

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

24 DECEMBER 2023

**A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD.** King David wanted to build a fine temple in which God would dwell among the people. But God did not choose a building made of stones and mortar for a dwelling place but the womb of the virgin Mary. God continues to dwell among us in Mary's son, Jesus Christ, whose body is the Church. Let us pray for a deepening of faith this Christmas that we, like Mary, may continue to give Christ to the world.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Isa 45:8

**Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.**

## 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 Advent.*

## COLLECT

P. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

**A reading from the second book of Samuel**

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

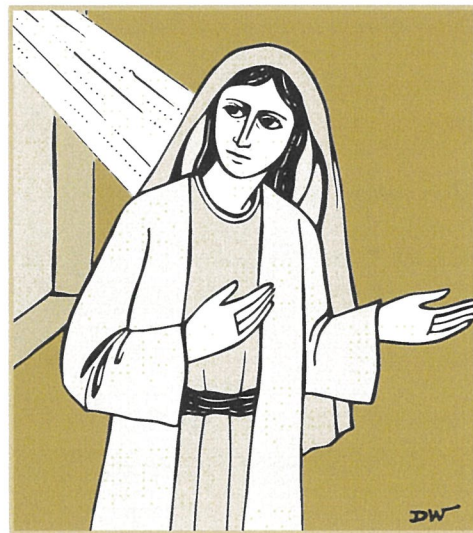
Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always; / for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

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

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

**Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Lk 1:26-38

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit**

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

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be



afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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. May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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 II OF ADVENT

*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

Isa 7:14

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;**

**and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. 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, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### THE ANNUNCIATION

On the eve of Christmas, today's Gospel reminds us of how the birth of Jesus is possible. Luke's narrative describes God sending the Angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. It is a familiar story to us, yet nothing of it is in our realm of experience.

This event is reported in a series of stories paralleling the annunciation and birth accounts of John the Baptist and Jesus. The narrative will present John as herald of the arrival of Jesus as Messiah when the time of his public ministry arrives, fulfilling God's promise.

Rightly this is an account of God's activity via Gabriel announcing first to Zechariah and then to Mary. Here is a moment bathed in God's grace. God's incarnation will occur in a natural human manner, born of a woman. Yet take a focus on Mary and imagine again the appearance of an angel. No surprise that she might be perplexed (Luke 1:29). Yet Mary responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (v. 38).

Mary also hears of her cousin Elisabeth's fortunate conception and sets off to see her. Their meeting, the centrepiece of the double annunciations and births, reveals these two women in embrace, together they usher in the birth of the Son of God. Today, the focus is on Mary's embrace of her mission but she is part of a larger story, God's story. Mary is a courageous woman who in the face of an impossible challenge steps forward in faith.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATION PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 9394 3400 Fax 02 935 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published at © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. It is 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 Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward r Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 202 No 640. Website: www.stpauls.com.au





# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

## Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

23/ 24 December 2023

### Parish Office:

Hours: **Mon—Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm**

Tel: **9412 8425**

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



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



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

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

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Charles Balnaves

**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

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

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: The Holy Family

Gen 15: 1-6; 21:1-3, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Lk 2: 22, 39-50

**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 Michael Mullens, Tim Percy-Dove, Enzo Galota, Jason Khoo, Liam Fitzpatrick, Anne Credlin, Nola Tibaldi, Brian Cork, Vladimira Sabolic, Brian Croft, Maria Tomasello, John Shew, Rena Sacco, Judy Jones, Clifford Bunardi, Umberto Gianello, Luke Kakoschke, Natalie, 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 Pardiolo.

and for those who died recently

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now  
Carmelinda Spina, Charlie Cannizzo.



Words from PP,

Assistant Priest: Suddenly – an offer I have accepted – the appointment of an assistant.



Welcome to Fr Isaac Ad Hani Moheib Fayez Zaki! Sometime soon, hopefully just after Christmas Fr Isaac (Isaac) will join the Doncaster and the Templestowe parishes as Assistant Priest. I have met Isaac and he is a lovely man. Please welcome him warmly when he arrives.

A significant part of his time will be spend as Chaplain caring for the Egyptian Coptic Catholic Community. Beyond that we will work over coming weeks out how best Isaac minister with us.

Isaac is about 40 and has been ordained for 13 years, serving in various roles in Egypt and spent five 'holiday's in Canada providing supply for the Coptic priest in Ontario.

I spend an afternoon with Isaac and found him to be engaging, insightful, knowledgeable, faith-filled. I think he will prove to be a gift of the Holy Spirit.

I ask your help to make sure, as a new migrant (he's been here 12 days), Isaac gets the best induction to our ways, our culture, our approach to faith: all the perplexity of a new country and parish.

Being Prophetic: Last week I spoke in my homily about the reality that we are all gifted by the Holy Spirit with the capacity to speak prophetically.

Here is the process I outlined:

Recognise that you are receiving a call of the Holy Spirit to speak out or take action – that good but disturbing feeling or urge to speak out about God's call. Recognise and respond.

Centre in God – allow yourself time. Time to be quiet, time to just 'be still' with God.

Sense the call you are seeking to respond to. Allow an image to form. If that doesn't feel / seem right, allow another image. Allow yourself to sit with the image.

Relate your image to a passage from Scripture – there is no 'rule' here – choose the passage that you sense to be right. And allow a word to arise from it.

Ask why this image / scripture / word? Allow space for the Holy Spirit Allow the image, scripture, Word to settle and point you to an action that you can take that can be applied in the real world.

Christmas: Jesus is born Alleluia, Alleluia. I pray your Christmas, New Year, and holidays are filled with grace and blessing and joy and love and ways forward into God's Grace and Love. Merry Christmas. Lots of people have made our Christmas possible – can't thank you all individually. So collectively: THANK YOU AND THANK YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN. God bless.

Air-Conditioners: they are in, they work they are commissioned. I've tried them. I think they will be a marvellous summer and winter boon for us. We will work out when best to use them. The air seems to circulate well in the church and if we turn them on well ahead of Mass we can turn to low speed and the noise is very low. (though we still need works on the acoustics)

*God bless, Fr Charles*

### New Year's Mass Times

31<sup>st</sup> December- Feast of the Holy Family: 9.00am, 10.30am

New Year's Eve: 5.00pm

1<sup>st</sup> January New Year's Day: 10.30am

*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

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Carole Tang, Agnes Chee

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Anne McGrath, Mal De Alwis

**LECTORS**

Catherine & Noel McClelland  
 Angela Molinari, Peter Molinari  
 Luisa Yambao, Sauro Antonelli

**No Evening Mass. Please refer to Christmas Liturgy Roster in the coming week**

**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell  
 Margaret Wallace, Tony Nimmo  
 Mary Stocco, Lilian Antonelli

**MORNING TEA:** N/A

**COLLECTORS**

**FLOWERS:** Tessa Leung

**NEXT WEEK 30/ 31 Dec**

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

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Mary Wilson

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Lina Pavone, Don Pavone

**LECTORS**

Joseph & Lorna Phillips  
 Philip Dunlop, Christ Perera  
 Tony Ting, Paola Villanueva  
 Margaret O'Donnell, Gerard O'Donnell

**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Moir White, Sharron Wilkinson  
 Tony Nimmo, Rebecca Raymond  
 Maggie Yong, Lucy Giardino  
 Dot Haynes, Joan Dinneen

**MORNING TEA:** N/A

**COLLECTORS**

**FLOWERS:** Connie Amalfi

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.



*Reach out. Give life.*

Catholic Mission thanks the parish of St Gregory's for your support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$1,927.00 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need. Many thanks!

**We are taking a break!**

Christian Meditation Group is now in recess and will restart on Wednesday, 7th February 2024.

Charismatic Adorations will restart in February 2024.

Cornerstone Youth Group will restart in February 2024

Children Liturgy will restart in February 2024

Thank you for your participation and support throughout the year. We look forward to see you in the new year!

**ROSTERS-** We will send out the First Quarter Liturgy, Flowers and Morning Tea Rosters for 2024 shortly. Please notify the Office if you are away during certain period next year.

We also in urgent need for Readers & Special Ministers for our Sunday 9am, Minister of the Eucharist for our Sunday, 5pm Masses and Morning Tea Hosts for our 10.30am Masses. Please email the office doncaster@cam.org.au if you can help. Training will be provided. Thank you for your continuous support.



Welcome to the family of  
**Isaiah Chong**  
 who will be baptised at St Gregory The  
 Great Church this Sunday.

**St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School**

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.

## Lourdes Day Mass

**ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES  
DAY MASS – SATURDAY 10  
FEBRUARY 2024**

Parishioners are invited to attend the annual Lourdes Day Mass at

St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday, 10th February 2024 at 10.30am. This is a special occasion to pray for our sick, infirm and elderly and those who care for them. The principal celebrant at the Mass will be His Grace, Archbishop Peter Comensoli. Everybody attending will receive a gift pack containing water from the grotto at Lourdes, rosary beads and prayer material. Tell your friends about the Mass, especially those who aren't well. In fact, bring them along. A poster about the Mass is on display in the narthex of the Church



ORDER OF MALTA  
AUSTRALIA



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL  
MELBOURNE



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

*Loving  
Father,*

help us remember

the **birth of Jesus**

that we may share in

the *song of the angels,*

the gladness of the shepherds

and the **worship of the wise men.**

Close the door of hate and

*open the door of love* all over the

world. Let kindness come with every gift and

good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from

evil by the *blessing which Christ brings*, and teach us

to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning

make us happy to be *Thy children*, and the Christmas

evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

*forgiving and forgiven,*

for Jesus' sake.

Amen.