

GOSPEL

Mt 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

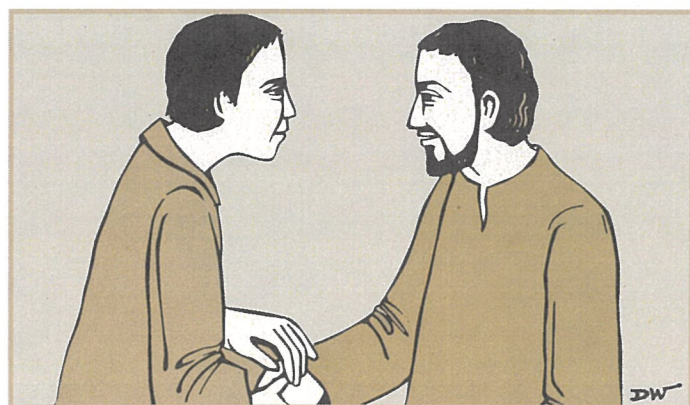
If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

■ 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

6 SEPTEMBER 2026

SEEK RECONCILIATION

Last Sunday reminded us that following Jesus is not free from struggle. Challenges, even misunderstandings, will be part of the disciple's vocation. This Sunday, the evangelist moves deeper to highlight further concerns that beset the community of disciples—internal struggles, tensions, even rejection.

The evangelist draws on the wisdom of Jesus to address these realities and suggests a three-step process towards reconciliation. It begins with personal dialogue. The one wronged seeks to invite the wrongdoer to reconciliation. If this fails, witnesses to what has happened verify the authenticity of the issues and encourage resolution. If this fails then the whole faith community, the *ekklesia*, witness to the wrong that has created the division, inviting the wrong doer to a change of heart and reconciliation.

Even if this third step fails then Matthew advises to treat the wrong doer 'like a pagan or tax collector.' In other words, as Jesus welcomed strangers and invited a tax collector to become one of his disciples, the door must always be left open. The final words of the Gospel contain Jesus' assurance that he is always present to even a small discipleship gathering, of even two or three, no matter what they are dealing with.

Today's Gospel is as relevant for our day as it was in the time of Matthew. No faith community is tension free. Disagreements arise and, sometimes, are not easily resolved by faith leaders. Rather than gossiping or character assassination, personal approaches that invite conflict resolution and community building are essential. In everything, Jesus is present.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Ezek 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

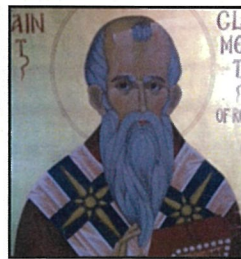
2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; / and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. / Alleluia!



St Clement of Rome Church

Address: 9 –21 Egan Drive, Bulleen 3105 - **Phone:** 9850 3262
Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, **Web:** <https://www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen>
<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>
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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year (A) : 5/6 September 2026

Words from the desk of the PP:

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):

Invite someone to become a Catholic. Let me know via email doncaster@cam.org.au or give me a contact number.

Safeguarding:

After becoming three partnered parishes, the Safeguarding Committees decided to amalgamate – to be one committee sharing or insights and efforts across our three parishes.

It is proving very useful as we are able to share experiences, concerns, difficulties and ways to manage difficulties: thank you to Maria, Bernadine, David, Ana, Richard, Gianna, Marcello for your dedication and on-going contribution to this important building of a culture of safety in our parishes.

Three Parishes Partnering:

Our three Parish Pastoral Councils met in late July to discuss the future. The meeting was very positive and a real success. Progress since then is real, but slow, a slowness appropriate to finding ways forwards together. The three top priorities that arose seem a little prosaic but will be fundamental: creation of a shared calendar; being specific about who we communicate (a communications plan); and then planning things we can do together to supplement the current plans where individual parishes plan and invite the others.

At St Gregory's we have developed a draft for use as a shared calendar to ensure our events are coordinated. If it works, we will bring it to the three parishes and seek to expand the scope to cover the three parishes.

I am hopeful that by taking this measured approach we can grow to know each other and find ways to spread the Good News of God's love further and even more effectively.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Key Pad for Lights

Over by the door to the confessional, there is a key pad for controlling the lights of the church. It requires a PIN. Does anyone of you know the PIN?

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

Fr Charles' Prayer Intention: For the young people of our parishes: that the joy and excitement they bring to our lives and our worship will flourish and spread to us all.

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 6th Sept @ 9am—Mass, followed by morning tea in the Clifton Centre
Sun 6th Sept @ 11am—Italian Mass
Mon 7th Sept @ 10am—Funeral Mass for Giuseppe Bianco
Tue 8th Sept @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Tue 8th Sept @ 10am—Finance Com Meeting in the parish office
Wed 9th Sept @ 9.15am—School Mass (Gr 5 & 1)
Thurs 10th Sept @ 10.30am —Funeral Mass for Albino Di Franceschi
Sat 12th Sept @ 4.30pm—Reconciliation followed by Mass @ 5pm

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

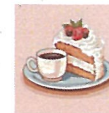
We pray for those who have died recently, **Giuseppe Bianco, Albino De Franceschi** and for the repose of the souls of **Leonilde Guidara, Salvatore Marchese, Teresa Mesiti** and all those, whose anniversaries occur at about this time. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Congratulations & welcome
to God's family
at St Clement's Parish
Emma Graziani
baptised this weekend



Morning tea after Mass—This Sunday

Please join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a chit chat, after the 9am Mass.



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
5/6 Sept	Sacristan	Elroy De Witt	Carmen Gobbi
	Commentator	Jacinta Zieba	Christine Landsberg
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Grace Cannatelli
	Special Ministers	Warwick Wright	Rita Gagliardi
		Elroy De Witt	Fulvia Gerasolimo
		May Teh	Carmen Gobbi
12/13 Sept	Sacristan	Maria Papalia	Grace Cannatelli
	Commentator	Rene De La Cruz	Grace Cannatelli
	Reader	Virginie Mindiel	Tig Chibo
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Angela Abdallah
		Enza Wilcocks	Rita Gagliardi
		Warwick Wright	Fulva Gerasolimo

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

Domenica	Lettori	Offertorio	Ministri dell'Eucaristia
13/09/2026	N.D Marzio G. Baglieri	Famiglia Sor. Ratti.	L. Vettoretto G. Vettoretto



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 ...'** After our Winter break, we are invited to celebrate the coming of the Spring Season and all that this evokes in us physically, emotionally and spiritually. We have an opportunity to rest, reflect and focus on the deeper meaning, changes, and movements of growth in our own life journeys and how we respond. 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. Please put this Date in your Diary and consider inviting a friend along to share the Come Away Day experience. Everyone is welcome.

**13TH SEPTEMBER
MASS 5.00PM** FROM THE EMPTY TOMB TO THE ALTAR

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS MASS
ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH
71 WILLIAMSONS RD, DONCASTER

Youth & Young Adults led Mass for all ages.
UPCOMING DATES: 13TH SEP, 11TH OCT, 8TH NOV

**COME WITH EXPECTANT HEARTS.
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**
STGREGS.ORG.AU

SPEAKER NIGHT
GREG SHERIDAN AO
*God is Good For You
A joyful program Christ to a secular world*

**FRIDAY, 2ND OCT
6.30PM**
Clifton Centre
9/21 Egan Dr, Bulleen
Adjacent to St Clement of Rome's Church

Pizza Dinner to start followed by presentation and discussion

Info: doncaster@cam.org.au or
RSVP via QR code or Sign Up Sheets
in the Church Foyer