

pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 AUGUST 2017

WINDS AND SEA

The Israelites called their powerful neighbours – the Philistines – 'sea people' because they were descendants of invaders who entered the land via the Mediterranean Sea. They lived along the coastlines. North of Israel lived the Phoenicians who were active sea traders.

In contrast, the people of Israel were not seagoing. They had a fear of the sea, and saw it as a monster restrained by Yahweh (*Job* 38: 8-11). The only big body of water in Israel is the Sea of Galilee around which Jesus went as an itinerant preacher. His first and closest disciples were fishermen.

Storms can suddenly come over the Sea of Galilee: waters that are calm can turn violent in seconds. In today's Gospel the boat boarded by Jesus' disciples is being tossed ferociously by the waves and strong wind. Even though the disciples are sturdy fishermen and used to the ways of the water, they fear for their lives. They become even more terrified when they see Jesus whom they mistake for a 'ghost' or a water spirit. People in Jesus' time believed in spirits, including wind and water spirits that wreaked havoc on human lives.

Matthew's Christian readers probably saw the boat as a symbol of their community. They are being threatened by trial and persecution – from both Jews and Gentiles – on account of their faith. The incident of the storm mirrors the doubt of the community which is represented especially by Peter. But it also shows the power of Jesus who comes to save. Thus the story is a summons to renew their faith, a faith focused on the Lord's power and expressed in the cry, 'Lord, save me'.

FIRST READING

I Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**
3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in



union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to

Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP



St Clement of Rome Church

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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)

ST CLEMENT OF ROME, BULLEEN PARISHIONERS OPPOSING ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA

This weekend we (all St Clement of Rome Parishioners) are being asked to embark on a letter writing campaign to our local members asking them not to vote for the Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia Bill.

What We Want You to do:

We are asking you to take this sheet home, write six letters to our local politicians and bring the letters back in addressed envelopes to the Church next week-end. The letters will be taken to the Melbourne Archdiocese's Life, Marriage and Family Office to be delivered to the Members' Post Boxes at Parliament House after the Assisted Dying Euthanasia Bill has been tabled in Parliament.

Letters are to be written to each of our five Legislative Council Members and Matthew Guy our Legislative Assembly Representative. You can compose your own letters or base them on the sample letters on the back of this instruction sheet. The letters do not have to be lengthy.

It is important that you clearly state that the purpose of your letter is ask the Member to vote against the proposed Assisted Dying/Euthanasia Bill.

Once you have composed one letter the same words can be used in the other letters.

Place your letters into an addressed envelope. The addresses of the local members are detailed below. You do not have to put a stamp on the envelope.

Bring the letters you have written in sealed envelopes with you to Church next week-end (Saturday, 19 and Sunday, 20 August) and put them in the box in the Church entry marked with the Member's name.

MEMBERS ADDRESSES :

The Hon Matthew Guy Member for Bulleen Electoral Office, Shop 30D, 101 Manningham Road, Bulleen Vic 3105	The Hon Bruce Atkinson Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region Electoral Office, R19 B, West 5 Car Park, Eastland Shopping Centre, 171-175 Maroondah Hwy Ringwood VIC 3134
The Hon Richard Dalla-Riva Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region Electoral Office, Shop 10, 477 Burwood Highway Vermont South VIC 3133	Ms Samantha Dunn Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region Electoral Office, 128 Ayr Street Doncaster VIC 3108
Mr Shaun Leane Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region Electoral Office, Suite 3, Level 2, 420 Burwood Highway Wantirna VIC 3152	Hon Mary Wooldridge Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region Electoral Office, Suite 1, 10-12 Blackburn Road Blackburn VIC 3130



MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)
Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request), Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.
Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Sat 9:15am. Eucharistic Adoration: Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)

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

Recently Deceased : Giocondo Cotognini, Robert Macri, Giuseppe Paolilli
Death Anniversaries : Maria & Domenico Paolilli, Gianni Maini, Mark Didomenicantonio,
Amato Annarucci, Zita Tieppo, Mary Zotti, Irene Lecordier, Luke & Evelina Ithier, Germaine Curin,
Marie Hooper, William Belleville, Yves Ferriere, Aniceta Villafane, Ignacio Navarro
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Tue 15th Aug @ 9.15am—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Grade 4)Mass
Tue 15th Aug @ 4.30pm—Eucharist Classes in the Clifton Centre
Thurs 17th Aug @ 7pm—Baptism Preparation in the Parish Office
Fri 18th Aug @ 6pm—Youth Gathering in the Clifton Centre

SAMPLE LETTERS :

Dear RE Bill to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia I write to ask that you not support the legislation to make physician assisted suicide and euthanasia legal in Victoria. Once we accept that there are people who fit a category that makes them eligible for suicide, pressure is placed on other people in similar circumstances. People with disabilities, who know they are a burden to others and often face significant challenges already, may feel they should "do the right thing" and ask to be killed. People in pain should receive all the support we can give them. But this law will make it harder for many others who are already living with the burden of a disability. We should not make it harder. Please vote against the Bill. Yours sincerely	Dear RE Bill to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia I write to express my concern with the Government's proposal to introduce assisted suicide and euthanasia. It seems to me impossible that this law will not result in innocent people being killed. Even with the best intentions, mistakes happen. To think that introducing killing into medical practice will not involve mistakes is unrealistic and naive. It is that we stopped using the death penalty in Victoria. Because of human error, mistakes can be made that have tragically irreversible consequences. It is not fair that providing some people a choice to end their life must come at the cost of the lives of others who die because of the mistakes that are impossible to rule out. It's just too dangerous. I ask that you not support this law. Kind regards,
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Youth Group News!!!
Our next youth gathering here at St Clement of Rome will be held on Friday 18th August from 6.00pm—8.30pm in the Clifton Centre. All youth from grade 5 and up are all welcome to attend. Please register by Tuesday 15th August to secure your place. Email : lindacultrera@gmail.com or Mobile: 0412 411 731.
Looking forward to catching up with everyone.
Firm Foundation Youth Group Team

- Points you can make if drafting your own letters:**
- No matter what you call euthanasia it is homicide or murder. And assisted suicide is someone helping someone else to kill themselves.
 - Killing people as a response to suffering cannot be entertained in a civilised society — medicine and science has progressed so that no one must live in pain.
 - Palliative care must be made society's priority and the priority of government so that everyone can die with real dignity.
 - Caring should never involve the deliberate ending of a life.
 - The law as it stands protects all Victorians. Euthanasia and assisted suicide means that some will be protected more than others and that some people may be deemed 'better off dead'!
 - No matter what so-called 'safeguards' are included in the legislation, euthanasia & assisted suicide will never be safe — there is no safe way to prematurely end a life!

Again, thank you so much for exercising your right to make your views known!

If you need more information or have any questions please contact John Bruce —
Mobile: 0408 995 040; or Email: john.bruce@aanet.com.au
.. or Monsignor Franco Cavarra, Parish Priest
St Clement of Rome
Tel—9850 3262

CatholicCare Sunday Appeal

This Weekend is the CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help CatholicCare to support the most vulnerable people in our community. If you have forgotten to bring your donation with you, please take an envelope home and return it directly to CatholicCare.

Mario and Angela's Cafe will now be scheduled fortnightly from now on. The next Sunday for cake and coffee will be 20 August 2017 after the 9.00am Mass.

Thursday Roster	Sat 5:30pm	Sun 9am
12/13 August	Sacristan Eloy De Wit	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR May Teh	Mark Gregor
	Reader John Bruce	Christine Landsberg
	Special Ministers Martin Teh	Rita Gagliardi
		Reg Lecordier
		Maree Marsi
		Fulvia Gerasolmo
		Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti
		Sylvia mascitti
		David Mitchell
		Pam Mitchell

