

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

18 MARCH 2018

THE SEED THAT DIES TO GIVE LIFE

Today's Gospel features a momentary shrinking from death on the part of Jesus ('Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour?"' [v. 27]). This exclamation in the Fourth Gospel echoes the plea of Jesus to the Father during his agony in the garden of Gethsemane as described in the other three Gospels.

What triggers this reaction in Jesus is the arrival on the scene of 'some Greeks'. The reason that he reacts in this way to the arrival of these pilgrims from afar becomes clear at the end of the passage when he says, 'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself'; and the Evangelist comments, 'He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die' (vv. 32-33). The 'Greeks' are the forerunners of all those people, principally from the non-Jewish or Gentile world whom the love of Jesus, demonstrated supremely upon the cross, will draw to the Father and so to the gift of eternal life.

Thus the arrival of these Greeks and their desire to 'see Jesus' indicates that the 'hour' of his death is at hand. Their presence shows that his dying, like a single grain falling upon the earth, will produce a 'rich harvest', the drawing of all to eternal life.

In this way the cross will overthrow the death-dealing grip of the 'prince of this world' (Satan) upon human beings, reclaiming them for a share in God's 'eternal life'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**
3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. **R.**



SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

St Clement of Rome Church

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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)

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE 2018

PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER

Tuesday 20th March : 7.00pm

PALM SUNDAY – 24th/25th MARCH

Saturday 24th March : 5.30pm
 Sunday 25th March : 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite)

HOLY THURSDAY – 29th MARCH

Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.30pm
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight (Clifton Centre)
 Personal Reconciliation : 9.00pm (Clifton Centre)
 Mass & Washing of the Feet (Maronite) : 9.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY – 30th MARCH

Stations of the Cross : 9.00am
 Via Crucis (Italian) : 11.00am
 Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus : 12.30pm (Maronite)
 Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

EASTER VIGIL – 31st MARCH

Mass in English : 6.00pm & RCIA Baptisms
 Mass in Italian : 8.30pm
 Maronite Mass : 10.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 1st APRIL

Mass in English : 9.00am
 Mass in Italian : 11.00am
 Maronite Mass : 6.00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, every Friday after 9.15am Mass. All welcome.

Suggested Lenten Reflections: Please take time to read the notice board and avail yourself to these.

Stations of Mary

This is an exhibition for all in the Parish. The school children and their families have been invited to come along and view this as part of their Lenten observation. The exhibition will be in the Clifton Centre from Tuesday 20 March to Saturday 31 March. Cecilia will lead a special reflection on **Tuesday 27 of March beginning at 7.00pm.** All are welcome.

Easter Chocolate Lambs—Easter chocolate lambs will be on sale this weekend after all the Masses. Price \$10.00 each. Please support.

HOLY WEEK

ROSTERS: All ministers of the word, Special Ministers, Sacristans please collect your Holy Week Rosters from the table outside the piety stall. A large copy will be in the foyer for your reference as well.

READERS/LECTORS COMMENTATORS: Please attend a brief meeting/rehearsal for Holy week on Saturday 24 March 2018 after the 9.15 am Mass. We will convene in the Church. This is most important especially for those rostered for Holy Week.

SACRISTANS: Thank you to all who attended our briefing on Saturday 10 March 2018. Again, we acknowledge the ministry of the Sacristans and all who help with our Liturgical celebrations.

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.

Death Anniversaries : Maria Paolilli, Michele Sirianni, Carmelo Proietto, Eustachio smarrelli, Loriana Iulianetti, Concetta Merlino, Lina Orlando, Mary Rita Loo, Albert Moriyans, Jim & Katty Bourke, James Bourke, Peter Bourke, Natina & Leone Callea, Veronica Frigo, Albert Cunico, Concetta Cunico, Giuseppe Rigoni, Domenica Rigoni, Egiolio Rigoni, Livio Rigoni
 Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Mon 19th Mar @ 9.15am—St Joseph's Feast Day Mass (Grade 6)
 Tue 20th Mar @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Parish Office
 Tue 20th Mar @ 7pm—Parish Reconciliation Service
 Wed 21st Mar @ 7.30pm—Finance Committee Meeting in the Parish Office
 Thurs 22nd Mar @ 11.45—School (Way of the Cross)
 Thurs 22nd Mar @ 7.30pm—Scripture Studies in the School Library
 Fri 23rd Mar @ 10am—Parish Stations of the Cross
 Sat 24th Mar @ 10am—Readers/Commentators meeting in the Church

Collections Last Weekend
 1st Collection (Thanksgiving)
 Actual — 2,030
 2nd Collection (Presbytery)
 Actual — 1,123
 Many thanks & every Blessing!



Baptism Welcoming

This weekend, we welcome :
Paige Neilson
 Please pray for her
 and the family

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
17/18 March	Sacristan Elroy De Witt	Francis & Gloria Ng
5 th Sunday of Lent	COMMENTATOR John Bruce	Maria Papalia
	Reader Linda Cultrera	Christine Landsberg
	Special Ministers May Teh	Rita Gagliardi
	Martin Teh	Fulvia Gerasolimo
	Enza Wilcox	Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti
		David Mitchell
		Pam Mitchell
		Gloria Ng

MARCH
29



TENEBRAE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

Holy Thursday, 29 March
 2018
 10.30pm
 Clifton Centre

This service dates back to the fourth century. This moving service reminds us of the shadows falling on Christ in the last hours of his life on earth. We accompany Christ through the shadows of suffering and pain. As the service progresses, candles will be snuffed out until all is left in darkness. The Tenebrae service will end with the Blessed Sacrament

EVENT Date	SACRISTAN(S)	COMMENTATOR AND READERS	SPECIAL MINISTERS	POWERPOINT/MUSIC
Tuesday, March @7.00pm Penitential Service	Francis	Commentator: Rocco Gagliardi Reader: Rocco Gagliardi	NA	Martin Teh
Palm Sunday: 25 March 5.30pm	John Bruce Magdalene De Witt	Commentator: Linda Cultrera Reader: May Teh Narrator: Jacinta De La Cruz Jesus: Mgr. Franco Others: Rene De La Cruz	Cecilia Lam Maree Marsi Warwick Wright	Bernie De Witt
9.00am	Francis/Gloria	Commentator: David Mitchell Reader: Mark Gregor Narrator: Grace Cannatelli Jesus: Mgr. Franco Others: Jim Cowhey	Trish Atherton Sylvie Duff Ann Fusca Rita Gagliardi Pam Mitchell Gabriella Grande Eleanora Mascitti	PPT: Enrique/Marjorie