Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C — 11 SEPTEMBER 2022

GOSPEL

Lk 15:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who does penance.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends, and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Longer form Lk 15:1-32

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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GOD'S MERCY AND FORBEARANCE

If anything could be said to lie at the heart of the Judeo-Christian tradition, it is the message of the love, mercy and forbearance of God. Many people would falsely characterise the God of the Old Testament as a God who condemns and judges. However, the incident of the golden calf is one of several occasions in the Old Testament where God's mercy is shown to be far more powerful than any desire to condemn.

The beginning of the first letter to Timothy reflects on Paul's experience of this loving-kindness of God. It was well known that he who had persecuted the Church (Galatians 1:13; Philippians 3:6) had still been called to serve the Lord as an apostle. The core of the gospel is succinctly stated in one powerful phrase: 'that Christ came into the world to save sinners'.

This is nowhere more beautifully treated in the Gospels than in Luke 15. Faced with the opposition of the scribes and Pharisees when Jesus chooses tax collectors and sinners as companions, Jesus seeks their understanding and a softening of their critical stance by using parables that speak powerfully of God's mercy. It is not simply a matter of God being merciful since it is accompanied by a call for us to share in it by rejoicing that what was lost has now been found. In the kingdom of God sinners that repent will have a special place at the banquet table. The question remains as to whether our hearts are big enough to accept it.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord relented and did not send the evil he had threatened.

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostasised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on the people the disaster he had threatened.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19. R. Lk. 15:18

R. I will rise and go to my father.

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. O Lord, open my lips / and my mouth shall declare your praise. / My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; / a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Tim 1:12-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Christ came to save sinners.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;

and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

St Clement of Rome Church

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https://www.facebook.com/stclementsparishbulleen
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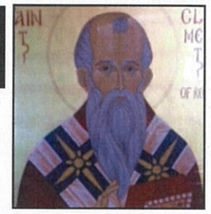


Parish Priest : Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Office 9850 3262)
Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Heenan (9850 1216)
Pastoral Associate: Franka Waters (9850 3262), **Parish Secretary:** Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262)
St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1800 305 330)

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.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II

The death of Queen Elizabeth II, after a long reign marked by extraordinary constancy, fidelity, courage and service, will bring great sadness to many people in Australia, including members of the Catholic community.
As the Queen enters into the great mystery of eternal life with the Lord, we will pray for the repose of her soul and for the support and comfort of her family, her nation and the wider community of the Commonwealth.
Queen Elizabeth was never reticent about acknowledging her Christian faith. Her annual Christmas message invariably focused on Jesus Christ as a model of humble and generous service. It was a model she strived to emulate throughout her long life. May she rest in peace.
September 9, 2022
ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY COSTELLOE SDB,
PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday

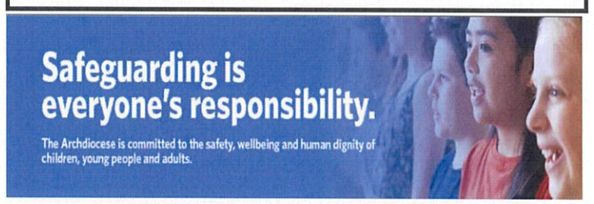
SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIAL ONLINE TRAINING MODULE FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne requires that ALL Volunteers take part on a 30 minute training module. The link **www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org** is now accessible on the Parish website. It is mandatory that you have a current working with children check with a designated email address to be able to complete the online training on an annual basis.

The purpose of this training is to provide our volunteers with foundational knowledge to:

- understand our duty of care in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults across the Archdiocese
- identify behaviour that constitutes child abuse or neglect including grooming
- understand the indicators of abuse
- Respond to and report allegations or concerns regarding abuse

Your internet browser must be up to date to access the training module. It is very important and serious for you to understand at this stage what your volunteer role is. If you are having difficulty in getting your wwcc organised and not feeling confident using technology, we can help you with the process. Please leave your details with the parish office for us to organize an assisted session.



MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS
Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (*Vigil*), Sun - 9am & 11am (*Italian*)
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

PARISH DIARY

Mon 12th Sept @ 11am—Dementia awareness in the Clifton Centre
Thurs 15th Sept @ 12.30pm—Whole School Eucharist (Grade 6)
Thurs 15th Sept @ 6pm—Baptism preparation in the Church
Thurs 15th Sept @ 7.30pm—Bible Studies in the Clifton Centre

Recent Deaths & Death Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, ***Anna Gerosolimo, Paola Bortolin, Tze-Lin LAI*** *and for the repose of the souls of* ***Renato Morfuni 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.*

PARISH VOLUNTEERS PLEASE NOTE

In the next few weeks, our Parish will be arranging volunteers to visit nursing homes in our area to provide pastoral care to the residents. We will be hosting an information session in the Clifton Centre on Monday 12th September @ 11.00am with a repeat session at the same time and place, on Wed 21st September. Topics include 'Positive Ageing' and 'Raising Dementia Awareness.' Please consider giving some time to offer warmth and friendship to the isolated elderly and also care for the carers who need our encouragement. All are welcome. Please register your interest by calling the Parish Office, 98503262.

Fr. Vito's 50th Anniversary of Ordination Fri 23rd Sept 2022.

St Clement's Parish will be celebrating Fr. Vito's 50th Anniversary of Ordination on Sun 25th Sept with concelebrated Masses at 9am & 11am. Refreshments to follow each Mass.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS - Australian Synthesis

The Australian synthesis for the global Synod of Bishops has been published. Please visit the link given below for more information : www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch.

Understanding Your Personality: Gifts Differing
Saturday 1 October 2022, 10am-3.30pm.
Our popular Myers Briggs reflection day, led by Peter Malone msc (BA(Hons), STL, DTheol (Honoris Causa)). Participants can complete the Personality Type Indicator form on the day. Held at Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern VIC. Cost $60. Book and pay via www.heartoflife.melbourne, email office@heartoflife.melbourne, or tel (03) 9890 1101.

Liturgy Roster		5.30pm	9am
10/11 September	***Sacristan***	*Elroy De Witt*	*Francis & Gloria Ng*
	Commentator	John Bruce	Rocco Gagliardi
	Reader	Linda Cultrera	Mark Gregor
	Special Ministers	Marie Klein	Maria Papalia
		Cecilia Lam	Shirley Pyndiah
		Maree Marsi	Chris Zordan
17/18 September	***Sacristan***	John Bruce	*Francis & Gloria Ng*
	Commentator	Jacinta De La Cruz	Mark Gregor
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Jan McQueen
	Special Ministers	May Teh	Grace Cannatelli
		Martin Teh	Anne Fusca
		Enza Wilcocks	Fulvia Gerasolimo

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL EUCARISTA
18/09	N. BISOGNANO E. CASTRIOTTA	FAM. B. ROMANIN	L. VETTORETTO G. VETTORETTO

After School Religious Education Program 2022

We are accepting enrolments for Confirmation. Please see the class dates below and register your interest with us.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 8th Oct	9.00-10.30am	ASRE Confirmation 1
Saturday 15th Oct	9.00-10.30am	ASRE Confirmation 2
Saturday 22nd Oct	9.00-10.30am	ASRE Confirmation 3
Saturday 29th Oct	9.00-10.30am	ASRE Confirmation 4
Saturday 5th Nov	9.00-10.30am	ASRE Confirmation 5
Saturday 12th Nov	9.00-10.30am	ASRE Confirmation 6 **INCLUDING CONFESSION @10.15am**
Saturday 19th Nov	5.30pm	**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

SCRIPTURE STUDIES 2022

Please see the details of the sessions below.

Date	Week	Session
Thurs 15 Sept	Week 1	Lesson 1—Acts 1-2
Thurs 29 Sept	Week 2	Lesson 2—Acts 3-5
Thurs 13 Oct	Week 3	Lesson 3—Acts 6-8
Thurs 27 Oct	Week 4	Lesson 4—Acts 9-12

Covid 19 update

Following the latest Liturgical guidelines, Face coverings remain optional within Places of Worship. They are strongly recommended in indoor and crowd settings during winter. There are no longer vaccination requirements for organisers to check vaccination status for attendees. It is essential to isolate for seven days following a COVID-19 diagnosis.