

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT/A

27 NOVEMBER 2016

THE PASSING AWAY OF THE OLD, THE 'BUDDING' OF THE NEW

The First Sunday of Advent focuses on the *eschaton*, on the last realities: death, afterlife, judgement, reward and punishment. Everything in the present order of this world will pass away. But God will establish something new and definite. The *eschaton* will involve cosmic change, when the 'old heaven' will be taken away and replaced with a new one.

Advent means 'coming' and this season reminds us of the 'already' and the 'not yet.' Jesus, the Messiah, has 'already' come in his incarnation, characterised by Christmas; it recalls the event of Jesus' historical coming among us. But on this first Sunday, we take one more look at the 'not yet' which will happen at the *Parousia*.

Jesus will come again to gather everything under his dominion and present it to the heavenly Father. While waiting for that blessed time of the Lord's return, we have to keep awake and attend to our duties as responsible servants. Times will continue to be trying, but we are strengthened by our blessed hope and our conviction that the Messiah has come and will come again in glory. That is why the Gospel reading tells us to be on the alert.

The Bible tells us that there will be 'signs of the end' – like the catastrophe of the Flood in Noah's time. These symbolise the 'disappearance' of the old order. But this is not disappearance to nothingness; rather, the old gives way to the new. And the coming of the new – as we observe in nature – is shown in the 'budding' of the fig tree which presages summer, the of time flowering and harvest (Mt 24:32-33).

FIRST READING

Isa 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it;
and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into
ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v. 1

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / Let us go to God's house. / And now our feet are standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**



2. It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes of the Lord. / For Israel's law it is, / there to praise the Lord's name. / There were set the thrones of judgement / of the house of David. **R.**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: / Peace be to your homes! / May peace reign in your walls, / in your palaces, peace! **R.**

4. For love of my brethren and friends / I say: 'Peace upon you!' / For love of the house of the Lord / I will ask for your good. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

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Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

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), **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 (1300 305 330)

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Advent means 'Coming'
 And it lasts for four weeks from
 the first Sunday of Advent
 until Christmas day

Advent is a time of prayer and
 preparation for the Feast of
 Christmas



Congratulations
 & Welcome
 to God's Family
 at St. Clement's Parish
Xavier Tan
Milano Virgona
 baptised this weekend.

Thanksgiving Envelopes : Please collect your envelopes for the
 period 4/12/2016—28/05/2017 available in the Foyer.
 Thank you.

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will take place next
 weekend. Appreciate your generosity.**

International Volunteer's Day: 4 December. We wish to
 acknowledge the work and service of all our volunteers over the
 year at St. Clement of Rome. There will be a barbeque for all
 who have generously given of their time and talent over the
 year, formally and informally. Please fill out an RSVP and place
 it in the box over the next few weeks so we have an indication
 of numbers. We will provide the meat, but will welcome some
 salads or sweets. We need volunteers to cook as well.
 Time: 12.30pm. Contact: John Bruce
 @john.bruce@aanet.com.au or Cecilia.Tan@cam.org.au if you
 would like to help out in this event.

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.

Christmas Mass Time Table - 2016

Friday 16th December
 7.30pm Parish Reconciliation Service

Saturday 24th December
 5.30pm Family Mass, 8.00pm Italian Vigil,
 10.00pm Maronite Vigil, 11.30pm Carols &
 12.00 Midnight Mass

Sunday 25th December
 9.00am Mass, 11.00am Mass in Italian
 6.00pm Maronite Mass



Sacramental Program 2017

We are taking enrolments for 2017. The schedule is as follows:

RECONCILIATION: TERM 1

Last Date for enrolment: 30 January 2017
 Classes commence: Tuesday, 31 January 2017 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in
 the Clifton Centre.
 Parents' Information Session: Tuesday 7 February 2017 @ 7.30pm
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday 11 February 2017 @ 5.30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 1 April 2017 @ 9.00am

CONFIRMATION: TERM 2

Last Date for enrolment: 1 April 2017
 Classes commence: Tuesday, 18 April 2017 @ 4.30pm -5.30pm in the
 Clifton Centre
 Parents' Information Session: Tuesday 18 April 2017 @ 7.30pm
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday 22 April 2017
 Confirmation: 6 August, 2017 @ 2.30pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral

FIRST EUCHARIST: TERM 3

Last Date for enrolment: 1 July 2017
 Classes commence: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the
 Clifton Centre
 Parents' Information Evening: Tuesday 18 July 2017 @ 7.30pm
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday, 22 July @ 5.30pm
 Reconciliation before First Communion: Saturday 23 September 2017
 @ 10.00am
 First Communion for After School RE children: Saturday 23 September
 2017 @ 5.30pm

The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$150 per
 sacrament per child. 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.

PARISH DIARY

Fri 2nd Dec @ 9.15am—Advent 2—Whole School (Grade 2 & 5) Mass
 Sat 3rd Dec @ 10am—Hope Ministry in the Parish Office
 Tue 6th Dec @ 7pm—Baptism Preparation in the Parish Office
 Wed 7th Dec @ 9.15am—Advent 3—year 4 & 1 Mass
 Wed 7th Dec @ 6.30pm—Grade 6 Graduation Mass
 Thurs 8th Dec @ 7pm—Advent Session 2 in the Clifton Centre

FCI Events

Domenica 11 dicembre invece ci sara' una domenica
 pre-natalizia con il film: *Maria di Nazaret*. Anche in quella data ci
 sara' il pranzo. Faremo la pasta all'amatriciana e tutto il resto, con
 offerta libera.

Sara' un'ottima occasione per stare insieme e
 incominciare a festeggiare il S. Natale che ormai sara' alle porte.
 Vi aspettiamo numerosi.
 Prenotatevi!



Everyone Welcome! YARRA DEANERY ADVENT REFLECTION



MATTHEW: The Prophecy Fulfilled
 Second Session on the Advent Sunday Readings.
 Thursday 8 December 2016 (Advent 3 & 4)
 Time: 7.00PM -9.00PM
 The Clifton Centre, St. Clement of Rome Parish,
 Egan Drive, Bulleen
 Presenter: Fr. Chris Monaghan, cp.
 Contact: Cecilia Tan (Pastoral Associate) @
 Cecilia.Tan@cam.org.au or Mark Gregor
 (Convenor) @ mgregor@bigpond.net.au

YOUTH EVENT: St. Clement of Rome will be having an
 inaugural event for all the young people of the Parish. It will
 be a night with Pizza and games in a healthy, happy and safe
 environment. Parents do encourage your children to
 attend. Please pick up an invitation letter. All young people
 under 18 must have a signed permission slip to attend the
 event. Date: **Friday 2 December 2016** Time: **6.00pm to
 8.30pm** Place: **Clifton Centre** Youth Convenors: Linda
 Cultrera lindacultrera@gmail.com and Alex Notari
 anotari1@bigpond.com
 Parish Contact: Cecilia.Tan@cam.org.au

Important Information—Parish Office hours from 14th
 November until Christmas will be only on Tue & Thurs 1pm—
 6pm and Fridays 9am—5pm. Please leave emergency
 messages on 9850 3262 (Parish Office) or 9850 6073
 (Presbytery). Thank you.

Mario & Angela's Café - This Sunday— You are all invited to
 come for morning tea after the 9am Mass in the Clifton
 Centre. Thank you.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am	
26/27 November	Sacristan <i>COMMENTATOR</i>	Rita Gagliardi John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng David Mitchell
1 st Sunday of Advent	Reader Special Ministers	Rocco Gagliardi Linda Cultrera Corinne Goh Cecilia Lam	Maria Papalia David Mitchell Pam Mitchell Gloria Ng Elsa Waters Chris Zordan Trish Atherton Anne Fusca
3 /4 December	Sacristan <i>COMMENTATOR</i>	John Bruce May Teh	Francis & Gloria Ng Maria Papalia
2 nd Sunday of Advent	Reader Special Ministers	Paul Sammut Reg Lecordier Maree Marsi Martin Teh	Yamna Taouk Gabriella Grande Eleanora Mascitti Sylvia Mascitti David Mitchell Pam Mitchell Gloria Ng Maria Papalia