

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH. During the season of Lent we humbly acknowledge the ways in which we have failed to respond to our Christian vocation. We do this before a God who is infinitely rich in mercy and grace, who sent the Son into the world not to condemn it but to be its saviour. Acknowledging our failings and accepting healing and forgiveness from Christ prepares us to celebrate the feast of Easter with great joy.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 66: 10-11

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling
breast.**

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us
acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the
Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on
us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who through your Word reconcile
the human race to yourself in a wonderful
way, grant, we pray, that with prompt
devotion and eager faith the Christian people
may hasten toward the solemn celebrations
to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and
ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of
Chronicles.

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed
in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the
people too, added infidelity to infidelity,

copying all the shameful practices of the
nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord
had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The
Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly
sent them messenger after messenger, since
he wished to spare his people and his house.
But they ridiculed the messengers of God,
they despised his words, they laughed at his
prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord
rose so high against his people that there was
no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of
God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set
fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything
of value in it. The survivors were deported by
Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to
serve him and his sons until the kingdom of
Persia came to power. This is how the word of
the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through
Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its
sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone
by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days
of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia,
to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken
through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit
of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation
and to have it publicly displayed throughout
his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of
Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has
given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he
has ordered me to build him a Temple in
Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among
you of all his people, may his God be with
him! Let him go up."''

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 136. R. v. 6

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever
forget you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and
wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars
that grew there / we hung our harps. **R.**

2. For it was there that they asked us, /
our captors, for songs, / our oppressors, for
joy. / 'Sing to us,' they said, / 'one of Zion's
songs.' **R.**

3. O how could we sing / the song of
the Lord / on alien soil? / If I forget you,
Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! **R.**

4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth /
if I remember you not, / if I prize not
Jerusalem / above all my joys! **R.**



SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

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

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us
to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was
generous with his mercy: when we were dead
through our sins, he brought us to life with
Christ – it is through grace that you have been
saved – and raised us up with him and gave us
a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come,
through his goodness towards us in Christ
Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace.
Because it is by grace that you have been
saved, through faith; not by anything of your
own, but by a gift from God; not by anything
that you have done, so that nobody can claim
the credit. We are God's work of art, created
in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the
beginning he has meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ! / God loved the world so much, he
gave us his only Son, / that all who believe
in him might have eternal life. / Glory and
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL

Jn 3:14-21

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

*God sent his Son into the world that we might
be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I AND II OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 121: 3-4

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit
R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

GOD'S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Lactare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is "rejoice") we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times "grace" is repeated: "by grace you have been saved," "the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" and "for by grace you have been saved through faith." This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that "we are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

John's Gospel reminds us "God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that "those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

How will we respond to God's love, gift and grace?

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

9/10 March 2024

Parish Office:

Hours: **Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm**

Tel: **9412 8425**

Email: Doncaster@cam.org.au

Follow us on: [@StGregsDonny](https://www.instagram.com/StGregsDonny)

www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster

Website: www.stgregs.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Assistant Priest: Fr. Isaac Zaki

Parish Secretary: Mon & Wed: Vera Arief

Tue, Thurs-Fri: Luisa Yambao

Mon: Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

Sacristan: Mary Stocco - Mob: 0412 742 657

MASS TIMES:

Sat: Vigil 6.00pm; Sun 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Wed & Fri 9.00am (Tue & Thur 9.15am @ St Kevin's)

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9.30-11.00am

(or before/after any Mass by request but allow time)

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

Communicable Diseases are around: be hygienic.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 5th Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-4, Ps 50:3-4, 12-15, Heb 5:7-9, Jn 12:20-30

BAPTISMS: Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY

SCHOOL: Principal: Michelle Verna Tel: (03) 9848 4483

Email: principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Contact Margaret O'Donnell at DoncasterRE@cam.org.au

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:

Wednesdays at 9.45am in the church meeting room

Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: Third Friday of the

month from 7.00pm-9.00pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 4th Fridays 7:15pm—9.30pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: 3rd Mondays

7.30pm in the School Parish Room

ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB: Membership enquiries:

Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

Please pray for:

Those who are **sick** at this time including Lily Lee, Giovanna Bernadeo, Tony Alois, Clifford Bunardi, Sarina Louise Walker, Huan Sun, Nancy Au, Elsie Poon, Patricia Luk, Shirley Freeman, Balwinder Kaur, Michael Mullens, Enzo Galota, Jason Khoo, Liam Fitzpatrick, Anne Credlin, Nola Tibaldi, Vladimira Sabolic, Brian Croft, Maria Tomasello, John Shew, Rena Sacco, Judy Jones, Umberto Gianello, Luke Kakoschke, Max Passarella, Teresa Yong, Gilbert De Claro, Alex Ablaza, Mary Grace Lim Siew Lan, Gabrielle Byrne, Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Chianna Sacco, Chee Choong Seng, Roy Dos Santos, Maria Stone, Chee Mee Lian and Eliseo Pardillo.

and for those who died recently

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Srma Perera, Boris Barac



Words from PP,

Thank you!

I have a lot of people to say thank you to this weekend, not because it's an important weekend particularly but because it is an appropriate moment to give this thanks.

Thanks to Vera and Luisa and Bernadine for supporting the parish in all aspects of its life. And to Margaret, Carmel, Alfred, and Tiziana for the advice and deep-thinking you are doing with me.

And the Parish Finance Group:

Karen D'Souza has resigned from the Parish Finance Group after a decade of service. Thank you Karen for your insights and clarity of thinking and dedication.

Thank you again to Margaret Kwan who resigned last year, she also served for a decade.

And also thank you to Mal de Alwis and Ray Lewis for your dedicated service to the financial and physical needs of St Gregory the Great Parish.

And thank you to Jane Ma who has agreed to join the group.

We will meet soon to begin to put flesh the plans for the Stewardship Campaign.

And the Parish Pastoral Council:

Thank you to Brendan Pon, Paola Villanueva and Andrew Khalil who have resigned from the Parish Pastoral Council. You have made a real contribution to St Gregory the Great Parish as it has come alive again over the past two years. Your work has helped put us into a good situation to be able to pursue our goals as a Parish.

Thank you to the remaining existing Parish Pastoral Council members Michelle Verna, Alfred Ablaza, Margaret O'Donnell, John Mabilia, Dot Haynes, Vera Arief: your ongoing involvement in growing our parish is a grace from heaven.

Thank you particularly at this moment to Alfred Ablaza who has agreed to take up the role of Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for a short period till we can get new members and choose a Chair for the longer term.

I am looking for more new members, four to six. I shall be calling around some people but if you are interested, come and see me.

And the Rite for Christian Initiation for Adults team:

Thank you Cathy and Noel McClelland for your tireless work to journey with people as they seek to find their way to faith and learn about what it means to become a disciple of Christ Jesus. Twenty years or so of effort in this ministry, coming to an end after Pentecost this year.

And thank you to Adrian and Thomas and Daniel and Lorna who have contributed to the journey this year. And a double thanks to the three people who have responded to God's call to join him.

And, thank you to all who read our bulletin and listen to my homilies each week, and who provide me with feedback/comment so that I can grow in my ability to shepherd you, and grow my thinking.

God bless, Fr Charles

Were you part of or know someone who was part of the Grade 6 1993 Class at St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School?



Save the date for our 30 Year St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School Reunion. Join us in The Beer Garden from 6.30pm on Friday 15th March to catch up with the Grade 6 class of 1993.

Please invite everyone you're connected with from this class.

We can't wait to see you all!

Michelle Capicchiano, Daniella Ciavarella and Sarah Kenshole.

We have created a Facebook event. Please feel free to have a look (our year level photo is there too):

<https://www.facebook.com/share/Fk4wTRB6ouurmCzW/?mibextid=9I3rBW>

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Michelle Capicchiano - Class of 1993

St Gregory's is committed to growing a Child Safety Culture with Love

THIS WEEK

Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 9.00am
 Sun 10.30am
 Sun 5.00pm

LECTORS

Robert McHugh, Frances Cannizzo
 Philip Dunlop, Margaret Wallace
 Brian Tyedin & Jenny Tyedin
 Dot Haynes, Natalie De Silva

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Bill Taylor, Ray Lewis**NEXT WEEK 16/17 March**

Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 9.00am
 Sun 10.30am
 Sun 5.00pm

LECTORS

Frank Ryan, Ian Barnes
 Joan Dinneen, Tony Nimmo
 Amanda Stefanovski, Brendan Pon
 Jane Ma, Mary Tonti-Filippini

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Carole Tang, Agnes Chee**MONEY COUNTERS:** Anne McGrath, Josie Masters**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Noel & Cathy McClelland
 Ray & Kay Lewis
 Edith Ma, Dai Sim
 Caterina Gioffre, Seleana Ng

MORNING TEA: N/A**COLLECTORS**

Alfred Lee
FLOWERS: N/A

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell
 Rachel Kay, Margaret Wallace
 Tony Ting, Robert Rukavina
 Seleana Ng, Alfred Lee
MORNING TEA: Adeline Wong

COLLECTORS

Seleana Ng, Gerald O'Donnell
FLOWERS: N/A

For those who are Coeliac, we can provide low gluten (<20 ppm) hosts or a separate chalice. Please let the priest or sacristan know your need.

Anointing of the Sick, can be provided before, during or after any Mass.

Just let the Sacristan or the Priest know ahead of time.

Cornerstone Youth Group

Grade 6 to 10

OUR NEXT MEETING IS FRIDAY, 15th MARCH

Come grow youth faith with God and journey with us! We have great discussions, fun games and amazing excursions.

Every 3rd Friday of the month

St Gregory the Great Parish Room, School Hall

Contact Vera: Doncaster@cam.org.au

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

School Open Day 26th March 2024, 9.30-11am. For a School Tour or next Open Day dates please contact the School Office on 98484483.

Parish Facilities: The Tennis Club Room and Courts and the Hall and the Parish Room are available. Room bookings can be made:

st.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com and Jess will get back to you.

Tennis club use for tennis playing: contact Gianna on 0438 410 506.

"Live Your Best Married Life in Love"

Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!! Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome.

Date: 12-14 April, 2024 in Melbourne

Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



St Patrick's Feast Day
Mass at St. Gregory's Doncaster
18th of March, Monday
6.30pm-7.30pm

Invitation to parishioners to participate in the final (critical) stage of the 'Synod on Synodality' at St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe.

You are invited to a meeting on Wednesday, 20 March from 7.00pm-9.00 pm in the gathering space at St Kevin's Church to provide input on the critical, second and final stage of the Synod on Synodality. During the meeting, we will provide input to the Synod on how synodality might be or is already being introduced in our Parishes.

Please RSVP as soon as possible or by Friday 15 March to St Kevin's parish office: templestowe@cam.org.au; or by ringing 03 9850 5983. We look forward to seeing you there.

Peter Sheehan and John Costa on behalf of the St Kevin's Parish Pastoral Council.

Liturgical Roster April 2024 onwards

There were many movements within our Parish in the past months and this impacted our roster scheduling and roster attendance at Mass. We apologise for missing several past requests. We tried to accommodate any changes as best as we could. We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to send us any unavailability throughout the year. This will help us reduce errors & double ups as we work with a large number of people, days and times.

We are blessed with many volunteers in our Parish particularly for the 1030am Mass. We struggle to find Readers & Special Ministers for 9am Mass. If you usually attend the 1030am Mass & would love to come to 9am mass at times to help us please let us know. We also need more Special Ministers for 5pm Mass. Please let us know if you are no longer able to take part in our Liturgical Rosters. We don't remove anyone unless we are requested to. We understand that there are unexpected events that may occur prior to Mass. If you can't make it and unable to find any replacements please contact our Sacristan, Mary Stocco on weekends or the Office on weekdays.

Thank you for your support & understanding throughout the years!

Fourth Sunday of Lent
9 & 10 March

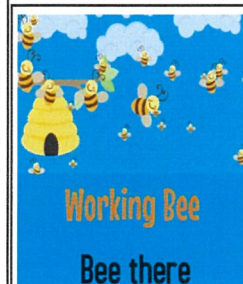
As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by Visiting

caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Working Bee
St Gregory the Great Parish, Doncaster
23rd of March, Saturday
9.00AM-11.00AM

It will be great to get 20-40 people even if you only come for 45-60 minutes.

Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!

Please bring some tools.