

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

17 SEPTEMBER 2023

HOW OFTEN MUST I FORGIVE? There is much truth in the proverb, 'to err is human, to forgive divine'. We all make mistakes. We all do or say things we later regret. And yet, when others wrong us, we can find it beyond our human strength to forgive. As we celebrate the mystery of Christ's love today, let us ask Jesus to heal our divisions and fill our hearts with his spirit of forgiveness.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Sir 36: 18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

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. 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.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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

Sir 27:30-28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

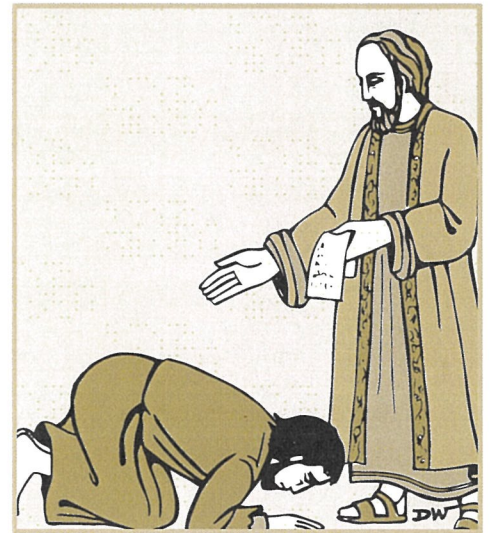
Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**



4. For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. / As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 14: 7-9

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

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders

that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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. Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these,

your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. 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-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

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 cf. Ps 35: 8

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE CALL TO FORGIVENESS

A well-balanced life is something worth striving for, but human nature being what it is, balance is not always easily achieved. Today the readings deal with the question of balance and consistency regarding how we expect God to treat us and the ways we deal with each other. Resentment, vengeance, and anger can all find their place in the human heart and Ecclesiasticus advises that a more tolerant approach is more beneficial. If we cannot forgive each other, how can anyone expect God to forgive our failings?

Matthew approaches the question from the other direction. Rather than looking at what we will receive from the Lord, the striking parable of the two debtors teaches us to look at what we have already received. Since God has already looked kindly and mercifully on us this should lead to a corresponding degree of forbearance with one another.

While it is not stated in today's reading from Romans, Paul is dealing with a community where there was some tension regarding eating meat left over from temple sacrifices. For the more liberal members of the community eating this meat was not a problem. Others in the community were scandalised and thought it was idolatry. Paul's approach is to remind both groups that whatever we do influences our brothers and sisters. As Christians, the way to find a sense of balance is to remember that we are called to live for the Lord. Sometimes this calls us to die to ourselves to preserve peace and unity. Christ gave his life for us all, should we not do the same for each other?

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

16/ 17 September 2023

Parish Office:

Hours: **Mon—Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm**

Tel: **9412 8425**

Email: Doncaster@cam.org.au



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



www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster

Website: www.stgregs.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Parish Secretary: Mon & Tue: Nadia Bolzonello

Wed-Fri: Vera Arief

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 9.00 am & Fri: 9.00am (Tue/Thu 9.15 am St Kevin's)

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9.30-11am. Or: before/after any Mass by request but allow time.

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

Common sense hygiene please: Masks, sanitising, isolating if testing positive for Covid-19, etc..

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isa 55:6-9, Phil 1:20-24, 27, Mt 20:1-16

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 Liam Fitzpatrick, Anne Credlin, Nola Tibaldi, Brian Cork, Vladimira Sabolic, Maria Tomasello, Brian Croft, John Shew, Rena Sacco, Clifford Bunardi, Umberto Gianello, Judy Jones, Luke Kakoschke, Natalie, Max Passarella, Teresa Yong, Alex Ablaza, Mary Grace Lim Siew Lan, Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Sio Dewi, Pat McLeod, Gilbert De Claro, Gabrielle Byrne, Chee Choong Seng, Chianna Sacco, Roy Dos Santos, Lilia Go, Maria Stone, Chee Mee Lian, Eliseo Pardillo, Siat Lin and Margaret Dobran.

And for those who died recently

and for those whose

anniversaries occur about now

Rosa Laruccia, Vincent Soldini, Coralie Tonti-Filippini, Michael Nunn



From the desk of the PP ...

Liturgy: I will be away at a Liturgy Conference from 27th to 30th September, including being away for the Saturday morning reconciliation hours and for the Saturday evening Mass (Bishop Les will stand in for me, thank you Bishop).

The Mass, The Word and The Eucharist, and other times we gather in praise and worship! I love celebrating the Mass with you. It is such a deep abiding wonder for me to bring about with you the truth and reality of the real presence of Jesus Christ through Word and through his Body and Blood. A great grace to be that presence through our gathering together, and for each of us through our being members of his very self through our Baptism. Awesome indeed, and humbling! And I see this in your faces as you participate actively in being the people of God—truly listening to the readings and the homily and immersed in the Eucharist and receiving Holy Communion. I know you share this love and joy that I feel.

Because of this love and joy, I know that we need to grow in our understanding of the Mass and how to celebrate it and enable each of us to be full, active, conscious, engaged, loving participants every time we come together to worship. Because of this love and joy I am going to this conference and number of parishioners are going with me: From St Greg's I have Chris and Brianna from the choir and Mary and Peter from the sacristy/general liturgy perspective. From St. Kevin's I've got Carmel going and we are looking for more.

There are workshops on all aspects of celebrating the Liturgy of the Mass and other things: Music, Environment, Proclaiming the Word, and on and on. I am expecting a Spirit filled time and so I am hopeful that we will learn a lot that will help us to develop even more capacity to celebrate God's love for us and share it with the world.

Gates/Parking: Another school term comes to an end and the gates are still not in operation. There were some final hardware and software elements being installed today/ I can now operate the gates from the Parish Office as well as from the Sacristy while the School has the primary control node.

Michelle Verna and I will visit the signage manufacturers on Friday to give final approval for the manufacture of the signs to go on structure supporting the gates. The signage should go up over the school holidays. Then ... early term four: we should be putting the gates into action. Yes it's been a long time but ... we are being careful to ensure everything works and we know how to work it before turning the gates on.

The shift of parking spaces seems to be working well, for the most part. Occasionally someone will park in the old spaces outside the church entry—I advise against this: we moved the spaces to make the flow of traffic into the driveway and carpark smooth and remove the risk of damage to cars.

A reminder. When we do start using the gates we plan that they will be open: 6 am to 10 am and 2 pm to 10 pm weekdays and 6 am to 10 pm on weekends. We will refine these times as time goes on. Remember: you can always get out: just drive up to the exit gate and it will open, or walk up to the pedestrian gates and press the button. Thank you for your patience with this extended project.

PS: Thank you to all who gave me their prayers as I celebrated two years since arriving in Doncaster and Templestowe on 8th September 2021. God bless, *Fr Charles*.

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

Ian Barnes, Peter Whiting
 Peter & Angela Molinari
 Gril Job, Aditya Hendarto
 Stephanie Ong, Natalie De Silva

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Stephen Ma, Boris Klaric**MONEY COUNTERS:** Lina Pavone, Don Pavone**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Karen D'Souza, Iris O'Farrell
 Rachel Kay, Joan Dinneen
 Fred & Agnes Fulia
 Margaret O'Donnell, Judy Ablaza

MORNING TEA: TBA**COLLECTORS**

Stephanie & Michael Ong

FLOWERS: Tessa Leung**NEXT WEEK 23/ 24 Sep**

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

LECTORS

Robert McHugh, Peter Whitting
 Rachel Kay, Philip Dunlop
 Brendan Pon, Rob Rukavina
 Isabelle Hii, Benedicta Wong

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Andy Ng, Yvonne Tan**MONEY COUNTERS:** Philip Dunlop, Marisa Maiolo**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Moir White, Katica Puhaj
 Ray & Kay Lewis
 TBA

Alfred Lee, Seleana Ng

MORNING TEA: TBA**COLLECTOR**

Alfred Lee

FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato

Mary Piccoli

For those who are **Coeliac**, we can provide low gluten (<20ppm) 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.

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.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

For a School Tour or next Open Day dates please contact the School Office on 98484483.

2024 Study Tour*Journey with Paul: Türkiye – Greece*

20 September – 6 October 2024

Tour Leader: Dr Rosemary Canavan

Online Information Sessions:

Saturday 16, 23 September, or 7 October 2023 at 2pm

Participants have the opportunity to undertake a study unit with CTC

in conjunction with the tour for
 credit towards an award

RSVP & further information: rosemary.canavan@ctc.edu.au**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT CATHOLICISM? LEARNING MORE ABOUT JESUS?***Are you, or is someone you know, curious about this?*

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) will soon begin its next series of meetings for St Gregory's & St Kevin's parishes at St Gregory's Church. For more information, phone Cathy (0431 748 898) or leave contact details with the parish office (9412 8425) or speak with Fr Charles. Warm welcome assured.

RCIA
 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

HOUR of GRACE**Eucharistic Adoration**

Spend a moment in front of Blessed Sacrament
 with hymns and worships

4th SUNDAY of THE MONTH

(24 Sept. 22 Oct. 26 Nov 2023)

06.00 - 07.00 PM

(after 5.00 PM Sunday Mass)

ST GREGORY THE GREAT CHURCH
 71 WILLIAMSON'S ROAD, DONCASTER

INFO Vera: doncaster@cam.org.au

Supported by:



HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY

Expression of Interest (EOI)**Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria (ACMV) Coordinator**

Do you know, or are you, a First Nations person who is passionate about social justice and would thrive in a role that makes a real difference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Melbourne Archdiocese?

Call or email the office and we'll send you the contact details.

PS: I know Vicki and Sherry—the past and current coordinators and I know how much of a leading role they've taken for their people—and how much difference the ACM has made. *Fr Charles*

We Need Altar Servers!!

Do you know that your child doesn't have to be a student at St Gregory the Great school to become one of our Altar Servers? We are recruiting new & previous Altar Servers for our Masses here at St Gregory the Great. Training will commence in October.

Why Altar Serving!

Serving God as an altar server is a wonderful way *for a child to grow in faith as well as in responsibility, friendship, and other virtues*. As well as to grow in respect and understanding of the Mass.

If your children have received their First Communion and would like to take part in this very special Ministry please email the office Doncaster@cam.org.au.

