

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

17 MARCH 2024

THE HOUR HAS COME. Jesus was greatly troubled as the hour of his suffering and death approached. He was tempted to ask the Father to save him from this hour. But he knew that his death would be a source of new life for all. Today's liturgy invites us to share in Jesus' self-sacrificing love. For ourselves, as for Jesus, the grain of wheat must die in order to produce a rich harvest.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 42: 1-2

**Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.**

## GREETING

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

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**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. Lord Jesus, you were lifted up to draw all people to yourself: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You shouldered the cross, to bear our suffering and sinfulness: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

You open for your people the way from death into life: 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. By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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** Jer 31: 31-34

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.**

*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant

with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12

**R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**
3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.**

*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 26

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL

Jn 12: 20-30

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.**

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal



life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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. Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. 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 OR 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: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection 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 Jn 12: 24

**Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**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.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### A MATTER OF TIME

In this fifth week of Lent, we approach the crux of our belief. We are drawing near to our journey through Passion Sunday and Holy Week. Jeremiah heralds: "See the days are coming" and Jesus in the Gospel of John proclaims, "Now the hour has come!" These times are both important in their own context yet also mark God's time.

Jeremiah's prophetic words announce God's new covenant with the House of Israel, a covenant which God writes on their hearts that "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Jer 31:33).

As John's passage opens, it is the time of the Passover and some Greeks want to see Jesus. Their seeking of Jesus affirms the words of the Pharisees earlier "the world has gone after him" (John 12:19). The Greeks approach Philip as he has a Greek name, and Philip goes with Andrew, to Jesus. With the Greeks seeking him, Jesus recognises that the gathering has begun, "the world has gone after him," so he announces, "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (John 12:23). An Amen saying follows: "Very truly (Amen, amen), I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). In this image of a grain of wheat is firstly the revelatory sense of Jesus' fate, destiny and mission. Secondly it is the way to see the disciples and our own lives and mission.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

16/17 March 2024

## Parish Office:

Hours: **Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm**

Tel: **9412 8425**

Email: [Doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:Doncaster@cam.org.au)

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

[www.facebook.com/StGregsDonny](https://www.facebook.com/StGregsDonny)

Website: [www.stgregs.org.au](http://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: Palm Sunday

Isa 50: 4-7, Ps 21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24, Phil 2: 6-11,

Mk 15: 1-39

**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](mailto:principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au)

## PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Contact Margaret O'Donnell at [DoncasterRE@cam.org.au](mailto: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 Aloï, 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 Pardo.

**and for those who died recently**

Salvatore Vecchio, Sharon Tarulli

**and for those whose anniversaries**

**occur about now** Maria Ferraro,

Giuseppe Cannizzo.



## Words from PP,

Week 5! Just a week to go and we enter into Holy Week.

I have put large swathes of my time aside in this week for me to work myself through all the Easter Liturgies (Palm Sunday; Holy Thursday; Good Friday; Easter Vigil; Easter Sunday).

I was talking to one of my brothers some years ago and he commented that his students could tell when he used the same lecture notes from the previous year. New students and they could tell. After pondering this for some time we concluded that the key lay in ourselves.

If I approach Easter this year as just a repeat of the last eight Easters as a priest presiding at the liturgies—then that is what it is. But putting the time aside to work through and think through the liturgies my experiences, growth, hopes and imaginings arising from the past year and looking to the future—these all become a part of the details: and that means the various Masses / Services reflect “now” “today” “the movement of the Spirit in my life / your lives.”

This is as it should be. Christ Jesus came among us, and will be with us for all times and in all places. So our celebration of our beloved Saviour should be fresh. Something new for our lives each and every year through celebrating Easter.

I pray that enough of the time I have sought to put aside will actually be available for me to be ready to help you share in the full sorrow and joy of the Passion, Death and Resurrection. And I pray that this Holy Week will be fresh for you, bringing new perspectives and joys in the love of Christ Jesus.

## Safeguarding:

We had a Safeguarding meeting this past week during which we spent a lot of time working through a ‘Self Assessment Tool’ – evaluating for ourselves where we think and feel are we up to with developing a culture where safeguarding our children and all vulnerable people is ‘second nature’ and consciously done.

One of the standards asks, “What do you do to ask the general population their thoughts about safeguarding?” There are a number of things we do already, but I don’t think I’ve ever put it out there with the question to you specifically: “What do you think about our safeguarding policy, processes and actions?” Please tell us, let us know what you think and what we could do better.

*God bless, Fr Charles*



## LENT- EASTER TIMETABLE 2024 St Gregory the Great Doncaster

Every Friday during Lent:

**Stations of the Cross** at 7.00pm Wednesday

27th March: **Communal Penance**

**Service (with individual**

**absolution)** at 7.30pm (at St Greg's also for St Kevin's)

23rd/24th March: **Palm Sunday** – Masses as per usual

28th March: **Holy Thursday** – Mass at 7.30pm

29th March: **Good Friday** – Stations of the Cross at 10.00am  
**Passion of our Lord** at 3.00pm

30th March: **Easter Vigil** Mass at 8.30pm

31st March: **Easter Sunday**- Masses at 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

*St Gregory's Child Safety Culture—Got some thoughts? Let us know, we want to hear.*



**THIS WEEK**

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**NEXT WEEK 23/24 March**

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

**LECTORS**

Rebecca Law, Patrick Soosay  
 Kay & Ray Lewis  
 Aditya Hendaro, Mary Stocco  
 Stephanie Ong, Viviana Pereira

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Andy Ng, Yvonne Tan**MONEY COUNTERS:** Surin Fernando, Maggie Yong**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell  
 Rachel Kay, Margaret Wallace  
 Tony Ting, Robert Rukavina  
 Alfred Lee

**MORNING TEA:** Adeline Wong**COLLECTORS**

Gerald O'Donnell

**FLOWERS:** N/A**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Robert & Dianne McHugh  
 Tony Nimmo, Joan Dinneen  
 Fred & Agnes Fulia  
 Margaret O'Donnell, Judy Ablaza

**MORNING TEA:****COLLECTORS**

Maggie Yong  
 Stephanie Ong

**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.

**Holy Week Rosters 2024**

The Easter Holy Week Rosters are half filled. We need volunteers for Offertories, Collectors and Altar Servers. Please add your names on the sign up sheet if you could help. We appreciate your ministries and thank you for making the time to serve our Communities.



**St. Patrick's Feast Day**  
**18th of March, Monday**  
**5.00pm Mass at St. Gregory's Doncaster**

**Solemnity of St. Joseph**  
**19th of March, Tuesday**  
**9.15am Mass at St. Kevin's Templestowe**  
**5.00pm Mass at St. Gregory's Doncaster**

**MORNING TEA ROSTER**

We have resumed our morning tea service after the Sunday 10.30am Mass but we do need more hands on deck to host them! Hosting is a great way to be involved within our community, to get to know more parishioners and to share some food and beverages (and smiles!) with others. We warmly invite volunteers to sign up in the roster on the noticeboard in the foyer (and you are welcome to host as many sessions as you like). Thank you for your participation in this ministry!

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**16 & 17 March**

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



Welcome to the family of Lachlan Rex Tatnell who will be baptised at St Gregory The Great Church this Sunday.

**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](mailto:st.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com) and Jess will get back to you.

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

**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 7.00 pm-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](mailto: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.

*The 25th*  
*Melbourne Passion*  
*Play*



Get into the spirit of Easter! Experience the story of Christ's Passion as a breathtaking free outdoor theatre event. Performances are on Palm Sunday, March 24th at 1.30 pm, and on Good Friday, March 29th at 10 am.

Set in the beautiful grounds of the Holy Cross Centre, 207 Serpells Road Templestowe, this is one to bring your whole family to. Duration of each performance is approximately 2 hours. For your own comfort bring a rug, chair, bottled water etc. St John Ambulance staff will be in attendance. All actors and crew are volunteers.

This annual show has been delighting audiences since 1999. Truly an event not to be missed!

For more information go to [www.passionplay.info](http://www.passionplay.info) or ring the Secretary (Dawn) on 0411 957 164 or the Manager (Gino Gammaldi) on 0422 662 451.



**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. Kindly check St Greg's bulletin board for tasks to accomplish that day.

Please bring some tools.

Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!