

**GOSPEL**

Jn 6:51-58

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.*

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.’

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood

has eternal life,

and I shall raise him up on the last day.

For my flesh is real food

and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me

and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father,

so whoever eats me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate:

they are dead,

but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

19 AUGUST 2018

**WORD AND SACRAMENT**

Today’s Gospel begins by repeating from last week Jesus’ claim that the ‘Bread’ that he will give for the life of the world is his own ‘flesh’. The reference is to the revelation of God’s love that will occur when he lays down his life upon the cross. However, his audience (still called here ‘the Jews’) take the reference literally. Understandably, they balk at what sounds like cannibalism.

In reply, Jesus adds to the notion of eating his flesh the even more repugnant idea (especially to Jews) of drinking his blood. He is attempting to draw his audience away from a purely physical understanding to a symbolic interpretation stemming from the Wisdom tradition of Israel. This tradition interpreted the Manna the Israelites ate in the wilderness in terms of divine revelation. To ‘eat’ in this sense refers to accepting revelation.

Jesus’ flesh and his blood will be separated in his death on the cross. Within the same Wisdom tradition to ‘eat’ Jesus’ flesh and ‘drink’ his blood means to accept his death as the life-giving revelation that God is love (1 John 4:8).

The text is also open, of course, to a sacramental interpretation. To eat Jesus’ flesh and drink his blood in the Eucharist is to be brought sacramentally before his cross on Calvary. Our Eucharistic participation draws us into the rhythm of his self-sacrificing love poured out for the life of the world.

Jesus is, then, our ‘Bread from Heaven’ in two senses: as life-giving *Word* of revelation and as ‘real’ food and drink in the *Sacrament* of his Body and Blood.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

**FIRST READING**

Prov 9:1-6

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

*Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared.*

Wisdom has built herself a house, she has erected her seven pillars, she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine, she has laid her table.

She has despatched her maidservants and proclaimed from the city’s heights: ‘Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.’

To the fool she says,

‘Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared!

Leave your folly and you will live, walk in the ways of perception.’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 33:2-3, 10-15. 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. Revere the Lord, you his saints. / They lack nothing, those who revere him. / Strong lions suffer want and go hungry / but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. **R.**

3. Come, children, and hear me / that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. / Who is he who longs for life / and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? **R.**

4. Then keep your tongue from evil / and your lips from speaking deceit. / Turn aside from evil and do good; / seek and strive after peace. **R.**



**SECOND READING**

Eph 5:15-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

*Be watchful that you may know the will of God.*

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jn 6:56

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord. Alleluia!**

# 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), 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)



**Baptism Welcoming**  
 This weekend, we welcome :

Sophie Visedo  
 Oscar Bettiol

Please pray for these children  
 and their families

Monsignor Franco will be on his Annual Leave from this weekend until the weekend 8/9 September. All the Masses and possible Funeral Services will be covered by Supply Priests.

This weekend we warmly welcome our visiting priests :  
**Fr. Bernie Teo, Fr. Ed Moloney & Fr. Jake Mudge.**

## Music Ministry

Our Music Ministry has expanded with Sandra Webb offering to sing at the 9.00am Mass on a regular basis. Our 5.30pm Group under the leadership of Susanah Tan and Paul Sammut, is making every effort to sing fortnightly. We still need singers and musicians so we can plan and improve our liturgical services.

A workshop is planned for Sat , August 25th 2018 from 3pm—5pm with Bro. Michael Herry (fms) an accomplished composer and pastoral musician. All are welcome.  
 More details on the notice board.

## Mario & Angela's Café :

Will now take place on Sun 9th Sept at 10am (no café this Sunday 19th due to SVDP meeting and on the following Sunday 26th due to FCI Father's Day Luncheon). Thereafter it will be held every month 2nd & the 4th Sunday after 9am Mass.

## FCI Luncheon—Father's Day

FCI Father's Day Luncheon will be held on Sun 26th August after the 11am Mass in the Clifton Centre. Music , Food and drinks. Cost : \$25.00 all inclusive. Bookings are essential.  
 George Baglieri—9852 0792  
 Ugo Romanin—9850 1819

## Readers & Special Ministers Rosters

The new roster is now available for collection in the Church Foyer. Thank you.

## CERCHIAMO VOLONTARI URGENTE!

**Co.As.It. organizzazione al servizio della comunita Italiana D'Australia, cerca persone di lingua italiana che spendano da uno a due ore a settimana con persone anziane di origine italiana, che sono socialmente isolate e hanno bisogno di amicizia.**

**Portare un po' di amicizia a una persona sola puo' significare tanto per loro e anche per te!  
 Se sei interessato e ne vuoi sapere di piu' chiama Tania al 0430556283**

## 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 : Antonio Zanella

Death Anniversaries : Giovanna Barravacchio, Irene Lecordier, Regina Lecordier, Salvatore Busacca, Domenica Di Giacomo, Orazia Di Giacomo, Amalia Benvenuta, Gino Boscolo  
 Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
 May they rest in peace. Amen

## PARISH DIARY

Sun 19th Aug @ 10am—SVDP in the Clifton Centre  
 Tue 21st Aug @ 4.30pm—Eucharist Classes in the Parish Office  
 Thurs 23rd Aug @ 7.30pm—Scripture Classes in the School Library  
 Sat 25th Aug 3pm—Music Workshop with Br. Michael Herry  
 Sun 26th Aug @ 12 noon—FCI Father's Day Luncheon  
 Tue 28th Aug @ 4.30pm—Eucharist Classes in the Parish Office

**Collections Last Weekend**  
 1st Collection (Thanksgiving)  
 Actual — 2,824  
 2nd Collection (Presbytery)  
 Actual — 1,494  
 Many thanks & every Blessing!

## Plenary 2020

We have been praying for some weeks now, the Plenary 2020 prayer at each Mass. WE have begun slowly, the conversation, the discernment and the reflective process of what 'Plenary 2020' is about. This is a call to **all the Baptised** to ask what the Spirit is asking of us individually and collectively in terms of the mission Jesus has given to us. The following opportunities are available for us to come to one or more of these sessions to deepen our understanding of our faith, to share experiences of life, of the Church for the future.

St. Clement of Rome, Bulleen is hosting the dialogue sessions:

## 7 September 2018

Topic: "A Revolution of Tenderness"

## 21 September 2018

Topic: "Going to the peripheries."

Two sessions will run each day for the convenience of parishioners and interested others: **10.30am and 7.00pm.**

Each session will incorporate prayer, reflection, and conversation as part of the discernment process to understand and respond to our individual and collective mission given to us at Baptism. **All welcome.**

Contact: cecilia.tan@cam.org.au for further information.

Plenary: a general meeting of all members to make recommendations.

Synod: an assembly of bishops to come together to make decisions.

**Pope Francis:** "A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening 'is more than simply hearing'. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of truth' (Jn 14:17), in order to know what he 'says to the Churches' (Rev 2:7)." **NO one is to be excluded. ALL are to be heard.**

## Sacramental Program 2018

All enrolments for the year are closed. Please register your interest for 2019 once the dates for 2019 have been organized.

## FIRST EUCHARIST (ASRE)

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 \$200 per sacrament per child from 2019. 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	
18/19 August	<i>Sacristan</i> <b>COMMENTATOR</b>	John Bruce Rene De La Cruz	Francis & Gloria Ng David Mitchell
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Maria Papalia
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcox	David Mitchell
		Warwick Wright	Anne Fusca
		John Bruce	Rita Gagliardi
			Eleanora Mascitti
			Gabriella Grande
			Pam Mitchell
			Elsa Waters

25/26 August	<i>Sacristan</i> <b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Rita Gagliardi Paul Sammut	Francis & Gloria Ng Maria Papalia
	Reader	May Teh	Yamna Taouk
	Special Ministers	Linda Cultrera	Maria Papalia
		Rene De La Cruz	Elsa Waters
		Corinne Goh	Chris Zordan
			Trish Atherton
			Eleanora Mascitti
			Anne Fusca
			Fulvia Gerasolimo
			Gabriella Grande

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL EUCHARISTA
26/08	T. CARAFA S B. PUCCI	FAM. A. BROGNO	C. TRAVAGLINI J. FAGGION T. RECINELLA

## Grief and Bereavement

If you have had a recent loss, would like the opportunity to understand your loss in a supportive, confidential and safe environment you are welcome to our

**Prayer and Reflection Sessions: First Saturday of each month from 10.30am 11.30am. All Welcome. Sessions in the Parish Office.**

## Springtime Dance

An afternoon of dancing, music & singing with music by KATO. Where : Marwal Centre 9 Marwal Avenue, North Balwyn.

When : Thurs 13th Sept 2018 from 11.30am—2pm

Cost : \$20.00 (includes a light lunch)

Transport is available at an extra cost

Bookings : 9880 4700

More details on the Notice Board.