



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ezek 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / Do not remember the sins of my youth. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

3. The Lord is good and upright / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one



thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia! / My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; / I know them, and they follow me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2162. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Remaining in the agricultural world from last Sunday and the hiring practice of a landowner, we are now inside the landowner's family and its two sons. The landowner requests both sons to go to work in the vineyard. Such a request would have been unnecessary, given that there would have been hired labourers in the vineyard – information learnt from last Sunday's Gospel.

A deeper intent lies behind the owner's request: Are the sons' committed to the family's enterprise? Perhaps, too, this reflects what is occurring with the Gospel household, the inner relationship and ethical practice of its members. The main issue concerns integrity of word and openness of heart. The first son is asked to work in the vineyard but refuses the request. Later, he thinks about it, changes his mind and goes. The second promises to go the vineyard but doesn't. There is no further comment about the request or change of heart. Jesus asks the religious leaders, 'Which of the two did the father's will?' They respond, 'The first.' This son, at first resistant, changes his mind and responds to the father's request.

The parable is obviously directed to Jesus' audience and religious leaders, to recognise their need to change attitudes that exclude certain types of people. Surprisingly, those judged as social reprobates, the 'tax collectors and prostitutes', are given preferential acceptance into God's Kin-dom. The parable overturns conventional expectations in Matthew's day and in ours!

Fr Michael Trainor



WELCOME TO ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH

9-21 Egan Drive, Bulleen VIC 3105 Phone: 03 9850 3262
Email: bulleen@cam.org.au Website: www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen
<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: Our Alpha participants are having their retreat days with the Holy Spirit: we pray that they will be filled with God's Grace and the power of the 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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A – 26/27 SEPT 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We will start the sessions next weekend: 2 pm on October 3rd.

It's not too late to ask someone if they want to join. Email Charles.Balnaves@cam.org.au.
Or give contact number to Fr Charles.

Greg Sheridan: *God is Good for YOU!*

Sign up!! Please register and book in and come along on October 2nd at 6:30 pm. Pizza, fellowship, interesting and challenging conversation, a chance to grow in faith.

Formation sessions for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

St Kevin's, St Clement's, St Gregory's: English or Italian Masses – all those assisting with distribution of Holy Communion!!!! No sign up needed (just sign in on the day).

Don't Forget! This coming week: come to one of the two sessions:

- October 1st 6 pm to 7:30 pm (bonus Mass at 5:30 pm).
- October 3rd 9 am to 10:30 am (bonus Mass at 8:30 am).

These sessions will be a refresher for those who have been ministering already – and a beginning for those who are just signing up. And they will help us move towards providing Communion under both species: Body and Blood as the training will include discussion and practice of that.

Prayer Groups / Your Prayer

I spoke with the prayer groups at Mass at St Greg's and St Clement's and St Kevin's this past week – I thanked them for their service to Jesus Christ and so to the parish through their concerted prayer and asked that they pray my prayer intention for the parish each week (it's in the bulletin below or above my words).

I ask all of you to include my prayer intention in your prayers during the week too – and bring it to any group you meet with: our prayer changes the world even when we don't see it.

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:

Giuseppina Iurman
Santo Cardamone

Anniversaries:

Grace Kerney,
Corazon Equibal,
Maria Cruz,
Giuseppina Cappola,
Giustino Mariani,
Yvonne Avellino

PARISH DIARY

Funeral Masses:
Frank Plesnicar
29/09 11am
Teresa Dona
30/09 10.30am
Giuseppina Iurman
01/10, 11am
Santo Cardamone
02/10, 10.15am

LITURGY ROSTER

Date & Time of Mass	Reader	Com	Eucharistic Min	Sacristan
26/09 5pm 27/09 9am	May The Christine Landsberg	Paul Sammut Fulvia Gerasolimo	Warwick Wright, May Teh, Enza Wilcocks Rita Gagliardi, Fulvia Gerasolimo, Carmen Gobbi	Maria Papalia Carmen Gobbi
03/10 5pm 04/10 9am	Rene Dela Cruz Tim Landsberg	May Teh Christine Landsberg	Elroy De Witt, Enza Wilcocks, May Teh Fulvia Gerasolimo, Carmen Gobbi, Agnes Lu	Elroy De Witt Rita Gagliardi

ITALIAN LITURGY ROSTER

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
04/10/2026	J Faggion E Castriotta	Famiglia G Cassini	C Travaglini T Recinella

OTHER NOTICES

Morning tea after Mass – Next Sunday

Please join us for a cuppa and a chit chat, after the 9am Mass, next Sunday.
Please bring a plate to share.



Chapel Use

The requirement is not onerous, as you arrive and depart during school hours, go via the school office. Free access at other times, though recommended not to use the chapel at night for personal safety reasons.

The rules I have introduced for access / use of the chapel, especially during school hours, arise from God's call for us to care for the vulnerable (cf Mt 25:31ff). Our children are among the most vulnerable and in order to care for them at school in today's world we need to know who is using the shared areas of the parish and school grounds, including the chapel.

There are legal responsibilities imposed by government legislation, but the fundamental requirement arises from God's call for us to love as he loves and care for our children.

Bernadine or I can help anyone who needs help to get set up with the school – it is easy.

Accountant

Our parish has a new accountant: Dominique Leung will take over the role from Rocco Gagliardi in late October.
Thank you and welcome, Dominique.

I still need members for the Parish Finance Council – I heard rumours of a couple of people interested - please, if you have the skills/gifts or know someone – give me a call 0417319556 or Charles.balnaves@Cam.org.au

Road Works & Carpark

The Carpark repainting will be deferred till the January school holidays – due to rain.

Manningham City council has begun the speed bump – hopefully it is finished by the weekend but if not – please be careful with any traffic limitations that may exist.