

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 12:38-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

This poor widow has put in more than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

11 NOVEMBER 2018

TRUST OR EXPLOITATION?

Jesus' comment upon the action of the widow in today's Gospel can be understood in two ways. We can see him pointing to the widow's action as an extreme example of generosity and trust in God. It is not the amount contributed that counts before God but the trust and self-giving it represents. While some give just what they have left over after making good allowance for their comfort, the widow gives everything. She becomes an example of faith to admire and possibly to emulate, according to our circumstance and calling.

The alternative is to see Jesus *deploring* rather than commending what is happening here. In the preceding scene Jesus has denounced the scribes for taking the places of honour at banquets (where they will be well fed), while 'swallowing the property of widows'. In the scene immediately following he foretells the destruction of the Temple to whose treasury the widow has contributed. This wider context suggests that Jesus interprets the widow's act as an instance where religious law, as interpreted by the scribes, induces 'little ones', such as her, to contribute to the treasury far more than they can afford. The scene then becomes a warning against the way in which religion, falsely interpreted and promoted, can oppress rather than liberate the poor and vulnerable, for whose cause and whose life Christ shed his blood on the cross.

We do not necessarily have to choose between these two interpretations; both are valid and valuable. We can admire the widow's generosity and faith while remaining critical of the abuse of religion that drove her to it.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

1 Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the first book of the Kings
The widow made a little scone from her flour and brought it to Elijah.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth." '

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R. v. 2

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down. / It is the Lord who loves the just, / the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R.**



3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

■ The word of the Lord.

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: 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)

ST CLEMENT OF ROME PARISH, BULLEEN WELCOMES YOU TO A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

PRESEPIO MUSICALE

WITH MARCO CINQUE, CARMELA DE LOSINNO &
 ANGELO FALCONE

The Banda Musicale Vincenzo Bellini,
 Conductor M. Giuliano Di Lenno

Coro Gruppo Culturale Italiano
 —Daniela Sartor—Alessia Licitra

MC and Compare Cav. Frank Di Blasi, OAM

Friday December 7
 6.45pm at St Clement of Rome Church,
 Egan Drive Bulleen.

Entrance donation \$20.00 per person.

For bookings contact Giorgio Baglieri 0411 662 932 or
 St Clement's Parish Office 9850 3262

November Masses

Envelopes for November Masses are available in the Foyer. We will remember all the dearly departed over this month. Please continue to write the names at Mass and put them on the wooden cross.

Special Collection—this weekend

Catholic Deaf collection will be held over all the Masses this weekend. Appreciate your contribution.

Parish Pastoral Council (Parish Leadership Team)

After a lapse of seven years, and after much prayer, consultation and discernment, Mgr. Franco has re-convened the Parish Pastoral Council. Several parishioners have been nominated. The lay-led team has been given the charge of looking after the overall needs of the Parish in four major areas:

Worship and Liturgy
 Mission and Identity
 Social Justice and Outreach
 Education/Formation.

The members are in the process of deep formation and discernment themselves. The final team with the office bearers will be announced shortly after the next meeting.



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 : Clement Noirette, Elvira Fidorilli (Italy)

Death Anniversaries : Roberto Notari, Silvano Notari, Mario Notari, Renata Notari, Francesco Notari, Nicola Nicolazzo, Nazzareno Mascitti, Eraldo Erle, Luigi, Graziella & Santino Alleruzzo, Domenico & Maria Paolilli, Giuseppe & Daniele Paolilli, Angelo De Losa, Maria De Losa, Antonio Pignataro, Matteo Battista, Patrick Belleville, Michele Castriotta, Michele Soccio, Maria Soccio, Angelo Soccio, Anna & Raffaele Soccio, Piero Poli
 Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Sun 11th Nov @ 10am—Mario & Angela's Café
 Thurs 15th Nov @ 7pm—Baptism Preparation in the P. Office
 Sat 17th Nov @ 5.30pm—Baptism Welcoming
 Sun 18th Nov @ 10am—SVDP Meeting in the Clifton Centre
 Fri 23rd Nov @ 9.15am—St Clement's Feast Day School Mass (Grade 6)

Please note, Cecilia will be on study leave from 1/11/18—28/02/19. In her absence, please contact Franka Waters On Tue & Fri from 9am—2pm for pastoral matters.

Plenary 2020/ Plenaria 2020

Thank you to those who have responded and begun to write their responses in the book in the foyer. Please keep listening, thinking, praying and giving your thoughts to this personal invitation to the question: What do you think God is asking of us at this time in Australia?

More Plenary Prayer cards are available in the foyer.

Grazie a coloro che hanno risposto e hanno iniziato a scrivere le loro risposte nel libro nel foyer. Per favore continua ad ascoltare, pensare, pregare e dare i tuoi pensieri a questo invito personale alla domanda: cosa pensi che Dio ci stia chiedendo in questo momento in Australia?

Altre carte Plenary Prayer sono disponibili nell'atrio.

Please look at some of the responses we have had so far and add your thoughts in the book in the foyer.

Si prega di guardare alcune delle risposte che abbiamo avuto finora e aggiungere i tuoi pensieri nel libro nel foyer.

Scripture Studies

Our Parish Advent Scripture Studies are scheduled for:
 29 November
 6 December
 13 December
 20 December
 All sessions will begin from 7.30pm.
 Our Theme: Art as the carrier of the Word

Southern Stars Social Club party night

For single Catholics 28 to 60 age group. Sat 17th Nov at 8pm. Location : Benedict House at St Benedict's Parish 301 Warrigal Road, Burwood. Cost \$13.00. Enquiries : Peter 9885 2167.

2018 Rerum Novarum Oration

Widening the Door of Hope (A response to the Victorian Assisted Dying Legislation
 Tue 20th November 2018
 At 7.00pm (with light refreshments)
 Location : Mercy Theatre, Australian Catholic University
 115 Victoria Parade Fitzroy
 RSVP/Inquiries : justice@cam.org.au or 9926 5727.

Lourdes Day Mass 2018

Will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sat 1st December 2018 at 10.30am. This is an occasion to come together in prayer with those who are sick, infirm or elderly, and their carers. As many are unlikely to ever visit Lourdes, in a sense, it's like Lourdes coming to them.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
10/11 November	Sacristan Rita Gagliardi	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR Rene De La Cruz	Jim Cowhey
	Reader Paul Sammut	Sylvie Duff
	Special Ministers Linda Cultrera	Eleanora Mascitti
	Rene De La Cruz	David Mitchell
	Corinne Goh	Pam Mitchell
		Gloria Ng
		Maria Papalia
		Elsa Waters
		Chris Zordan
17/18 November	Sacristan John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR Paul Sammut	Tim Landsberg
	Reader May Teh	Rocco Gagliardi
	Special Ministers Jaqueline Kha	Trish Atherton
	Cecilia Lam	Grace Canatelli
	Reg Lecordier	Anne Fusca
		Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti
		David Mitchell
		Pam Mitchell

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL'EUCHARISTA
18/11	N. BISOGNANO E. CASTRIOTTA	FAM. I. CICIRIELLO	G. BAGLIERI C. TRAVAGLINI G. FARFAGLIA

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
 Last enrolment date : 5th Feb 2019

Reconciliation classes commence on Tue 21st May 2019
 Last enrolment date : 14th May 2019

Eucharist classes commence on Tue 6th Aug 2019
 Last enrolment date : 30th July 2019
 All classes : 4.30pm—5.30pm in the Parish Office.