



The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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HOLINESS OF HEART

Today's Gospel touches on the sensitive issue of Jesus' attitude to the Jewish law. I say sensitive because it is easy for Christians to separate Jesus from his Jewish heritage and portray him as one of us and not one of them.

Jesus was not critical of the Jewish law as such. What he challenged were customs added to the original revelation that could work against its true purpose. The Pharisees promoted such customs to help the Jewish people live their vocation to be the holy people of God (Lev 20:26) in the mixed society of Palestine in Jesus' day.

In itself this was a laudable endeavour. But it could degenerate into a focus upon external observances to the neglect of the true inner meaning of the law. In particular, it could suggest that uncleanness was something that came from outside and threatened to defile the basic holiness of God's people.

Jesus clearly had a different view. Holiness is where God is. It comes from being in contact with God—something that begins in the heart. So, he insists, since holiness is primarily a matter of the heart, if you want to know whether a person is holy or not, see what comes out of their heart.

The list of vices towards the end is a kind of check-list. We could probably add to it a few more examples relevant for our time. By the same token, on the positive side, we could think of virtues and patterns of living that demonstrate true holiness of heart.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? / He who walks without fault; / he who acts with justice / and speaks the truth from his heart. **R.**
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, / who casts no slur on his neighbour, / who holds the godless in disdain, / but honours those who fear the Lord. **R.**
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; / who takes no interest on a loan / and accepts no bribes against the innocent. / Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James.

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

You forget the commandments of God to hold on to human tradition.



St Clement of Rome Church

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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), Assistant Pastoral Associate : Franka Waters
Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262)
Clifton Centre: Mary Hansen (9850 1860) St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1800 305 330)

This weekend we warmly welcome our visiting priests : Fr. Bernie Teo & Fr. Thinh Nguyen



Father's Day Prayer

God, bless all the fathers in the world.
Guide them to be good role models
and loving to all their children
Help them to be a father like You are
Give them grace and patience
to handle situations in a loving way.
Amen!

Father's Day Collection—This Weekend

Special collection for the Priests Retirement Foundation will take place this weekend. This appeal goes to the care of retired and sick priests by providing suitable accommodation, medical assistance and a comfortable standard of living for them. Envelopes available for your contribution.

Flood disaster

Many thanks for your support to Caritas India. We have raised \$500.00.

Archbishops Catholic Man Breakfast Series

13th September 2018 featuring our new Archbishop, Peter A Comensoli. Come along and be encouraged, inspired and challenged by him as he undertakes his leadership role in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The title of his address is "Being a man; a man of God!"

The venue is the CQ Club 113 – 123 Queen St Melbourne. Cost \$45. Time 0700 – 0900 sharp. Enquiries Michael Bohan 0439 172 465.

The *Catholic Man Breakfast Series* is an opportunity for men to gather and be encouraged and inspired in their faith.

Melbourne Catholic Magazine

September edition is now available in the Foyer for \$4.00 per copy.



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 : Rosario Marchese, Marisa Cerato

Death Anniversaries : Luisa De Stefanis, Joseph Buhagiar, Giovanni D'Abate, Chiefalo Bregorio, Severino De Giacinto, Rocco Rapone, Bruno Bastasin.

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

PARISH DIARY

Tue 4th Sept @ 4.30pm—Eucharist Classes in the Parish Office
Thurs 6th Sept @ 7.30pm—Scripture Classes in the School Library
Fri 7th Sept @ 10.30am & 7pm—Plenary Meeting in the Parish Office
Sat 8th Sept @ 10am—Reconciliation before First Communion for ASRE
Sun 9th Sept @ 10am—Mario & Angela's Café

Collections Last Weekend
1st Collection (Thanksgiving)
Actual — 1,866
2nd Collection (Presbytery)
Actual — 1,015
Many thanks & every Blessing!

Plenary 2020

We have been praying for some weeks now, the Plenary 2020 prayer at each Mass. WE have begun slowly, the conversation, the discernment and the reflective process of what 'Plenary 2020' is about. This is a call to all the Baptised to ask what the Spirit is asking of us individually and collectively in terms of the mission Jesus has given to us. The following opportunities are available for us to come to one or more of these sessions to deepen our understanding of our faith, to share experiences of life, of the Church for the future.

St. Clement of Rome, Bulleen is hosting the dialogue sessions:

7 September 2018

Topic: "A Revolution of Tenderness"

21 September 2018

Topic: "Going to the peripheries."

Two sessions will run each day for the convenience of parishioners and interested others: 10.30am and 7.00pm.

Each session will incorporate prayer, reflection, and conversation as part of the discernment process to understand and respond to our individual and collective mission given to us at Baptism. All welcome.

Contact: cecilia.tan@cam.org.au for further information.

Plenary: a general meeting of all members to make recommendations.

Synod: an assembly of bishops to come together to make decisions.

Pope Francis: "A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening 'is more than simply hearing'. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of truth' (Jn 14:17), in order to know what he 'says to the Churches' (Rev 2:7)." **NO one is to be excluded. ALL are to be heard.**

Sacramental Program 2018

All enrolments for the year are closed. Please register your interest for 2019 once the dates for 2019 have been organized.

FIRST EUCHARIST (ASRE)

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 \$200 per sacrament per child from 2019. 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.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5:30pm	Sun 9am	
1/2 September	Sacristan <i>COMMENTATOR</i>	John Bruce May Teh	Francis & Gloria Ng Yamna Taouk
	Reader	John Bruce	Christine Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Cecilia Lam Reg Lecordier	Eleanora Mascitti David Mitchell
		Maree Marsi	Pam Mitchell
			Gloria Ng
			Maria Papalia
			Elsa Waters
			Chris Zordan
8/9 September	Sacristan <i>COMMENTATOR</i>	Rita Gagliardi John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng Grace Canatelli
	Reader	Linda Cultrera	Jim Cowhey
	Special Ministers	May Teh Martin Teh	Trish Atherton Anne Fusca
		Enza Wilcox	Fulvia Gerasolimo
			Gabriell Grande
			Eleanora Mascitti
			David Mitchell
			Pam Mitchell

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL'EUCARISTA
09/09	R. SACCARDO A. BROGNO	FAM. G. VETTORETTO	T. RECINELLA G. FARFAGLIA G. BAGLIERI

Grief and Bereavement

Prayer and Reflection Sessions: First Saturday of each month from 10.30am 11.30am. All Welcome. Sessions in the Parish Office.

MELBOURNE YOUTH: HAVE YOUR SAY!

Thursday 13 September, 8–9.30pm

Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne
Join us at an AOY Plenary Listening and Dialogue session. This will be a chance for young people to have their say and experience the 'Listening and Dialogue' process so they can host other sessions in their local youth and young adult groups.
Cost: Gold coin donation for pizza

Enquiries: aoy@cam.org.au or 9287 5565

RSVP: <https://www.facebook.com/events/240714789902010/>