

his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him;

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OF DIVINE MERCY) / A

23 APRIL 2017

FROM THE LIPS OF THE DOUBTER, THE HIGHEST PRAISE

Thomas called Didymus ('the twin') does not figure much in the gospels. Two earlier references to him in John (11:16; 14:5) show him as someone who is not easily persuaded. He does not immediately accept everything that Jesus says; when he does not understand, he questions the Master.

True to his character, Thomas does not believe his fellow disciples when they tell him they have seen the Lord. Maybe he is just being defensive or realistic. Like the rest of the disciples, Thomas failed miserably to stand by Jesus. He was nowhere in sight during his Master's trial and crucifixion. To say that Jesus has risen from the dead and has appeared to the disciples was a preposterous idea for Thomas. He remained incredulous.

Now, after eight days, Jesus appears again to the disciples. Jesus turns the tables on Thomas and the latter's 'defence' crumbles to pieces. He knows why the Master has singled him out. We can well imagine that when Thomas cries out, 'My Lord and my God', he is on his knees, asking forgiveness for his unbelief.

There is a fine touch of irony in Thomas' words that the risen Jesus is 'Lord and God': the title addressed to the one and only God of Israel. The disciple, who doubted the most, now offers the highest praise of Jesus ever uttered in the gospels.

At the beginning of his Gospel, John tells the readers that the Word was God (Jn 1:1). Now, at the end of the Gospel, the disciples come to the same conclusion, that Jesus is truly their 'Lord and God'.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (*or Alleluia.*)

1. Let the sons of Israel say: / 'His love has no end.' / Let the sons of Aaron say: / 'His love has no end,' / Let those who fear the Lord say: / 'His love has no end.' **R.**

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling / but the Lord was my helper. / The Lord is my strength and my song; / he was my saviour. / There are shouts of joy and victory / in the tents of the just. **R.**

3. The stone which the builders rejected / has become the corner stone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes. / This day was made by the Lord; / we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia! / You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; / happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them



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), **Assistant Pastoral Associate:** Mariangela Prib (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)**

Divine Mercy Sunday

"On the eighth day Jesus came once again into the Upper Room and showed His wounds to Thomas, so that he could touch them as he had wished to, in order to believe and thus become himself a witness to the Resurrection.

To us also, on this Sunday which Saint John Paul II wished to dedicate to Divine Mercy, the Lord shows us, through the Gospel, His wounds. They are wounds of mercy. It is true : the wounds of Jesus are wounds of mercy. 'With His stripes we are healed' (Is 53:5).



Catholic Charismatic Renewal Jubilee Celebrations St. Clement of Rome Parish

This year marks the Jubilee Year of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement. We are privileged to have the Jubilee Cross visit our parish for a week from **April 29 2017 to May 6 2017.**

Hosting the Jubilee Cross at the Parish allows us the opportunity to answer the call to personal and communal prayer. We ask God's Spirit to enlighten us over the week so we can each live the mission of Jesus in our lives and a world greatly in need of healing and peace.

Personal prayer intentions may be written and placed in the box at the foot of the cross, and these offered up in prayer as the Cross makes its visit to the different Catholic Parishes. These remain private and confidential.

Unity is an important aspect of the week as so, an evening of ecumenical prayer will be the highlight of Thursday, 4 May at 7.00pm.

Parish Scripture Studies : Little Rock Bible Studies is a programme which uses videos, latest commentaries by scholars. In a spirit of prayer and reflection we are challenged to put in 20 mins each day to our own studies at home. We will then meet fortnightly to share insights and so help each other in our journey of faith. A sample of the books to be used is in the foyer. This year we will concentrate on **Matthew's gospel.** Our first session is on **11th of May** not as previously advertised, because of the week of prayer re: the Jubilee Cross.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

Week of Prayer with The Jubilee Cross

WHEN
April 29 to May 6

WHERE
St. Clement of Rome Parish

7 Egan Drive, Bulleen Vic 3105
03 98503282



ALL ARE WELCOME
www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SAT 29 APRIL: JUBILEE CROSS ARRIVES AT PARISH 5.30PM MASS
SUN 30 APRIL: 9.00AM, 11.00AM 6.00PM MASS (MARONITE)
MON 1 MAY: 9.15 AM MASS FOLLOWED BY MEDITATION (ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER)
TUESDAY 2 MAY: 9.15AM MASS (ITALIAN) FOLLOWED BY PRAYER AND MEDITATION (ITALIAN)
WEDNESDAY 3 MAY: 9.15AM MASS AND MARIAN DEVOTION
THURSDAY 4 MAY: 9.15 AM MASS 7.00 PM ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE (AS ONE FAMILY)
FRIDAY 5 MAY: 9.15AM MASS FOLLOWED BY STATIONS OF THE CROSS
SATURDAY 6 MAY: 5.30 PM MASS CROSS LEAVES ST. CLEMENT OF ROME

Prayer intentions can be written and placed at the foot of the cross.

PARISH DIARY

Tue 25th Apr @ 9.15am—Anzac Day Mass in English
Tue 25th Apr @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Parish Office
Sat 29th Apr @ 5.30pm—Jubilee Cross arrives our Parish
Mon 1st May @ 9.15am—Feast of St Joseph the worker/Meditation in front of the Jubilee Cross

Collections Last Weekend
1st Collection (Thanksgiving)
Actual — 4,115
2nd Collection (Presbytery)
Actual — 1,979
Many thanks & every Blessing!



Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am in English

DONCARE Food Appeal

The St Clement of Rome, Bulleen, St Vincent de Paul Conference is calling for food donations to help DONCARE replenish its depleted Emergency Relief Food Pantry. Foods such as long life milk, pasta sauce (not pasta), 1 kilo packets of rice, coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, spreads/jam would be greatly appreciated. Other foods as in the Notice in the Church Entry would be gratefully received.

The St Vincent de Paul Conference's Mission is to assist our friends in need and we also do this by working cooperatively with DONCARE. Thank you for your generosity.

John Bruce
President, SVDP Conference Bulleen

Sacramental Program 2017

Sacrament of Confirmation—
Classes : Every Tuesday from @ 4.30pm -5.30pm in the Parish Office. No Classes on Anzac Day.

Parents' Information Session: Thursday 20th July 2017 @ 7.30pm

Commissioning Mass: Saturday 22 July 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 20th April 2017 @ 7.30pm

Commissioning Mass: Saturday, 22 April @ 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.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5:30pm	Sun 9am	
22/23 April	<i>Sacristan</i>	Elroy De Witt	Francis & Gloria Ng
	<i>COMMENTATOR</i>	John Bruce	Yamna Taouk
	<i>Reader</i>	Jacinta De La Cruz	Grace Canatelli
	<i>Special Ministers</i>	Maree Marsi	David Mitchell
		Alex Notari	Pam Mitchell
		May Teh	Gloria Ng
			Maria Papalia
			Elsa Waters
			Chris Zordan
			Trish Atherton

29/30 April	<i>Sacristan</i>	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	<i>COMMENTATOR</i>	Jacinta De La Cruz	Grace Canatelli
	<i>Reader</i>	Rene De La Cruz	Jim Cowhey
	<i>Special Ministers</i>	Martin Teh	Grace Canatelli
		Rita Gagliardi	Anne Fusca
		Warwick Wright	Fulvia Gerasolimo
			Gabriella Grande
			Eleanora Mascitti
			Sylvia Mascitti
			David Mitchell

Holy Week Celebrations

Our grateful thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with the preparation of all the liturgies in many ways. We are indeed blessed with many dedicated members who help make our celebrations memorable.

Project Compassion

Many thanks for your contribution over this major collection.

Craft Sale

St Clement's Craft Ladies have organized a craft sale to be held at the Bulleen Plaza on Thursday 11th May from 9am—4pm. Please support. Please ring Marcella 98582369 for information.

Euthanasia/assisted suicide legislation—A Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Victoria—Please pick up a copy or check the Notice board. Link can be found on the Parish website as well.

Annual Mass Count

Over the four weekends in May, beginning from 6/7th May weekend, the annual Mass Count will take place at St Clement's at all Masses. Collectors at weekend Masses are asked to compile the figures and complete the forms please. Thank You.



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 : Pio Pianalto, Este Cecchin (Italy)

Death Anniversaries : Salvatore Proietto, Palmino Pantalone (Italy)

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

May they rest in peace. Amen