

this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.” ’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel

CELEBRATING THE MERCY OF GOD

Jesus tells the parable of the Lost Son as a defence against criticism of the welcome he gives ‘tax collectors (social outcasts) and sinners’ and his ‘eating with them’ — that is, his festive celebration with them of the mercy of God.

The parable powerfully depicts the dehumanisation of a young man who had callously requested his inheritance from his father and who subsequently squanders it. Reduced to wanting to eat what pigs eat – what could be worse for a Jew? – the young man ‘comes to his senses’. This may be a painful moment of growth in self-knowledge. It does not, however, represent much of a conversion: he remains calculating: ‘I can’t go back as a son. But at least if I get in as a servant, I’ll be clothed and fed’.

On his return, his father does not let him finish his prepared speech about coming back as a servant. Instead, overcome with compassion, he welcomes the boy and orders a big family celebration. Why? Because the son who was dead has come back to life; the lost one has been found.

The hostile reaction of the older brother is a key focus and challenge of the parable. We never in fact learn whether he goes in and shares in the music and dancing or whether he remains outside, locked in anger and resentment.

The parable seems to describe two kinds of sinfulness — and to suggest that one is much easier for God to deal with than the other? Is there perhaps a bit of both kinds in me?

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

31 MARCH 2019

FIRST READING

Josh 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 33:2-7. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**
2. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**
3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Cor 5:17-21

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

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name



is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

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:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave



St Clement of Rome Church

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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)

Fourth Sunday of



Stations of the Cross

During Lent, every Tue at 8.45am in Italian and Friday at 10am.
All welcome to attend.



Scripture Group—Lenten Program Year C

Our weekly reflection will take place in the School Library beginning at 7.30pm.

Date	Week	Theme
Thursday 4 April	Week 5	Free to love

In preparation for Holy Week members of the scripture group are car-pooling to attend a Lenten Reflection: "Why are you sleeping?"
The Passion Narrative in the Gospel of Luke
Presenter: Fr. Chris Monaghan cp.
The Pauline Books and Media (Denmark Hill Road, Camberwell):
11 April 2019 on @ 7.00pm.
If you wish to attend, please RSVP
Sr Joanna: melbourne@paulinebooks.com.au
If you wish to be part of the carpool from the Parish, please email Cecilia.tan@gmail.com We will leave at 6.45pm from the Parish.

Rosters for Holy Week

Rosters for Holy Week are available on the table in the Foyer for collection. All volunteers and sacristans are asked to check availability and advise the Parish Office of any changes.

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER

Wednesday 10th April : 7.30pm

PALM SUNDAY – 13th & 14th APRIL

Saturday 13th April : 5.30pm
Sunday 14th April : 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite)

HOLY THURSDAY – 18th APRIL

Mass of the Lord's Supper : 7.30pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight (Clifton Centre)
Personal Reconciliation : 9.00pm (Clifton Centre)
Remembrance of the Last Supper & Washing of the Feet (Maronite) : 9.30pm
Tenebrae Service of Shadows : 10.30pm (Clifton Centre)

GOOD FRIDAY – 19th APRIL

Stations of the Cross : 9.00am
Via Crucis (Italian) : 10.30am
Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus : 12.30pm (Maronite)
Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord : 3.00pm

EASTER VIGIL – 20th APRIL

Mass in English : 5.30pm
Mass in Italian : 8.30pm
Maronite Mass : 10.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 21st APRIL

Mass in English : 9.00am
Mass in Italian : 11.00am
Maronite Mass : 6.00pm

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 : John Di Natale, Fernando Mascitti

Death Anniversaries : Mario De Vecchi, Linda Stocco, Daniele Schieven, Gianni Cecchin, Italia Soligo, Iles Libralon, Antonio Ormando

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Tue 2nd Apr @ 8.45am—Stations of the Cross in Italian
Tue 2nd Apr @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Parish Office
Thurs 4th Apr @ 7.30pm—Scripture Studies in the School Library
Fri 5th Apr @ 9.15am—End of term, whole School Mass
Fri 5th Apr @ 10am—Stations of the Cross
Tue 9th Apr @ 8.45am—Stations of the Cross in Italian
Wed 10th Apr @ 7.30pm—Parish Reconciliation Service
Wed 10th Apr @ 7.30pm—FCI Meeting in the Parish Office

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

The Parish is exploring the possibility of hiring a Pastoral Assistant for 8 hours (one day a week). Ideally, the successful candidate will be one who belongs and is committed to the Parish of St. Clement of Rome, its vision and mission.

Specific tasks would be:

Coordinating and implementing the Parish Sacramental Program including the preparation of families for Baptism
Preparing and coordinating the weekly Masses and other liturgical celebrations.
Liaising with St. Clement's Primary School regarding the Sacraments of children and various school Masses.

Other tasks:

Provide administrative support to the Parish Priest, Pastoral Associate and the community as and when needed.

Key Selection Criteria:

A committed and involved member of the Parish of St. Clement of Rome;
Good communication and IT skills with proficiency in PowerPoint, Office and Word;
Good understanding of the Sacraments and Liturgy;
Creative, willing and eager to engage in personal and professional development in faith, ministry and mission.

Suggested start date: Friday, 26 April 2019.

Contact Fr. Franco for an informal conversation if you are interested in the role.

Plenary 2020/ Plenaria 2020

The Parish Plenary 2020 submission is available on the parish website. Hardcopies are available in the foyer. In response to Plenary 2020, the Parish Pastoral Council Team is taking on the role of continuing the dialogue and acting on the responses for the well-being of our community. We ask all parishioners to make themselves aware of the next stages of the Plenary Council and to support the different initiatives arising from our submission.

TEMPORARY FENCING ON GROUNDS

With the encouraging increasing enrolments at our Primary School, works have now commenced to beautify and landscape the areas on both sides of the Church as a memorial garden and a peace garden of prayer and to provide a much needed safer playing area for the children, behind the Church.

During school hours, playing areas and gates will be kept securely closed to assure ongoing safety for our children at all times.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and patience while the works are carried out.

Meditation on Jesus

Guided meditation classes will be freely offered to parishioners, provided sufficient numbers and times can be established. Please contact the Parish Office if interested. A brief explanation on the benefits of meditation will be given to who may be interested. Flyers with more information in the Foyer.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
30/31 March	Sacristan John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
4 th Sunday in Lent	COMMENTATOR Jacinta De La Cruz	Rocco Gagliardi
	Reader Rene De La Cruz	Mark Gregor
	Special Ministers Warwick Wright	Maria Papalia
	John Bruce	Elsa Waters
	Linda Cultrera	Chris Zordan
		Trish Atherton
		Anne Fusca
		Rita Gagliardi
		Gabriella Grande

6/7 April	Sacristan Elroy	Francis & Gloria Ng
5 th Sunday of Lent	COMMENTATOR Rene De La Cruz	David Mitchell
	Reader Paul Sammut	Maria Papalia
	Special Ministers Elroy De Witt	Eleanora Mascitti
	Corinne Goh	David Mitchell
	Jaqueline Kha	Pam Mitchell
		Gloria Ng
		Elsa Waters
		Chris Zordan
		Trish Atherton

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL'EUCHARISTA
07/04	U. ROMANIN G. VARASSO	FAM. SOR. RATTI	T. RECINELLA L. CIAMPA J. FAGGION

After School Sacramental Program 2019

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office. The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$200 per sacrament.

Sacrament of Confirmation on Fri 3rd May 2019 at 7pm

Reconciliation : classes commence on Tue 21st May 2019

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

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.