

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2: 12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!

GOSPEL

Jn 8: 1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak
he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the
people came to him, he sat down and began to
teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman
along who had been caught committing
adultery; and making her stand there in full
view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master,
this woman was caught in the very act of
committing adultery, and Moses has ordered
us in the Law to condemn women like this to
death by stoning. What have you to say?' They
asked him this as a test, looking for something
to use against him. But Jesus bent down and
started writing on the ground with his finger.
As they persisted with their question, he looked
up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not
sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone
at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the
ground again. When they heard this they went
away one by one, beginning with the eldest,
until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who
remained standing there. He looked up and
said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one
condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied.
'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go
away, and don't sin any more.'

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

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Breaking Open the Word



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

THE SAVING WORD

6 APRIL 2025

JESUS' LIBERATING GAZE

Today's Gospel from John might seem out of
place in a year where the liturgical focus is on
Luke. However, some scholars suggest that the
story of a woman caught in an adulterous act
belongs more in Luke's Gospel and became
misplaced in time. Whatever of the story's
history, it is the teaching that unfolds that is
so important as we come to our final week in
our Lenten journey.

In the story, the woman becomes a pawn in a
dispute over Torah teaching and as an object
to trap Jesus in his apparent moral liberality
and rejection of Mosaic teaching. Never
addressed is the way the knowledge of the
woman's adulterous act is derived. How would
her accusers know of her conduct if they had
not set themselves in a position to spy upon
her? They, too, are incriminated by their very
witness. Jesus does not buy into their legal
dispute nor their accusation of the woman.

As her accusers depart from the scene without
condemning the woman, Jesus gazes upon her
without judgement. His gaze frees her. The
story leaves contemporary listeners with at
least two insights. It affirms Jesus' forgiveness
and his desire for our spiritual release. It also
provides an opportunity to reflect on the way
women are treated today in many contexts
as objects of sexual desire, domestic violence,
male abuse and pornographic depiction.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 43: 16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my
people.*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through
the sea, a path in the great waters; who put
chariots and horse in the field and a powerful
army, which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think
about what was done before. See, I am doing
a new deed, even now it comes to light; can
you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the
wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts
will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because
I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in
the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The
people I have formed for myself will sing my
praises.

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from
bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was
our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips
there were songs. **R.**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What
 marvels the Lord worked for them!' / What
 marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we
were glad. **R.**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as
streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in
tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, /
carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back,
they come back, full of song, / carrying their
sheaves. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

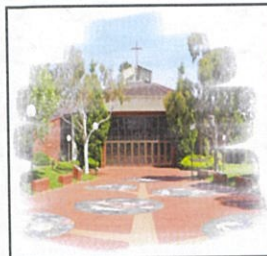
Phil 3: 8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as
useless in order to gain him.*

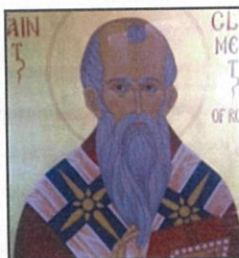
I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh
the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus
my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of
everything, and I look on everything as so much
rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a
place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection
by my own efforts, the perfection that comes
from the Law, but I want only the perfection
that comes through faith in Christ, and is from
God and based on faith. All I want is to know
Christ and the power of his resurrection and to
share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern
of his death. That is the way I can hope to take
my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not
that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet
won, but I am still running, trying to capture
the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me.
I can assure you my brothers, I am far from
thinking that I have already won. All I can say
is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for
what is still to come; I am racing for the finish,
for the prize to which God calls us upwards to
receive in Christ Jesus.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



St Clement of Rome Church

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Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, **Web:** <https://www.melbcatholic.org/bulleen>
<https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen>
Office Hours: Mon (closed) Tue—Thur 9am-5pm Fri 9am—4.30pm



Parish Priest : Very Rev Mark Reynolds EV (Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools)
Mark.Reynolds@cam.org.au

Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Watt (9850 1216)
Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva , **Parish/School Sacramental Coordinator:** Marilyn Robert
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.

JUBILEE 2025—PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent.
Today's theme is : Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.
We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass.



Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent—We invite you to deepen your Lenten journey by participating in the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 8.40am. We look forward to seeing you as we unite in prayer during this sacred season.

LENTEN REGULATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE NOTICE BOARD

Sunday Reflection..

A woman, clothing in disarray, is dragged before Jesus to test his loyalty to the Law. She must be stoned to death. There is a total lack of interest in the woman, who must be caught in the act for the death penalty to apply. Confused and frightened, she is a plaything for the scribes and the Pharisees to use against Jesus. Where is her male partner in the story? Jesus reverses that situation.

Saint Augustine described this Gospel scene as an encounter between a deprived and unhappy woman and the personification of mercy. Asking those of them without any sexual failures to cast the first stone, he turns away and doodles on the ground. He is not interested in their deadly legal questions.

As they all slink away, Jesus speaks to the woman. No one condemns her, least of all Jesus. She is no longer a 'thing' to be used and abused, but a person capable of a relationship with God and with other people liberated by the love of God made visible in Jesus. He asks her to rejoin society: 'go your way' and to be attentive to God: 'don't sin anymore'. This is a Jesus that we must all come to love and imitate.

God's Word—Daily Reflections

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER
Individual confession available in English & Italian
Wednesday 9th April : 7.00pm

PALM SUNDAY – 12TH & 13TH APRIL
Saturday 12th April : 5.30pm
Sunday 13th April : 9.00am & 11.00am (Italian)

HOLY THURSDAY 17TH APRIL
Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY – 18TH APRIL
Stations of the Cross (English/Italian) : 9.00am
Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

EASTER VIGIL – 19TH APRIL
Mass in English : 7.00pm
Mass in Italian : 9.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 20TH APRIL
Mass in English : 9.00am
Mass in Italian : 11.00am

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am & 11am (Italian)
Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Sat 9:15am (unless informed)

Reconciliation: Sat 9.45am (and on request). **Marian Devotions & Eucharistic Adoration :** Sat 8.40am
Baptisms: 1st & 3rd weekend every month. **Weddings:** By Appointment

PARISH DIARY

Sun 6th Apr @ 9am—Children's Liturgy
Mon 7th Apr @ 9.15am—no Mass
Tue 8th Apr @ 9.15am—Italian Mass
Wed 9th Apr @ 9.15am—Mass
Wed 9th Apr @ 7pm—Parish Reconciliation Service
Thurs 10th Apr @ 9.15am—Mass
Fri 11th Apr @ 8.40am—Stations of the Cross
Fri 11th @ 9.15am—Mass
Sat 12th Apr @ 9.15am—Mass & Reconciliation

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for the repose of the souls of 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.

ASRE—Sacrament of Eucharist & Confirmation 2025

We are in the process of setting up dates for the classes. We will have them available as soon as possible. Thank you.



Parish morning tea this Sunday after 9am Mass

Please join us for a delightful morning tea after Mass in the Clifton Centre. All welcome.

Attention Volunteers

We have been informed by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne that an automated email system being set up to assist parishes in complying with the Archdiocese Safeguarding Standards and the Victorian Child Safe Standards for Parish Volunteers/Parish Group Members with the following documentation.

- 1) a valid Working with Children Check card
- 2) Complete Safeguarding Essential Training Module
- 3) Sign the Safeguarding Code of Conduct

During the week commencing 15th September, this email will be sent to all the current Parish Volunteers, who are not compliant with one or more of the points mentioned above.

Please contact the parish office, should you require assistance in getting the above documentation updated. If your circumstances have changed and you are no longer able to continue volunteering with us, we kindly ask that you let us know.

Thank you for your continued support.

LENT 2025 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>. You will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

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 5.30PM SUN 9.00AM

		SAT 5.30PM	SUN 9.00AM
5/6 April	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
5 Lent	Commentator	John Bruce	Grace Cannatelli
	Reader	Jacinta De La Cruz	Rocco Gagliardi
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcocks	Shirley Pyndiah
		Warwick Wright	Grace Cannatelli
		John Bruce	Anne Fusca
12/13 April	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
Palm Sunday	Commentator	Jacinta De La Cruz	Rocco Gagliardi
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Mark Gregor
	Special Ministers	Zina Scalzo	Pina La Mattina
		May Teh	Ricardo La Mattina
		Martin Teh	Anne Fusca

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA
13/04	I ROMANIN E CASTRIOTTA	FAM G CASSINI	T RECINELLA J FAGGION



Fifth Sunday of Lent
5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



this Lent
Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.
Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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.