

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 4:21-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus, like Elijah and Elisha, was not sent only to the Jews.

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside." ' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these were cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Reflections on the Gospel

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

03 FEBRUARY 2019

THE CHALLENGE OF CONVERSION

Today's Gospel gives us the second act, so to speak, of Jesus' visit to his hometown, Nazareth.

At first, the reaction of his townsfolk is favourable. They are 'astonished at the gracious words that came from his lips'. But their comment, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?', disturbs him. It shows misunderstanding of his status and mission. He begins to challenge them, citing biblical precedents (the prophetic careers of Elijah and Elisha) for a wide-ranging mission. The scene turns ugly and ends with an unsuccessful attempt to lynch him. Why does it all so suddenly go wrong?

As a gospel writer Luke is very concerned to depict human response to the message of Jesus and to probe the reasons that led so many to reject it. The message requires conversion at depth. When the Nazarenes say, 'Isn't this Joseph's son?', they are simply putting Jesus back in a box with which they are comfortable and keeping him for themselves. They show no real sense of who he really is (*God's Son*) or any grasp of the inclusive scope of the program he has announced. The reason Jesus responds so aggressively is to bring their deepest thoughts to the surface and make them confront their narrowness.

The Gospel illustrates the potential for violence that lies in every human heart when the limits of comfort and convention are challenged. The threat to his life that Jesus experiences in Nazareth will become an actuality later in Jerusalem. But there too, in resurrection and ascension, he will 'pass through the midst and go on his way'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action.

Stand up and tell them
all I command you.

Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.

I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze

to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.

They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you –
it is the Lord who speaks.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17. R. v. 15

R. I will sing of your salvation.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge; / let me never be put to shame. / In your justice rescue me, free me: / pay heed to me and save me. **R.**

2. Be a rock where I can take refuge, / a mighty stronghold to save me; / for you are my rock, my stronghold. / Free me from the hand of the wicked. **R.**

3. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, / my trust, O Lord, since my youth. / On you I have leaned from my birth, / from my mother's womb you have been my help. **R.**

4. My lips will tell of your justice / and day by day of your help. / O God, you have taught me from my youth / and I proclaim your wonders still. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 13:4-13.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

There are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Love is always patient and kind: it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Longer form, 1 Cor 12:31–13:13

St Clement of Rome Church

Address: Egan Drive, Bulleen 3105 - **Phone:** 9850 3262, **Fax:** 9850 2550
Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, **Web:** www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au
Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9.00am-4.30pm & Fri 9:00am-2:00pm



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)**

Vocations

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia? As we continue in this time of preparation for the Plenary Council 2020, we reflect on the moving of the Spirit in the life of our world, our Church and each other. As we do so, let us also reflect on the movement of the Spirit in the lives of our young people in our parish. Maybe the Lord is calling them to serve in consecrated life or priesthood? Pray for them each day; support them, encourage them.

Lunar New Year Celebrations

Join us on 17th Feb to celebrate the Lunar New Year at the Clifton Centre from 10am—12.30pm. Come to meet and greet over tea/coffee and some Lunar New Year snacks. All are welcome and more details next week.

After School Sacramental Program 2019

Please register your interest for 2019. The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$200 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office.

Confirmation classes commence on Tue 12th Feb 2019 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

Last enrolment date : 5th Feb 2019
 Family faith night on Tue 5th Mar at 7.30pm
 Commissioning Mass on Sat 9th Mar at 5.30pm
Sacrament of Confirmation on Fri 3rd May 2019 at 7pm

Reconciliation classes commence on Tue 21st May 2019 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

Last enrolment date : 14th May 2019
 Commissioning Mass on Sat 1st June at 5.30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sat 27th July at 10.30am

Eucharist classes commence on Tue 6th Aug 2019 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

Last enrolment date : 30th July 2019
 Commissioning Mass on Sat 10th Aug at 5.30pm
Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sat 26th Oct at 5.30pm

All classes : 4.30pm—5.30pm in the Parish Office.

Plenary 2020/ Plenaria 2020

A whole Parish dialogue on the questions of the Plenary is scheduled for Wednesday 27 February at 7.30 pm in the Clifton Centre. All Parishioners are invited to come for this important session so together as an Australian Church we can be more fully God's people engaged in understanding God's desire for us.

È previsto un intero dialogo parrocchiale sulle domande della Plenaria

Tutti i parrocchiani sono invitati a venire per questa importante sessione così insieme come una Chiesa australiana possiamo essere più pienamente le persone di Dio impegnate a comprendere il desiderio di Dio per noi.

Per favore, prendi un articolo di p. Noel Connolly ssc, dal titolo "The Kingdom Within".

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 : Raffaele Graziano (Father of Max Graziano)

Death Anniversaries : Pina Lucatello, Michelina Sirianni, Stefan Minutoli, Vincenzo Persico

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Thur 7th Feb @ 7.00pm—Baptism Preparation in the Parish Office
 Sat 9th Feb @ 5.30pm—Baptism Welcoming
 Sun 10th Feb @ 10am—Mario & Angela's Café in the Clifton Centre
 Tue 12th Feb @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes commence
 Tue 12th Feb @ 7.30pm—Reconciliation Family Faith Night (School)
 Wed 13th Feb @ 7.30pm—Parish Pastoral Council Meeting in the P. Office

Mario & Angela's Café

Resumes next Sunday in the Clifton Centre After the 9am Mass. Please join us for a cuppa.



RCIA:

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do as Catholics? Or What it means to be Catholic? Have you questions about the sacraments, faith or prayer? Have you wondered about the place of suffering, conscience and the practice of faith? If you have these or other questions, then do come along to The Parish RCIA Evenings. Contact: Martin Teh (5.30pm Mass) or Gabriella Grande (9.00am Mass). Look out for the 2019 program.

Scripture Studies :

We will be starting on Thursday 7th March and studying St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Meetings will be held every Thursday throughout Lent at 7.30pm in the School Library. Contact: Mark Gregor, Sue de Bortoli (9.00am Mass) Martin Teh (5.00pm Mass)

Volunteer Projectionists

We are in urgent need of volunteers to help out with the projectors at Mass. An instruction workshop will be held on Sat 23rd Feb at 9.45am after 9.15am Mass. All are welcome.

Parish Secretary: St Gregory the Great, Doncaster is advertising for a secretary one day per week (Fridays). See CAM website for details: <https://www.cam.org.au/Job>

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, REFLECTION AND ACTION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thursday 7 February, 6.30–8.30pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne

On the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita of Sudan, the Church marks the International Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking. Last year, the Victoria-Tasmania Catholic Anti-Slavery Working Group was created with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) and the dioceses of Victoria and Tasmania. Its goal is to finally end the scourge of modern-day slavery in our communities. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, the South Sudanese Catholic Community and the broader community will mark this important day with Holy Hour at 6.30pm followed by the Vigil Mass of St Josephine Bakhita at 7.30pm.

Enquiries: justice@cam.org.au

THE LENTEN JESUS, DISCERNING THE WAY

On the first Sunday of Lent we meet Jesus in the wilderness and we are offered the opportunity to join with him on a Lenten pilgrimage. This journey is one of discernment, a time to reorient and recommit ourselves to listening to the call of God in our lives.

Annual Lent/Easter planning day entitled "The Lenten Jesus: Discerning the Way" which will take place on Saturday 16 February, 10am - 3.30pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. Details regarding keynote addresses, workshops and booking information can be found via: <https://www.trybooking.com/ZVXG>

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
2 / 3 February	<i>Sacristan</i> COMMENTATOR	<i>Sacristan</i> COMMENTATOR
	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	Rene De La Cruz	Mark Gregor
	Paul Sammut	Christine Landsberg
	Linda Cultrera	Trish Atherton
	Rene De La Cruz	Grace Canatelli
	Elroy De Witt	Anne Fusca
		Rita Gagliardi
		Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti

9/10 February	<i>Sacristan</i> COMMENTATOR	<i>Sacristan</i> COMMENTATOR
	Elroy	Francis & Gloria Ng
	Linda Cultrera	Christine Landsberg
	Jacinta De La Cruz	Tim Landsberg
	Corinne Goh	Pam Mitchell
	Jaqueline Kha	David Mitchell
	Cecilia Lam	Gloria Ng
		Maria Papalia
		Elsa Waters
		Chris Zordan
		Trish Atherton

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL'EUCHARISTA
10/02	P. LOMBARDO I. ROMANIN	FAM. E. CASTRIOTTA	L. VETTORETTO G. VETTORETTO C. TRAVAGLINI

CATHOLIC MISSION ST VALENTINE'S DAY HIGH TEA

Thursday 14 February, 3.30–5pm

Park Hyatt Melbourne, 1 Parliament Square, Melbourne

This wonderful event is about the spirit of love, laughter and giving as we join together to raise funds to alleviate the suffering of children in Ghana with disabilities. Catholic Mission is working at the local level to change attitudes to children born with special needs and to provide livelihood options into the future. **Cost:** \$35 (we are grateful to the Park Hyatt for only charging cost price to Catholic Mission). Please bring \$10 cash (or more!) for a raffle ticket (great prizes to be won).

Enquiries: Lorraine Valledares on 9412 8412 or lorraine.valledares@cam.org.au

Bookings: by Tuesday 5 February at www.trybooking.com/ZIFN