

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

11 FEBRUARY 2018

## COMPASSION BREAKING BARRIERS

In Jesus' day people who suffered from disfiguring skin diseases were considered ritually unclean. Excluded from contact with society and with a sense of divine punishment hanging over them, they were condemned to a living death in social as well as in physical terms.

Though not supposed to approach anyone, the man described in today's Gospel as suffering from leprosy does feel emboldened to come to Jesus. With leprosy considered a living death, to cure it was tantamount to raising the dead. His plea, 'If you want to, you can make me clean', is then a strong act of faith. To approach Jesus, he believes, is to access the life-giving power of God.

Jesus, 'moved with pity' ('overwhelmed with compassion' might better translate the Greek), stretches out his hand and touches the man. In so doing, he breaks through the 'clean/unclean' barrier in all its physical, social and religious dimensions. The gesture and accompanying declaration, 'I do so choose', wonderfully conveys a sense of the divine compassion reaching out to afflicted humanity.

In conventional understanding the gesture would have rendered Jesus himself ritually unclean. But for Jesus the 'clean/unclean' process works the opposite way round. He does not 'catch' 'uncleanness' from the afflicted man. Rather, the man catches 'wholeness' from him.

For Jesus 'uncleanness' or 'unholiness' is not something caught like a disease from physical objects or conditions. It's a moral condition and has to do with the heart. True 'cleanness' or 'holiness' is something human beings 'catch' by coming close to God—as when this man's faith brings him to Jesus.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

## FIRST READING

Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 31: 1-2, 5, 11. R. v. 5

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, / whose sin is remitted. / O happy the man to whom the Lord / imputes no guilt, / in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; / my guilt I did not hide. / I said: 'I will confess / my offence to the Lord.' / And you, Lord, have forgiven / the guilt of my sin. **R.**

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, / exult, you just! / O come, ring out your joy, / all you upright of heart. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 10: 31-11: 1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone — to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lk 7: 16

**Alleluia, alleluia! / A great prophet has appeared among us; / God has visited his people. / Alleluia!**

# 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 (1800 305 330)**

## LENT 2018

Please read the Lenten Regulations for 2018 displayed on the Notice Board in the Foyer. Please note, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from meat.

**Stations of the Cross :** Will take place in the Church during lent every Friday after 9.15am Mass, starting from 16th Feb.

**Ash Wednesday :** 14th February 2018  
 Masses 9.15am (School) and 7.00pm (Parish)

**Pastoral Letter of Archbishop Denis Hart—Lent 2018**

“Repent and believe the good news” Copies available in the Foyer.

### Holy Land Olive Wood Display

Religious items will be on display this weekend after Sat 5.30pm, Sun 9am & 11am Masses. Proceeds of the above will be spent for the Christian Families in Bethlehem. Please support.

### Project Compassion

Boxes and envelopes will be available soon in the Foyer for collection and for your kind contribution. Thank You.

### ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH BULLEEN PRIVACY POLICY

The Parish of St Clement of Rome as part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is bound by the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) in the Privacy Act. The Parish has now in place a Privacy Policy which can be viewed on our Parish website :

([www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au](http://www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au))

An abridged form of the Policy can be obtained from the Parish Office.

### PROJECT COMPASSION: 2018 LAUNCH

**Tuesday 13 February, 10.30am–12pm**  
 Lecture Theatre and Cathedral room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne

This is your invitation to join Archbishop Denis Hart as he launches Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion for 2018. Enjoy lunch and hear from special guest Janak Sharma, Regional Manager of Caritas Nepal. For over 50 years Project Compassion has been an important means by which the Australian Church has shown its solidarity with those in need around the world, providing funds for development and emergency aid and increasing our awareness of the work of Caritas Australia. This year’s campaign is titled ‘For a just future’.

**Cost:** \$10 suggested donation for lunch

**RSVP:** [alicia.ocampo@cam.org.au](mailto:alicia.ocampo@cam.org.au)



### 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 :** Alexander Monda, Mariano Dalla Riva, Charles Pisani

**Death Anniversaries :** Louise & Karim Kahwagi, Corazon Equibal, Vicki O’Meara, Des O’Meara, Joan De Silva, Livio & Dina Scenna, Alfonso & Costanza Conidi, Fernando Pellarini, Domenico Paolilli, Ottavio Azzurro Tasca, Santa Spadafora, Nathalie Francoise

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

## PARISH DIARY

Sun 11th Feb @ 10.00am—Mario & Angel’s Cafe

Tue 13th Feb @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Parish Office

Tue 13th Feb @ 7.30pm—Parent’s information Session (Reconciliation) in the School

Tue 13th Feb @ 7.30pm—Scripture Studies in the School Library

Wed 14th Feb Ash Wednesday Masses—9.15am (school) & 7.00pm(parish)

Thurs 15th Feb @ 7.00pm—Baptism Preparation in the Clifton Centre

Fri 16th Feb @ 10.00am—Stations of the Cross in the Church

### Collections Last Weekend

1st Collection (Thanksgiving)

Actual — 3,437

2nd Collection (Presbytery)

Actual — 1,521

Many thanks & every Blessing!

### Liturgy Roster

	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
10/11 February	<i>Sacristan</i> COMMENTATOR	<i>Francis &amp; Gloria Ng</i> Jim Cowhey
	Reader	Jacinta De La Cruz Sylvie Duff
	Special Ministers	Corinne Goh Rita Gagliardi
		Cecilia Lam Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Reg Lecordier Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti
		David Mitchell
		Pam Mitchell
		Gloria Ng

17/18 February	<i>Sacristan</i>	John Bruce	<i>Francis &amp; Gloria Ng</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	COMMENTATOR	Jacinta De La Cruz	Tim Landsberg
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Rocco Gagliardi
	Special Ministers	Maree Marsi	Maria Papalia
		May Teh	Elsa Waters
		Matrin Teh	Chris Zordan
			Trish Atherton
			Grace Canatelli
			Rita Gagliardi
			Fulvia Gerasolimo

### Sacramental Program 2018

Enrolment Forms can be now downloaded from the parish website. Payment must be made at the enrolment.

#### CONFIRMATION: TERM 1

Classes : Commenced on the 6th Feb 2018.  
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday 24 February 2018 @ 5.30pm  
 Confirmation: 19 May 2018 @ 5.30pm (ASRE)  
 Confirmation: 18 May 2018 @ 7.00pm (St Clement’s School Children)

#### RECONCILIATION: TERM 2

Classes commence: Tuesday, 1st May 2017 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Parish Office  
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday 12th May 2018 @ 5.30pm  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 23rd June @ 10.30am (ASRE)

#### FIRST EUCHARIST: TERM 3

Classes commence: Tuesday, 17 July 2018@ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Parish Office  
 Parents’ Information Evening: Tuesday 17 July 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Clifton Centre  
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday, 21 July @ 5.30pm  
 Reconciliation before First Communion: Saturday 8 September 2018 @ 10.00am  
 First Communion for After School RE children: Saturday 15 September 2018 @ 5.30pm

The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$150 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Please see Bernadine who is in charge of accounts. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office. All enrolment forms must be completed and submitted by the last date for enrolment.

Please note the dates except for Confirmation may be subject to change. Families will be informed.

### Mario & Angela’s Café

Resumes this Sunday after the 9am Mass.

All are welcome. If you attend the 11am Mass, please come early and join us for a cuppa. Thank you.



**Volunteers**—We are extremely short-handed with volunteers to help with pastoral visits to the sick and homebound and all the other ministries. Please consider being a volunteer for 2018. Training will be provided. Grateful thanks to those volunteers who give of their time and gifts.

### SOUTHERN STARS PARTY FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS

Saturday 24 February, 8pm

Benedict House, 301 Warrigal Road, Burwood

For single Catholics in the 28 to 60 age group, the Southern Stars Social Club hosts another Saturday night of music, fun and live entertainment, with supper provided.

Lucky door prizes too!

Cost: \$13

Details: Peter on 9885 2167