

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eye-witnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel

THE 'YEAR OF ACCEPTANCE'

At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke addresses a certain 'Theophilus', for whom the work is written. 'Theophilus', which means 'lover of God', may not be the name of a real person but a symbolic 'stand-in' for the kind of reader Luke has in mind: someone who has received basic instruction but who needs to be confirmed in their Christian identity and conviction of the faith. This Luke intends to provide—not only for readers of his own day but for ours as well.

From this beginning of Luke's work, today's Gospel takes us immediately to the Jesus' hometown Nazareth, where he launches his public ministry with a prophetic manifesto in the guise of a Sabbath sermon.

What a remarkably short sermon it is! Jesus reads a longish text from Isaiah, then simply proclaims: "Today, this text is being fulfilled even as you listen". End of sermon!

Jesus doesn't need to say any more. Providing the 'script' for his ministry, the text itself contains so much: good news for the poor, freedom for captives, sight for the blind, a 'year of the Lord's favour' (or 'acceptance').

The 'year of acceptance' proclaims a time of unconditional release from all 'debt' of sin. This 'year' will prevail throughout the personal ministry of Jesus. Then, following his death, resurrection, and ascension, the Spirit will empower the Church at Pentecost to proclaim it to the end of time.

We still live within the scope of that 'year'. The great 'Today ...' of his brief sermon should resound in every sermon today.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

27 JANUARY 2019

FIRST READING

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of the Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 18:8-10, 15. R. Jn 6:63

R. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**



2. The precepts of the Lord are right, / they gladden the heart. / The command of the Lord is clear, / it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**

4. May the spoken words of my mouth, / the thoughts of my heart, / win favour in your sight, O Lord, / my rescuer, my rock! **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

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

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form, 1 Cor 12:12-30.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

St Clement of Rome Church

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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)**

Australia Day

Vocations :

As we give thanks this weekend for the many blessings we enjoy in this great 'South Land of the Holy Spirit', let us pray for our young Catholic citizens in this nation. May they be inspired to bring Christ to all peoples by responding to the call to priesthood and consecrated life. As our schools commence for the year soon, let us also pray for our students and teachers to bring Christ to their communities and families.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for John Barro on his first anniversary of death on Thursday 31st January at 7.30pm. All welcome.

After School Sacramental Program 2019

Please register your interest for 2019. The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$200 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office.

Plenary 2020/ Plenaria 2020

A whole Parish dialogue on the questions of the Plenary is scheduled for Wednesday 27 February at 7.30 pm in the Clifton Centre. All Parishioners are invited to come for this important session so together as an Australian Church we can be more fully God's people engaged in understanding God's desire for us.

È previsto un intero dialogo parrocchiale sulle domande della Plenaria

Tutti i parrocchiani sono invitati a venire per questa importante sessione così insieme come una Chiesa australiana possiamo essere più pienamente le persone di Dio impegnate a comprendere il desiderio di Dio per noi.

Per favore, prendi un articolo di p. Noel Connolly ssc, dal titolo "The Kingdom Within".

Confirmation classes commence on Tue 12th Feb 2019 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

Last enrolment date : 5th Feb 2019

Family faith night on Tue 5th Mar at 7.30pm

Commissioning Mass on Sat 9th Mar at 5.30pm

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

Reconciliation classes commence on Tue 21st May 2019 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

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 @ 4.30-5.30pm.

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

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 : Fernande Charoux, Giuseppe Baciaroni, Antonio Bello
Death Anniversaries : Anthony Schieven, Jess Kenway, Gregorio & Katarina Sverko, John Barro, Antonio Cenci, Bruno Scarmozzino, Brian Hooper, Ennio Tedesco, Salvatore Azzara, Gemma Colella
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Tue 29th Jan @ 9.15am—Mass
 Wed 30th Jan @ 9.15am—Mass
 Thurs 31st Jan @ 9.15am—Mass
 Fri 1st Feb @ 9.15am—Mass
 Sat 2nd @ 9.15am—Mass & Confession

RCIA:

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do as Catholics? Or What it means to be Catholic? Have you questions about the sacraments, faith or prayer? Have you wondered about the place of suffering, conscience and the practice of faith? If you have these or other questions, then do come along to The Parish RCIA Evenings. Contact: Martin Teh (5.30pm Mass) or Gabriella Grande (9.00am Mass). Look out for the 2019 program.

Scripture Studies :

We will be starting on Thursday 7th March and studying St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Meetings will be held every Thursday throughout Lent at 7.30pm in the School Library. Contact: Mark Gregor, Sue de Bortoli (9.00am Mass) Martin Teh (5.00pm Mass)

Volunteer Projectionists

We are in urgent need of volunteers to help out with the projectors at Mass. An instruction workshop will be held on Sat 23rd Feb at 9.45am after 9.15am Mass. All are welcome.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, REFLECTION AND ACTION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thursday 7 February, 6.30–8.30pm
St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne
 On the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita of Sudan, the Church marks the International Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking. Last year, the Victoria-Tasmania Catholic Anti-Slavery Working Group was created with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) and the dioceses of Victoria and Tasmania. Its goal is to finally end the scourge of modern-day slavery in our communities. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, the South Sudanese Catholic Community and the broader community will mark this important day with Holy Hour at 6.30pm followed by the Vigil Mass of St Josephine Bakhita at 7.30pm.
 Enquiries: justice@cam.org.au

THE LENTEN JESUS DISCERNING THE WAY

On the first Sunday of Lent we meet Jesus in the wilderness and we are offered the opportunity to join with him on a Lenten pilgrimage. This journey is one of discernment, a time to reorient and recommit ourselves to listening to the call of God in our lives.

Annual Lent/Easter planning day entitled "The Lenten Jesus: Discerning the Way" which will take place on Saturday 16 February, 10am - 3.30pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. Details regarding keynote addresses, workshops and booking information can be found via: <https://www.trybooking.com/ZVXG>

Give Your Spiritual Life a Boost! -

with a course, seminar or reflection day at Heart of Life. See what's on offer at www.heartoflife.melbourne and go to our Seminars & Courses tab. You can Book & Pay online or email us at holsc@bigpond.com for more information and bookings. Spiritual direction is also available at any time. Phone Heart of Life on tel : 9890 1101.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am	
26/27 January	Sacristan	Elroy	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR	Jacinta De La Cruz	Rocco Gagliardi
	Reader	Rene De La Cruz	Mark Gregor
	Special Ministers	Enza Wilcox	Eleanora Mascitti
		Warwick Wright	Pam Mitchell
		John Bruce	David Mitchell
			Gloria Ng
			Maria Papalia
			Elsa Waters
			Chris Zordan

2 / 3 February	Sacristan	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	COMMENTATOR	Rene De La Cruz	Mark Gregor
	Reader	Paul Sammut	Christine Landsberg
	Special Ministers	Linda Cultrera	Trish Atherton
		Rene De La Cruz	Grace Canatelli
		Elroy De Witt	Anne Fusca
			Rita Gagliardi
			Fulvia Gerasolimo
			Gabriella Grande
			Eleanora Mascitti

DATE	LETTORI	OFFERTORIO	MINISTRI DELL'EUCARISTA
03/02	R. SACCARDO A. BROGNO	FAM. G. VETTORETTO	T. RECINELLA G. BAGLIERI G. FARFAGLIA

Harvest Journeys

Pilgrimage Opportunity

Imagine travelling in the footsteps of Jesus from Bethlehem to Jerusalem or celebrating Mass in the centre of Lake Galilee! Harvest Journeys are offering an opportunity for parishioners to travel as pilgrims on a journey of faith in 2019, allowing the Holy Spirit to renew us in 'words that cannot be easily explained'. Harvest Journeys offers a range of pre-arranged pilgrimages such as :

*Footsteps of Jesus—The Holy Land

*Visitations of Mary—from Fatima to Lourdes

*Treasures of Italy

* St Francis & Rome

* St Paul & the early Church

If a pilgrimage to the Holy Places is your dream, contact Donrita Reefman on 0411 702 068 or donrita@harvestjourneys.com for more information.