesus.

To repeat, Jesus' death was the action of the religious leaders of his day and not the deed of the Jewish people. What happened to Jesus finds its parallel in the way the prophets of the Old Testament were treated. The key point of the story comes at the end: the Kingdom of God will be 'given to a people who will produce its fruits.' That people is us.

Fr Michael Trainor



WELCOME TO ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH

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Email: bulleen@cam.org.au Website: www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen
<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For those who help organise our Masses and the music and singing within the Mass: that the Holy Spirit will guide them in their part of drawing us into full, active and conscious participation.



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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A – 03/04 OCT 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Bottles for Preserves 😊

I have about 50 clean jars that could be used for preserves. Anyone interested? Let me know. Fr Charles (Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au) or call one of the offices.

Columban Calendars

It isn't 2027 yet but we have Columban Calendars available – buy some to use as Christmas gifts – only \$10 each. Or buy one or two as your calendar: not only the seasons of the liturgy and Mass readings and feast days but wonderful pictures that evoke our faith.

Dreams for our Parishes:

Do you have dreams about the future of our parishes? Or ideas about how we worship and how that could be improved to be even more alive and active? Or ideas about things our parishes could work on alone or together? Are there customs from your homeland that might enrich our celebrations? Are there questions about faith or morals or church or bible or marriage or sacraments that you would like answered?

Please tell me. I don't promise I can or will do everything everyone suggests but I will do my best to seek to help us flourish in worship, in outreach to the margins and in seeking to bring people to Jesus.

Let me know your thoughts: Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au

Praying With ...

One of the moments of Alpha is during the Retreat Day is to pray with people – two leaders spend some moments with a person who chooses to participate, specifically inviting the Holy Spirit to come and ... fill the person.

I've recently had the privilege of participating in this experience with some of our young people and I was amazed again by two things.

Our young people know God's presence in their lives. And they know when the Holy Spirit is present, speaking into their lives and their needs. It's powerful.

And the Holy Spirit gives us the words to speak – it is not just me speaking the thoughts I have about the prayer subject requested. Rather ... it is the words that are truly needed. It's Powerful!

Before Alpha, I'd experienced the Sacrament of Anointing, and having people come and ask me for a prayer – and they are powerful in themselves. But it is different. There is an intentional choice to come together and ask the Holy Spirit to fill us – the person prayed for and the people praying. St Paul spoke of this so it's nothing new. Just fresh to me.

I share this because it is important for our future as parishes in partnership. Without inviting the Holy Spirit into our parish lives to guide us and lead us into the wilderness we won't find the ways God wants for us.

Come Holy Spirit.

God bless, Fr Charles.

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:

Cecilia Ormando
Antionietta Pompa
Mario Cassai
Felice Pittorino
Domenica Monaco

Anniversaries:

Carolina Radatti
Alberta Papalia
Ricky Stjepovic
Deacon Charles English

PARISH DIARY

Funeral Masses:

Mario Cassai

06/10 @ 10.15am

Felice Pittorino

07/10 @ 11am

Antionietta Pompa

08/10 @ 10.30am

Cecilia Ormando

09/10 @ 11am

LITURGY ROSTER

Date & Time of Mass	Reader	Com	Eucharistic Min	Sacristan
03/10 5pm	Rene Dela Cruz	Paul Sammut	Enza Wilcocks, Warwick Wright	Virginie Mindiel
04/10 9am	Tim Landsberg	Christine Landsberg	Fulvia Gerasolimo, Carmen Gobbi, Agnes Lu	Livia Tunggal
10/10 5pm	Virginie Mindiel	Rene Dela Cruz	Enza Wilcocks, Warwick Wright	Maria Papalia
11/10 9am	Jan McQueen	Tim Landsberg	Fulvia Gerasolimo, Angela Abdallah, Grace Cannatelli	Grace Cannatelli

ITALIAN LITURGY ROSTER

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
11/10/2026	A Vallese T Caraffa	Famiglia Sor Ratti	L Vettoretto G Vettoretto

OTHER NOTICES



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

Morning tea

This Sunday after 9am Mass. Please join us for a slice and a cuppa.



Children's Liturgy

This Sunday at 9am Mass

Road Works

Speed Hump on Egan Drive: complete: yes! Drive carefully! It seems subtle as a speed hump but ... go a bit fast and it will through you around.

Furniture

We have a very nice wooden dining table with eight chairs – all in very good condition. Interested – call the office and let us know – you can see the table in the Clifton Centre.

Singing at 9am Mass

Would you like to help lead the singing at 9am Mass? A few of us are meeting after Mass next Sunday 11th Oct, to do some planning. So, if you love singing or play an instrument join us! Or call Stephen Cherubin on 0403 889 418.

The Holy Rosary in October

For the month of October especially, the Rosary will be recited at the following times at the following Churches:

St Clement of Rome Bulleen: Tuesdays @ 8.40 am in Italian and Wednesdays @ 8.40am. St Gregory the Great Doncaster: Fridays @ 9.30am and St Kevin's Templestowe: Thursdays @ 8.45am.