



and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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The moving story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a powerful reminder to us all that just as Jesus commanded, 'Unbind him, let him go free,' so it is with us. The Lord is still working with us to liberate what is bound, and to bring to life that which is not fully alive.

GOD'S PLEDGE TO US

Lent is always an invitation to travel on the path of conversion. We are called to do our part and yet the work is not solely ours. One of the threads uniting today's readings is the encouragement provided by God's pledge to work with us as we journey towards the new life of Easter.

Ezekiel wrote to a dispirited and discouraged people far from where they wanted to be. In exile they felt powerless to change their situation and wondered whether God still had the power, or desire, to save them. Ezekiel has no doubts that God will bring them back from the grave to new life.

In writing to the Christians of Rome, Paul is led to reflect on the nature of conversion and the Christian life from two perspectives. From our perspective, we are challenged to open our hearts to what is of spiritual and lasting value. Lest we become disheartened by our weakness, Paul reminds us of the critical role God plays in our coming to spiritual maturity. The gift of the Spirit within us is a sign of God's pledge to enliven us so that we may share in the new life of Jesus' resurrection.

The moving story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a powerful reminder to us all that just as Jesus commanded, 'Unbind him, let him go free,' so it is with us. The Lord is still working with us to liberate what is bound, and to bring to life that which is not fully alive.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v. 7

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, / Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be attentive / to the voice of my pleading. **R.**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord, who would survive? / But with you is found forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord / more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not

belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; / whoever believes in me will not die for ever. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

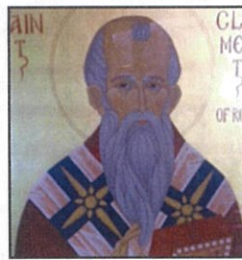
On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,



St Clement of Rome Church



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Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Watt (9850 1216)
Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262) **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.

Welcome to St Clement of Rome as we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent
Today's theme is : I am the resurrection and the life
 We invite you to reflect on this theme throughout the Mass.

Since the Year A gospels for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent are of major importance in regard to Christian initiation, the readings of Year A can be used every year on these three Sundays.



Congratulations & welcome to God's family at St Clement's Parish
Fernanda & Oceane Nathan baptized this Sunday at 9am Mass



Parish Morning tea this Sunday after 9am Mass
 Please join us for a delightful morning tea after Mass in the Clifton Centre. All welcome.

Chapel access code—Agreement

We are pleased to announce the successful replacement of the access code to our Chapel. Thank you for your patience throughout this process. In our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and protection of the facility, we are now prepared to disclose the new access code. To maintain the secure usage of the Chapel, we kindly request you to get in touch with the Parish Office to sign the agreement.

Please remember that the confidentiality of the access code is highly important and under no circumstances should it be shared with anyone in the community. Once again, thank you for your continued patience and co-operation.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church during Lent, every Friday before Mass at 8.40am. All welcome to attend.

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

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.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER
 Wednesday 20th March : 7.00pm (English/Italian)

PALM SUNDAY – 23RD & 24TH MARCH
 Saturday 23rd March : 5.30pm
 Sunday 24th March : 9.00am & 11.00am (Italian)

HOLY THURSDAY 28TH MARCH
 Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.30pm (English/Italian)

GOOD FRIDAY – 29TH MARCH
 Stations of the Cross (English/Italian) : 9.00am
 Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

EASTER VIGIL – 30TH MARCH
 Mass in English : 7.00pm
 Mass in Italian : 9.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 31ST MARCH
 Mass in English : 9.00am
 Mass in Italian : 11.00am

PARISH DIARY

Sun 17th Mar @ 9am Mass—Baptism and morning tea afterwards
 Wed 20th Mar @ 7pm—Parish Reconciliation Service
 Sat 23rd Mar @ 9am—ASRE Recon classes in the Clifton Centre
 Sat 23rd Mar @ 9.45am—Sacrament of Reconciliation—ASRE
 Wed 27th Mar @ 12.45pm—Whole School Mass
 Wed 27th Mar @ 6pm—Baptism Prep in the office

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, **Gregorio Cusmano** and for the repose of the souls of **Luigi Misuraca** 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.

After School Sacramental Program 2024.

The preparation classes for Reconciliation have begun. Attendance at all classes is compulsory. Please visit our website for the full list of class dates and other information.



PLEASE STOP

It has been brought to my attention that someone is leaving food scraps near the Piazza in the area just to the left of the steps. Perhaps the intention is to feed the birds however these dry scraps are also attracting mice and rats. Unfortunately there have also been some nuts and nut shells amongst the scraps which one of our young children from our school with a severe nut allergy touched and had a very serious reaction. Could who ever is leaving these scraps PLEASE STOP IMMEDIATELY. And if you happen to see someone doing this please ask them to STOP NOW. We all have a duty of care to look after each other.
 Thank you
 Fr Mark

Garratt Virtual Lent Series 2024

When: Mondays – Final session on March 18
Time: 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT*
Where: Via Zoom meeting
Cost: Free
Registration: Visit website
<https://garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/virtual-lent-series-2024/>
 Online registration is essential. Zoom meeting details will be forwarded after registration.

Covid 19 update : Following the latest Liturgical guidelines, Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship. They are recommended in crowd settings. No vaccination requirements for attendees. Please check the government website for updated isolation rules.

| LITURGY ROSTER | | SAT 5.30PM | SUN 9.00AM |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 16/17 March | Sacristan | Elroy De Witt | Francis & Gloria Ng |
| | Commentator | Jacinta De La Cruz | Maria Papalia |
| 5 Lent | Reader | Rene De La Cruz | Yamna Taouk |
| | Special Ministers | Martin Teh | Maria Papalia |
| | | Enza Wilcocks | Shirley Pyndiah |
| | | Warwick Wright | Grace Cannatelli |
| 23/24 March | Sacristan | John Bruce | Francis & Gloria Ng |
| | Commentator/ Narrator | Jacinta De La Cruz | Yamna Taouk |
| Palm Sunday | Other Readers | Rene De La Cruz | Tim Landsberg |
| | | Angelina De La Cruz | Christine Landsberg |
| | Special Ministers | John Bruce | Anne Fusca |
| | | Elroy De Witt | Rita Gagliardi |
| | | May Teh | Fulvia Gerasolimo |

ROSTER—ITALIAN MASS 11AM

| DATE | LETTORI | OFFERTORIO | MINISTRI DELL' EUCHARISTIA |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 24/03 | I ROMANIN E CASTRIOTTA | FAM. G CASSINI | T RECINELLA J FAGGION |

Project Compassion—Fifth Sunday of Lent 16/17 March

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

