

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

During your life good things came your way just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while you are in agony.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel

PEOPLE ARE OUR BUSINESS

Charles Dickens' classic tale *A Christmas Carol* tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an old miser who has spent the best years of his life in his dark and cold counting-house accumulating wealth. One night, the ghost of his departed partner Jacob Marley appears to him, chained and doomed to wander through the world in punishment for missed opportunities. All Marley did in his lifetime was attend to his business when, as he himself tells Scrooge, "Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business."

Scrooge is then visited successively by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Yet to Come. He is shown the happiness he has missed and the loves he has lost because he has made money his god. More tragic, he sees his death; he is unremembered, unmourned. If nothing is changed, he will suffer Marley's fate. Luckily for Scrooge, he wakes up from the nightmare. He changes his life just in time to recover the real spirit of Christmas.

Jesus tells us the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in the same vein. The rich man, like Scrooge, may not have done anything gravely dishonest and has accumulated his wealth through hard work. But for Jesus, the source of wealth is not the question. The point is that the rich man is blind to the plight of others (here, of Lazarus) and does not lift a finger to alleviate their condition. This blindness causes him to lose eternal life. The man asks Abraham to send someone "from the dead" to warn his five brothers who are as blind as he was. But no "ghost" can be sent to warn them. Scripture—the voice of Moses and the prophets—clearly indicates the reward and punishment in the next life.

Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
RESOURCES

Available at
www.stpauls.com.au



THE SAVING WORD

Twenty-Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time / C

25 September 2016

FIRST READING

Amos 6:1, 4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all.

That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 145:6-10. R. v. 2

R. Praise the Lord, my soul! (or Alleluia!)

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. He 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.

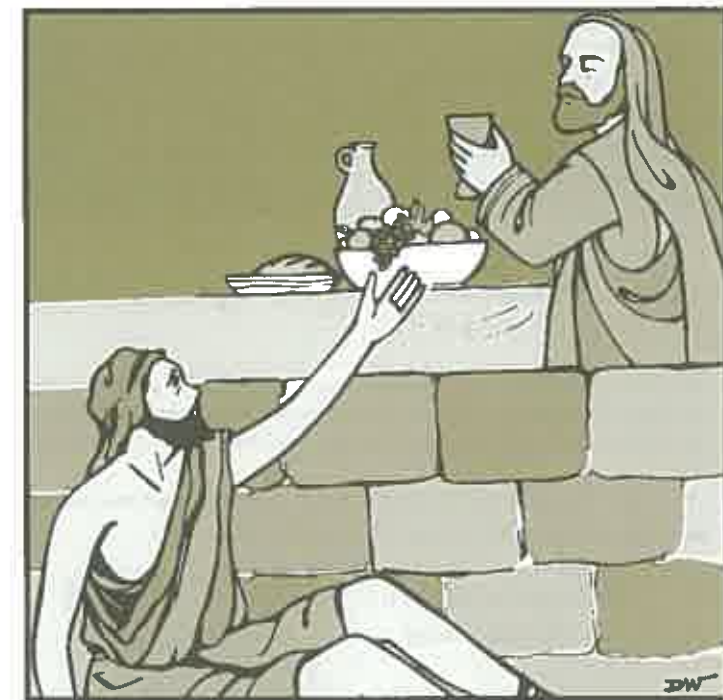
SECOND READING

1 Tim 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love,



patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, / to make you rich out of his poverty. / Alleluia!



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)

Social Justice Sunday

This Sunday, 25 September is Social Justice Sunday. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Place at the Table : Social Justice in an ageing society'.

The Statement celebrates the value and dignity of older people in Australian life. It challenges us to recognise their significant contribution to society and emphasises that this contribution should not be valued in mere economic terms. The Statement calls for justice for those who are most vulnerable and warns about a view of older people as burdensome or dispensable.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

Congratulations to
Huong Dang
&
Anh Nguyen
on their Wedding
At St Clement's
this Saturday



Saturday Marian Devotions:

Please note, there will be no Marian Devotions on 24th September & 1st October. Rosary, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues. Marian Devotions will resume on Saturday October 8.

Mario and Angela's Café: This week after the 9.00am Mass. Do come along, to share fellowship and conversation and build the kingdom of God right here at St. Clement of Rome.



Congratulations
& Welcome
to God's Family
at St Clement's Parish
Lucia Di Giulio
Nathan Tonja
baptised this weekend.

The following prayer is for your personal reflection over this week

A Prayer for all Ages

God of all creation, you are timeless and beyond all ages.
We who are growing old give thanks for the years you have given us for family, friends and all those who have enriched our lives
We who are not yet old give thanks for the older people in our lives: for grandparents, loved ones, friends and all who generously offer the wise counsel of their years.
We who are growing old pray that we may be patient with our ageing limbs and difficulties in everyday tasks we once did much more easily.
We who are not yet old pray for patience and kindness towards those who do not move as quickly as we would sometimes like.
We who are growing old pray for good health in our later years, and forbearance when our health fails us.
We who are not yet old pray for good health for those we love and compassion towards those who suffer ill health.

We who are growing old pray for prudence and sweet timing, in offering our wisdom to the next generation, while respecting their energy and creativity.
We who are not yet old pray for openness and humility in receiving the advice and guidance of our elders.

We who are growing old pray that we may face our death with serenity and dignity.
We who are not yet old pray that we affirm the sacredness of each person's life and accompany those who are dying with gentleness and deep respect.

God of endless love, help us to understand that we share a common life journey, a call to live life to the full and to strive to enable all creation to come to the fullness of the Cosmic Christ. Amen

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 : Orfeo Di Marzio, Roberto Saro

Death Anniversaries : Giustino Mariani, Ecolina Castagnone

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

May they rest in peace. Amen.

PARISH DIARY

Tue 4th Oct @ 4.30pm—Confirmation Classes in the Clifton Centre
Thurs 6th Oct @ 7pm—Bible Study In the Clifton Centre
Sun 9th Oct @ 10am— Mario & Angela's Café
Wed 11th Oct @ 9am—Confirmation Reflection Day in the Clifton Centre

Sacramental Program: We ask you to consider being a catechist for 2017.

Confirmation: Saturday 22 October 2016 at 2.30pm and 5.30pm. With the new appointments of bishops to different locations, our children will be confirmed by Mons. Franco instead of Bishop Mark Edwards.

Enrolments for 2017 have begun. If you wish your child to be part of our Sacramental Programme, please email Cecilia.Tan@cam.org.au or refer to the parish Website www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au.

Olive wood Display

There will be a display of Holy Land Olive Wood Religious Items on the weekend of 1st & 2nd October after all the Masses in the Foyer. Please support.

Remembering our deceased loved ones.

The Catholic tradition offers us November, which begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day as the Month of special remembrance for those who have died. All Saints Day, 1st November is a day of Solemnity and we are encouraged to attend Mass. All Souls Day commemorates all the Faithful departed. To highlight the communion with those who have gone before us, a special Altar cloth will be placed near the baptism font for the month of September in preparation for November. You are encouraged to write the names of your deceased loved ones on this Altar Cloth which will be used for all our Eucharistic celebrations during November.



Commissioning of volunteers to the different Ministries

The Mission Jesus takes flesh in the following ways within the context of the Parish community. Here are some questions to prompt reflection and dialogue.

Identity and Community: How engaged are we in building up a community of faith and hospitality?

Worship and Prayer: Do we try to understand the reason and purpose of why we gather for prayer and worship? In what ways does our Eucharist sustain us individually and as a community?

Formation and Education: Do we make time to learn more about our faith through the opportunities offered such as the RCIA, the Scriptural Study Group, the Hope Ministry? Do we offer our own wisdom and understanding and share faith with our children and families in the Sacramental and Baptism programs?

Mission and Outreach: Do we take Jesus' message seriously to transform society by acts of mercy and justice? Are we welcoming? Do we take time to know others who are new to the parish?

Leadership and Structure: Are we content with leaving the work of exercising leadership to others? Are we committed to the welfare growth of this parish?

The Parish, the living Body of Christ at Bulleen is so because of the gifts and talents of many volunteers. Over the coming weeks we will be incorporating a Commissioning Rite during the Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.00am Masses. All volunteers and those who would like to be initiated into the different Ministries will be invited to come forward at the appropriate time after communion and take their place at the front of the Altar. Fr. Franco will lead you in a simple prayer and bless you. May this simple rite of acknowledgment and witness draw us to a greater appreciation of the gift and life that is in the Parish.

- October 16: Administration and Service (Finance Committee/ Collectors and Counters/those who clean or do maintenance work; wash linen; arrange flowers; Serve morning tea; FCI)

Collections Last Weekend

1st Collection (Thanksgiving)
Actual — 2,184
2nd Collection (Presbytery)
Actual — 1,146
Many thanks & every Blessing!

Hope Ministry:

Our next session is on Saturday, 5th November at 10.00 in the parish office. Through prayer and meditation, we have explored the different topics in a non-threatening, safe and supportive environment.

Understanding grief
The meaning and place of lament
The Sacredness of Memories.
Grief and the Community
Understanding grief as transitions

The following are the scheduled sessions over the coming weeks:

5 November: Grief Minister and the Grieving Child
12 November: Importance of Rituals and celebrations
26 November: Liturgical celebrations
3 December: Grief Minister as Compassionate Listener
All are welcome to attend some or all of the sessions.

Music Ministry: Regular rehearsals have started. Our next practice is 1st October at 4.30pm in the Clifton Centre.

Craft Sale:

St Clement of Rome Craft Ladies will be having a Sale on Thursday 29th September from 9am—4pm at Bulleen Plaza. Please support.

Scripture Studies: Our study and group sharing takes place in the context of prayer and meditation, using the *Lectio Divina* method. Come for some or all the sessions. Italian speaking participants please bring a Bible in Italian. Our next session is: **6th October at 7.00pm** in the Clifton Centre.

October and the Month of the Holy Rosary: If you like to lead a team or be involved in a team to lead a special rosary devotion for the Month of October please come and see Cecilia. The theme will be centred around Pope Francis' *Laudato Si!* And his call to care for the earth.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
24 th /25 th September	Sacristan Rita Gagliardi	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR Jacinta De La Cruz	Yamna Taouk
	Reader Rene De La Cruz	Grace Canatelli
	Special Ministers Elroy De Witt	Trish Atherton
	Rita Gagliardi	Grace Canatelli
	Loretta Galante	Anne Fusca
	Corinne Goh	Fulvia Gerasolimo
	Miriam Ho	Gabrielle Grande
	Cecilia Lam	Eleanora Mascitti
	Reg Lecordier	Sylvia Mascitti