

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, 'Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.' Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time / C

4 September 2016

DISCIPLESHIP IS A SERIOUS COMMITMENT

The phrase "white elephants" can refer to buildings found to be of little use and very expensive to maintain. They are monuments to the builders' folly, hubris, ignorance—and corruption. Built without foresight, they elicit both laughter and pain: laughter for stupidity, and pain for so much money lost, often from the national treasury.

In the Gospel, Jesus says that a king who cannot wage a successful war should better ask for peace terms. Of if a man does not have enough money to put up a tower, he should not begin the project at all. Otherwise, both king and builder become laughingstocks.

The parables of the Builder and the King are addressed to people who propose to follow Jesus. If a builder and a king must calculate the costs before going into a venture, so also aspirants for discipleship are advised to weigh the demands of discipleship, otherwise they are bound to fail. A disciple who commits himself to Jesus must seriously consider his strength and resources. Only he who is capable of a radical and whole-hearted decision can become a true disciple. He cannot put his hand on the plough and look back (Lk 9:62).

Christians in Luke's time experienced hardship and persecution on account of their faith. The evangelist probably intended this piece for their instruction and encouragement. Just as Jesus had suffered many things before entering into his glory (Lk 24:26), so also he tells his disciples that if anyone wants to follow him, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow him" (Lk 9:23). If the would-be disciple is not willing to pay the price, he had better not become a follower of Christ at all, or else his neighbours will only laugh at him, and the name of Jesus will be maligned.

Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY RESOURCES

Available at www.stpauls.com.au



FIRST READING Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of the Lord?

'What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust / and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' / To your eyes a thousand years / are like yesterday, come and gone, / no more than a watch in the night. **R.**
2. You sweep men away like a dream, / like grass which springs up in the morning. / In the morning it springs up and flowers: / by evening it withers and fades. **R.**
3. Make us know the shortness of our life / that we may gain wisdom of heart. / Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? / Show pity to your servants. **R.**
4. In the morning, fill us with your love; / we shall exult and rejoice all our days. / Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: / give success to the work of our hands. **R.**



SECOND READING Philem 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

■ The word of the Lord.



St Clement of Rome Church

Address: Egan Drive, Bulleen 3105 - Phone: 9850 3262, Fax: 9850 2550
Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, Web: www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au
Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

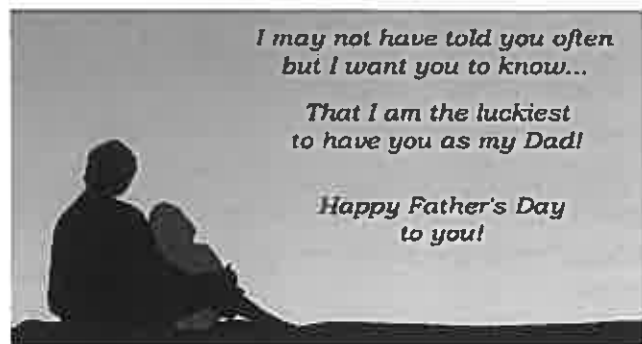


Parish Priest : Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Office 9850 3262) or (Presbytery 9850 6073)
Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), School Principal: Mr Michael Heenan (9850 1216)
Pastoral Associate: Cecilia Tan (9850 3262), Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262)
Communion to the Sick: Trish Atherton (9850 2746), Clifton Centre: Mary Hansen (9850 1860)
St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1300 305 330)

The Archbishop's Father's Day Collection will be held this weekend. Thank you for your contribution.

Happy Father's Day

All Fathers, please make sure you receive your special prayer card



Music Ministry: Regular rehearsals have started. Our next practice is 1st October at 4.30pm in the Clifton Centre.

Scripture Studies: Our study and group sharing takes place in the context of prayer and meditation, using the *Lectio Divina* method. Come for some or all the sessions. Italian speaking participants please bring a Bible in Italian. Our next session is: **8th September at 7.00pm** in the Clifton Centre.

Saturday Marian Devotions: Please note, there will be no Marian Devotions on September 17; September 24 & October 3. Rosary, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues. Marian Devotions will resume on Saturday October 8.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)

Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Sat 9:15am. Eucharistic Adoration: Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)

Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request). Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.

Baptisms: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th weekend) every month. Weddings: By Appointment.

Recently Deceased : Anna Flottl, Charles Newton

Death Anniversaries : Abel-Ciudad-Real, Giovanni Ascenzo, Giuseppina Barbagallo, Tarcisio Bragagnolo, Joseph Buhagiar

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Commissioning of volunteers to the different Ministries

The Mission Jesus takes flesh in the following ways within the context of the Parish community. Here are some questions to prompt reflection and dialogue.

Identity and Community: How engaged are we in building up a community of faith and hospitality?

Worship and Prayer: Do we try to understand the reason and purpose of why we gather for prayer and worship? In what ways does our Eucharist sustain us individually and as a community?

Formation and Education: Do we make time to learn more about our faith through the opportunities offered such as the RCIA, the Scriptural Study Group, the Hope Ministry? Do we offer our own wisdom and understanding and share faith with our children and families in the Sacramental and Baptism programs?

Mission and Outreach: Do we take Jesus' message seriously to transform society by acts of mercy and justice? Are we welcoming? Do we take time to know others who are new to the parish?

Leadership and Structure: Are we content with leaving the work of exercising leadership to others? Are we committed to the welfare growth of this parish?

The Parish, the living Body of Christ at Bulleen is so because of the gifts and talents of many volunteers. Over the coming weeks we will be incorporating a Commissioning Rite during the Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.00am Masses. All volunteers and those who would like to be initiated into the different Ministries will be invited to come forward at the appropriate time after communion and take their place at the front of the Altar. Fr. Franco will lead you in a simple prayer and bless you. May this simple rite of acknowledgment and witness draw us to a greater appreciation of the gift and life that is in the Parish.

- September 18: Liturgical/Celebrations (Sacristans, Altar Servers, Readers and Commentators; Music Ministry; projectionists)
- October 16: Administration and Service (Finance Committee/Collectors and Counters/those who clean or do maintenance work; wash linen; arrange flowers; Serve morning tea; FCI)
- December 5: Volunteer Sunday/Outreach: Mass and BBQ.

PARISH DIARY

Tue 6th Sept @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Clifton Centre
Thurs 8th Sept @ 7pm—Bible Study in the Clifton Centre
Sun 11th Sept @ 10am—Morning Tea in the Clifton Centre
Tue 13th Sept @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Clifton Centre

Sacramental Program: We ask you to consider being a catechist for 2017.

Confirmation: Saturday 22 October 2016 at 2.30pm and 5.30pm. With the new appointments of bishops to different locations, our children will be confirmed by Mons. Franco instead of Bishop Mark Edwards.

Enrolments for 2017 have begun. If you wish your child to be part of our Sacramental Programme, please email Cecilia.Tan@cam.org.au or refer to the parish Website www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au.

Se dio Vuole—A film organized by FCI of St Clement of Rome on Sun 18th Sept at 12 noon in the Clifton Centre. Lunch followed by the screening of the film. All are welcome.

Piety Stall: 2017 Columban Art Calendars for sale: \$10 each. Limited numbers available. Melbourne Catholic: Please buy a copy for yourself or as a gift for someone. \$4

Earthquake in Italy : Donations to the earthquake appeal organised by Caritas Italiana or Caritas Internationalis can be sent to the following:

Caritas Italiana, Via Aurelia 796 – 00165 Roma, using the current account n. 347013 or by bank transfer to Banca Popolare Etica, Via Parigi 17, Roma. Iban: IT 29 U 05018 03200 00000011113. Please specify "Colletta terremoto centro Italia".

Other ways include:

Online: www.caritas.it

– Banca Prossima, piazza della Libertà 13, Roma – Iban: IT 06 A 03359 01600 100000012474

– Banco Posta, viale Europa 175, Roma – Iban: IT91 P076 0103 2000 0000 0347 013

– UniCredit, via Taranto 49, Roma – Iban: IT 88 U 02008 05206 000011063119.

Why is it Important to Preserve the Marriage Act?
tackling the tough questions

Following presentations tackling the consequence of a change in legislation & the importance of preserving natural marriage, the panel will take your questions.

MEET THE NOT TO BE MISSED SPEAKER
Mrs Jenny Stokes,
Executive Director of Family Life
& President of the Family Council of Victoria

THURSDAY 7.30pm
DINNER Tuesday
DATE: 29th September, 2016
VENUE: Maureen Clifton Centre
St Clement of Rome
Egan Drive, BULLEEN
CONTACT: John Bruce
0408 993 040
john.bruce@cam.org.au
Be equipped... be there...

Collections Last Weekend

1st Collection (Thanksgiving)

Actual — 2,107

2nd Collection (Presbytery)

Actual — 1,017

Many thanks & every Blessing!

Hope Ministry:

Our next session is on Saturday, 17th Sept at 10.00 in the parish office. Through prayer and meditation, we have explored the different topics in a non-threatening, safe and supportive environment.

- Understanding grief
- The meaning and place of lament
- The Sacredness of Memories.
- Grief and the Community
- Understanding grief as transitions

The following are the scheduled sessions over the coming weeks:

- 3 September: Developing Skills for Ministry
 - 17 September: Grief Minister as Spiritual Guide
 - 5 November: Grief Minister and the Grieving Child
 - 12 November: Importance of Rituals and celebrations
 - 26 November: Liturgical celebrations
 - 3 December: Grief Minister as Compassionate Listener
- All are welcome to attend some or all of the sessions.

Canonisation of Mother Teresa

Watch the canonisation of Mother Teresa this weekend Live this weekend. The ceremony begins (Melbourne time) @ 6.00pm on Sunday 4 September.

(<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/News/live-from-rome-this-weekend-canonisation-of-mother-teresa>)

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
3 rd /4 th September	Sacristan <i>John Bruce</i>	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR <i>John Bruce</i>	Tim Landsberg
	Reader <i>May Teh</i>	David Mitchell
	Special Ministers <i>Miriam Ho</i>	Gabriella Grande
	<i>Cecilia Lam</i>	Eleanora Mascitti
	<i>Reg Lecordier</i>	Sylvia Mascitti
	<i>Maree Marsi</i>	Pam Mitchell
	<i>Martin Teh</i>	Gloria Ng
	<i>Warwick Wright</i>	Maria Papalia
	<i>John Bruce</i>	Elsa Waters

10 th /11 th September	Sacristan <i>Rita Gagliardi</i>	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR <i>May Teh</i>	David Mitchell
	Reader <i>John Bruce</i>	Maria Papalia
	Special Ministers <i>Maree Marsi</i>	David Mitchell
	<i>May Teh</i>	Pam Mitchell
	<i>Martin Teh</i>	Gloria Ng
	<i>Warwick Wright</i>	Maria Papalia
	<i>John Bruce</i>	Elsa Waters
	<i>Linda Cultrera</i>	Chris Zordan
	<i>Rene De La Cruz</i>	Trish Atherton