

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / B

18 FEBRUARY 2024

DRIVEN INTO THE WILDERNESS. The Spirit of God, who descended on Jesus at his baptism, drove him into the wilderness. In the Jewish Scriptures the wilderness is both the place where Israel meets God and the place where it is tempted to worship idols made of stone. The season of Lent is a good time to examine whether we are responding to the Spirit of God in our lives or succumbing to the allurements of false idols.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 90: 15-16

**When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory, I
will grant him length of days.**

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.

**All: I confess to almighty God and to
you, my brothers and sisters, that I have
greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in
my words, in what I have done and in
what I have failed to do, (striking the
breast) through my fault, through my
fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my
brothers and sisters, to pray for me to
the Lord our God.**

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

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. Grant, almighty God, through the yearly
observances of holy Lent, that we may grow
in understanding of the riches hidden in
Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their
effects. 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

Gen 9: 8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

*I will recall the covenant between myself and
you ... the waters shall never again become a
flood to destroy all flesh.*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See,
I establish my Covenant with you, and
with your descendants after you; also with
every living creature to be found with you,
birds, cattle and every wild beast with
you: everything that came out of the ark,
everything that lives on the earth. I establish
my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall
be swept away again by the waters of the
flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the
earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant
I make between myself and you and every
living creature with you for all generations:
I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a
sign of the Covenant between me and the
earth. When I gather the clouds over the
earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I
will recall the Covenant between myself and
you and every living creature of every kind.
And so the waters shall never again become a
flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 24: 4-9. R. cf. v. 10

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord,
teach me your paths. / Make me walk in
your truth, and teach me: / for you are God
my saviour. **R.**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the
love you have shown from of old. / In your
love remember me, / because of your
goodness, O Lord. **R.**

3. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows
the path to those who stray, / he guides the
humble in the right path; / he teaches his
way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 3: 18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

*The water of the flood is a type of the baptism
which saves you now.*



Christ himself, innocent though he was, died
once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us
to God. In the body he was put to death,
in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in
the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits
in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah
was still building that ark which saved only
a small group of eight people 'by water', and
when God was still waiting patiently, that
these spirits refused to believe. That water is
a type of the baptism which saves you now,
and which is not the washing off of physical
dirt but a pledge made to God from a good
conscience, through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is
at God's right hand, now that he has made
the angels and Dominations and Powers his
subjects.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4: 4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone,

**but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!**

GOSPEL

Mk 1: 12-15

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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. Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. 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 OF THE 1ST SUNDAY 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

Mt 4: 4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth.

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 forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

LENT: SPRINGTIME FOR ALL GOD'S CREATION

In the southern hemisphere we miss the signs of nature linked in the northern hemisphere to Lent, namely the coming of spring. The word "Lent," is derived from the Old English "lencrnen" meaning spring. This poses a challenge for us in Australia's autumn, as we seek to unfold the springtime in our soul. In our scriptural journey into Lent, we are greeted with the sign of God's covenant with Noah: a rainbow. This covenant is not just with Noah and all descendants but with every living creature, everything that lives on the earth. A rainbow may well grace our southern skies in autumn, enabling us to experience ourselves in the embrace of God's covenant with the whole ecological world in which we live.

In the Gospel, the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness for forty days along with the wild beasts. Satan the tempter, and the angels who minister to Jesus. These ministering angels, like the rainbow, are a sign of God's ever-presence. As Jesus emerges from his forty days, we hear him begin his ministry in Galilee with "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near." Evocatively we have entered our forty days of Lent in a wilderness of ecological crisis. Unseasonal extremes of temperature, floods, fires and all manner of tempests call for us to take heed of the earth in which we dwell. In this time, we can reflect, ecologically and spiritually, to change our hearts and believe the Good News, knowing well God's promise through the rainbow and through the gift of his son.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Publisher by ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missa © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturg Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rs. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2024 No 649. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

First Sunday of Lent, Year B

17/18 February 2024

Parish Office:

Hours: **Mon—Fri 9.00am 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

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 (**Not 24 Feb**)

(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: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Ps 115:10, 15-19, Rom 8:31-34, Mk 9: 2-10

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 Tony Aloï, Clifford Bunardi, Sarina Louise Walker, Huan Sun, Nancy Au, Elsie Poon, Patricia Luk, Shirley Freeman, Balwinder Kaur, Michael Mullens, Tim Percy-Dove, 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

Candy Lai, Charlie Raffin

and for those whose anniversaries

occur about now Gina Marcucci, Nevio Pigatto, Natalia Pigatto, Emilio Molinari



Words from PP,

What a wonderful start to Lent, for me at least. Having so many parishioners attend and participate in our Masses for Ash Wednesday: amazing! Our faith is alive, and strong: Praise the Lord!!!

Lenten Regulations remain the same: Fasting and Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Abstinence for all over the age of 14; fasting from age 18-60. Encouraged for others but not binding. And special attention to Prayer, Self-Denial, Helping Others on all Fridays of Lent. More details are on the notice board.

Over the Sundays of Lent we will hear from St Mark telling us of the Temptations of Jesus and of Jesus' Transfiguration. Then we journey with St John telling us of the destruction of the Temple (his death), the nature of Service in faith, the need to die like a grain of wheat. Then back to St Mark's account of the Passion and Death of Jesus, leading us into Holy Week.

The journey of Lent is a journey we make each year. It is a journey with Jesus, a journey that leads us to learn yet again that Jesus is human with us and also the Son of God, divine but close to us. Yes a man but not just a man: God.. Yes an inspiring leader but much more than that, the only leader who died for us so that we can be united within the love that is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lent: comes from northern hemisphere roots in a word for lengthening, lengthening of the day as Winter passes and Spring begins and Summer beckons. This year, perhaps, the journey of Lent can be that for us: a lengthening of the light of Christ that shines in us and through us so that we are ready for the joy that is the three days of Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday and then the fifty days that lead to Pentecost.

PS: The pilot of the Alpha experience for our parish is progressing well. The twenty or so people participating are all regular Catholics and everyone is finding the commitment of time worthwhile. You'd think that being Catholics all our lives, most of us, we'd know it all. But no! This intentional journey from ignorance into knowing Jesus as the Christ is engaging and inspirational. We are all learning. As the year progresses, we will begin running Alpha regularly and you will be invited to share this privilege of spending some time renewing the beginnings of faith.

NOTE:

No confessions available Sat. 24th February

The retreat for the Parish Pilot of Alpha is being held that day from 9 am—3 pm so Fr Charles and Fr Isaac are not available. If your need is urgent, please call and leave a message at the parish office and Fr Charles will call back as soon as practicable.

God bless, Fr Charles

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us for the beginning of the Stations of the Cross on the 16th of February Friday 7.00pm at St Gregory the Great Parish. This will be every Friday 7.00pm for the Lenten Season.



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

Frances Cannizzo, Frank Ryan
 Joan Dinneen, Tony Nimmo
 Brendan Pon, Gril Job
 Dot Haynes, Alfred Ablaza

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Carole Tang, Agnes Chee

MONEY COUNTERS: Lina Pavone, Don Pavone

NEXT WEEK 24/25 Feb

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

LECTORS

Alvin Priyana, Peter Whiting
 Rachel Kay, Mary Stocco
 Tony Ting, Erin Djukiadmodjo
 Mary Tonti-Filippini, Benedicta Wong

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Andy Ng, Yvonne Tan

MONEY COUNTERS: Philip Dunlop, Maria Verrocchi

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell
 Ray & Kay Lewis
 Fred & Agnes Fulia
 Caterina Gioffre, Seleana Ng
MORNING TEA: Jenny & Bryan Tyedin

COLLECTORS

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

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Peter Whiting, Sharron Wilkinson
 Joan Dinneen, Margaret Wallace
 Sauro & Lillian Antonelli
 Alfred Lee
MORNING TEA: Mary, Jonathan, Daniel

COLLECTORS

Viviana Pereira, Judy Ablaza
 Stephanie Ong
FLOWERS: N/A

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

Help us direct your contributions effectively!

We have noticed some miscellaneous donations in the Parish recently and want to ensure that every contribution goes towards our Stewardship program. To assist us in this effort, we kindly ask that contributors provide specific details along with their contributions. Thank you for your continued support.

New "No Parking" Area

To reduce congestion near the front of the church, we have now designated that area a no parking zone. Parishioners are kindly requested to observe the no parking zone.

**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!

Landings Program this February 2024!

Landings offers a safe space for those who have disconnected from their faith to share their experiences. The informal meetings over coffee and cake are all about compassionate listening: to welcome and encourage people to re-engage with their faith. The meetings are run by lay people. The program begins on 21 February: there are 8 weekly sessions on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8.30 pm at St Kevin's parish house in Lower Templestowe. If you know of any inactive Catholics who may be interested in discussing their faith and/or are considering returning to the faith, please let Thomas Ong or Karen Chay know or leave a message for Ana at the Templestowe parish office.



Welcome to the family of
 Charlie Peter Wotherspoon
 who will be baptised at St Gregory The Great Church
 this Sunday.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

Open Day Tuesday, 9.30– 11am, 13th February 2024. 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.

Sacrament Commitment Mass
28 February 2024, Wednesday 5.00pm

This commitment mass for all children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation is open to all who wish to come and help celebrate this moment on their faith journey.

First Sunday of Lent
17 & 18 February


This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

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.

