

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17: 5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: / this is my beloved Son, hear him. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mk 9: 2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2018

'LISTEN TO MY SON!'

A common thread runs through all three readings today: a parent's sacrifice of a beloved child. Many may find troubling God's testing of Abraham's faith and obedience to such an extreme degree. But the story finds new meaning in the context of the other two readings.

In language that echoes Abraham's near-sacrifice of his son Isaac, St Paul makes clear that what God did not in the end require of Abraham, God did require of himself: to redeem the human race, he 'did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all' (Rom 8:32).

The Transfiguration focuses upon the same divine gift. Shortly before, Peter had responded to Jesus' question, 'Who do you say that I am?', by correctly confessing him to be the Christ. But when Jesus went on to detail what kind of Messiah he will be—namely, one who will work salvation by entering into the pain and suffering of this world—Peter protested, earning a sharp rebuke.

Now the Father's voice, affirms the true messianic status of Jesus: 'This is my Son, the Beloved', but adds, 'Listen to him!'—listen, that is, to what he has been saying about going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die. Being God's 'Beloved Son' does not exempt Jesus from suffering but draws him to it in order to save the world.

The disciples, and all of us, as we continue our journey through Lent, are invited to enter ever more deeply into this mysterious blend of divine love and suffering that lies at the heart of the Paschal Mystery.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

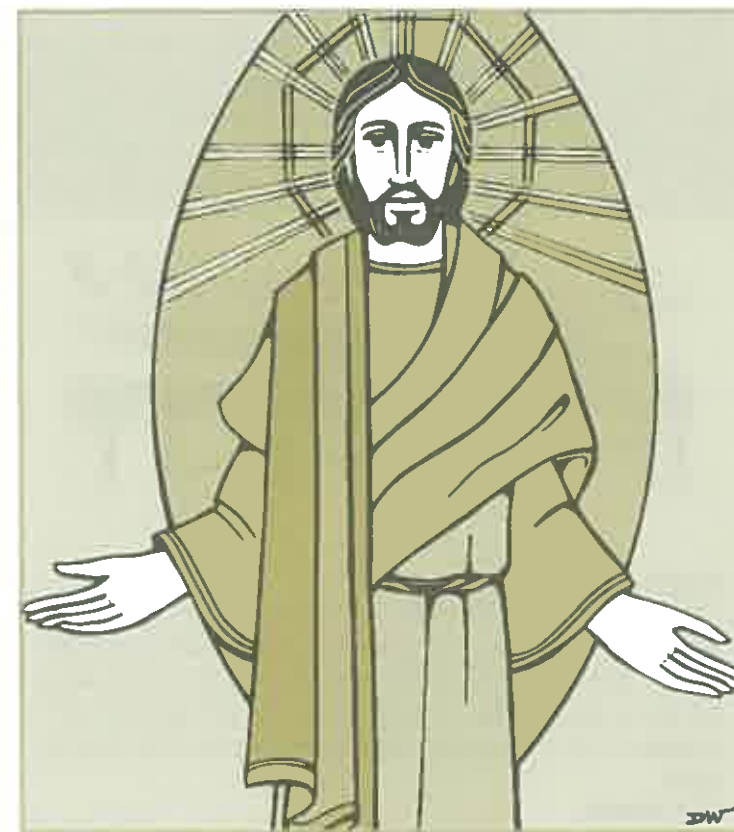
The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PS Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord / in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: / 'I am sorely afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord / is the death of his faithful. **R.**



2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; / you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all his people, / in the courts of the house of the Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8: 31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

■ **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), **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)



During Lent, every Friday after 9.15am Mass. All welcome.

LENT

Two videos for your interest and reflection. Feel free to pass this on as a way of spreading the Good News of Jesus.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vnGEJHg0SE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3CcxBBKDAY>



Congratulations & Welcome to God's Family at St Clement's Parish
Thomas Mercuri
Jack Gaume
Ellie Francis
Samir Bains
Eloise & James Carter baptised this weekend.

World Day of Prayer 2018—Friday March 2nd

"All God's Creation is very good"
 Session 1 at 10am : Templestowe Baptist Church, 103 Anderson Creek Road, East Doncaster
 Session 2 at 8pm : St Mark's Anglican Church, Cnr High & Dellfield Drive, Lower Templestowe
 Refreshments served. All welcome. Enquiries : 9842 2995

Baptism Icon

I am having discussions with a well known iconographer to prepare a design for a large icon of the Baptism of Christ in the river Jordan by John The Baptist. The icon will be located above the alcove overlooking the Baptismal Font. I will report on the progress of the various sketches and drawings as they come to hand.

Mgr. Franco

Stations of Mary

An exhibition depicting the life of Mary, Mother of God has been organised for our Parish from 19th March to 2nd April. You are invited to reflect on the stations of Mary on your own or with friends. The exhibition will be in the Clifton Centre. A guided meditation on the stations will occur on Tuesday 27 March at 7.00pm.

RCIA

Congratulations to **Jason Patel, Lorraine Kit Lau, Lisa Novak and Jasmine Mu** who through the Rite of Election at the Cathedral last Sunday 18th February are now moving deeper into their journey towards Baptism at Easter. Please pray for them and for the team.

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 : Mariana De Paolo

Death Anniversaries : Guido Lucci, Rosario Spano, Adriano Dalla Riva, Jean Hennequin, Danielle Bazire, Luigi Russo, Solange Tinawy, Giuseppe Marinelli, Domenica Zaccardi, Rocco Papisidero
 Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Sun 25th Feb @ 10am—Mario & Angela's Café
 Tue 27th Feb @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Parish Office
 Fri 2nd Feb @ 10am—Parish Stations of the Cross
 Tue 6th Mar @ 10am—Sacrament of Reconciliation (Grade 3M)
 Tue 6th Mar @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Parish Office

Collections Last Weekend
 1st Collection (Thanksgiving)
 Actual — 1,940
 2nd Collection (Presbytery)
 Actual — 1,056
 Many thanks & every Blessing!

Liturgy Roster

	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
24/25 February	Sacristan Elroy De Witt	Francis & Gloria Ng
2 nd Sunday of Lent	COMMENTATOR Rene De La Cruz	Rocco Gagliardi
	Reader Paul Sammut	Mark Gregor
	Special Ministers Enza Wilcox	Gabriella Grande
	Warwick Wright	Eleanora Mascitti
	John Bruce	David Mitchell
		Pam Mitchell
		Gloria Ng
		Maria Papalia
		Elsa Waters

3 /4 March	Sacristan John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
3 rd Sunday of Lent	COMMENTATOR Paul Sammut	Mark Gregor
	Reader May Teh	David Mitchell
	Special Ministers Linda Cultrera	Chris Zordan
	Rene De La Cruz	Trish Atherton
	Corinne Goh	Grace Canatelli
		Anne Fusca
		Rita Gagliardi
		Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti

Minutes of the Open Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Open Parish Meeting held on 8/2/18 are now available on our website (www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au)
 Hard copies will be available for collection next weekend.
 Thank You.

Death Anniversaries

Please write (very clearly) the names of the deceased to be remembered every weekend on the form available in the foyer.
 Thank You

Mario & Angela's Café

This Sunday after the 9am Mass.
 All are welcome. If you attend the 11am Mass, please come early and join us for a cuppa.



Sacramental Program 2018

Enrolment Forms can be now downloaded from the parish website. Payment must be made at the enrolment.

CONFIRMATION: TERM 1

Classes : Commenced on the 6th Feb 2018.
 Confirmation: 19 May 2018 @ 5.30pm (ASRE)
 Confirmation: 18 May 2018 @ 7.00pm (St Clement's School Children)

RECONCILIATION: TERM 2

Classes commence: Tuesday, 1st May 2017 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Parish Office
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday 12th May 2018 @ 5.30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 23rd June @ 10.30am (ASRE)

FIRST EUCHARIST: TERM 3

Classes commence: Tuesday, 17 July 2018 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Parish Office
 Parents' Information Evening: Tuesday 17 July 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Clifton Centre
 Commissioning Mass: Saturday, 21 July @ 5.30pm
 Reconciliation before First Communion: Saturday 8 September 2018 @ 10.00am
 First Communion for After School RE children: Saturday 15 September 2018 @ 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.

Please note the dates except for Confirmation may be subject to change. Families will be informed.

Counselling at St John's Heidelberg

If you have a lot on your mind, it can be helpful to talk with a counsellor. A private and confidential space is offered in the newly appointed counselling room at St John's Parish House, Heidelberg. Julie Jensen provides this free service to parishioners. She specialises in the loss and grief associated with experiencing life events. Julie holds post graduate qualifications in counselling and is a Certified Bereavement Practitioner recognised by the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement. For more information, please contact Julie on 0411 241 005 or julie@changesinbetween.com

Catholic Mission Appeal last year : Raised \$ 1,494.00.
 Many thanks.