

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

LISTEN TO HIM. Jesus revealed his oneness with sinful humanity by his baptism in the river Jordan. On the mount of transfiguration he revealed his oneness with God who proclaims, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' It takes faith to listen to Jesus, who teaches that the path of life leads along the way of the cross. But, as Abraham learned, if we put our faith in God our reward will be great.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 26: 8-9

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

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.

P. 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 have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt

offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: / 'I am sorely afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord / is the death of his faithful. **R.**

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; / you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all his people, / in the courts of the house of the Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

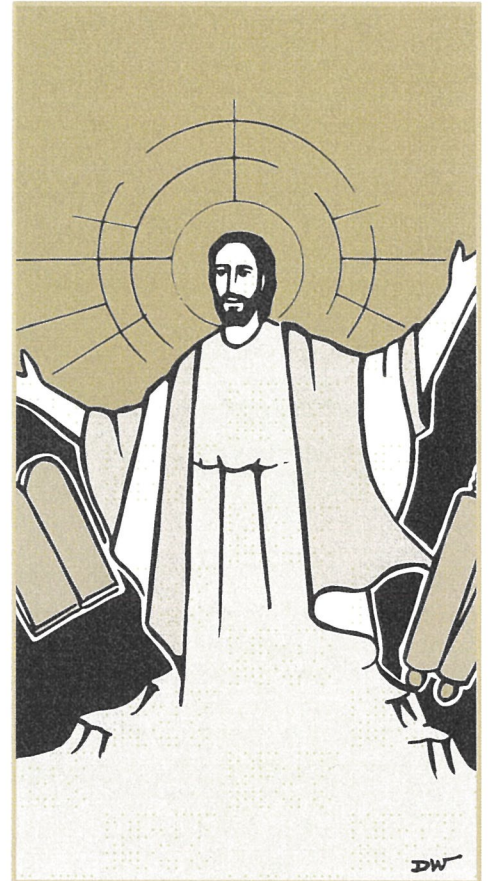
SECOND READING

Rom 8: 31-34

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

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may



be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17: 5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mk 9: 2-10

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.

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes

became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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 this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. 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 2ND 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: 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

Mt 17: 5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

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

THE GIFT OF GOD'S OWN SON

In the second week of Lent, we are taken to an encounter of God with Abraham where he is asked to sacrifice his son. This seems incomprehensible to us. Is this the ultimate sign of commitment or faithfulness to God? If it is a test, Abraham shows his fidelity but the sacrificing of Isaac doesn't happen. God spares Abraham's son. This reading is in direct confrontation with the second reading from Romans where "God did not spare God's own son." These words are stark and a testament to the faithfulness and compassion of God.

This invites our attention to the enormity of God's gift echoed in the words of Jesus: "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). It is in this context that we embrace the transfiguration. This is the second occasion in Mark's Gospel where Jesus is revealed to be God's son. In light of the dazzling appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven, we see these disciples in fear. Occurring shortly after Jesus has revealed his fate, these leaders, Peter, James and John, witness this event and when it subsides and they go down the mountain, they are told not to say anything till the Son of Man has risen from the dead. This is baffling. They are distressed about what "rising from the dead" could mean. This insight into the community of Mark may also intersect with our own searchings. How do we understand God's gift in the death and resurrection of God's own son?

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

24/25 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: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17, Ps 18:8-11, Cor 1:22-25, Jn 2:13-25

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, 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

Carlota G. Samones

and for those whose anniversaries

occur about now Patrick Wijono,

Monica Sonya, Roger Anthony Cheng To

-On, Men Kong Cheng, Estaban

Rosales, Roberti Family, Benedos Family



Words from PP,

Gates: Work progresses for a full solution but soon we will be able to lock the exit gate open. Exit assured!! Signage and a larger loop and other things will be put in place as soon as possible but being able to easily cause the gate to stay open will resolve some or most of the most pressing issues.

Praying! Over the past weeks I have spoken about some forms and dimensions of prayer and ways in which Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit are present for us.

After a decade of ordained life, I have prayed over many people. Prayed when celebrating or administering Sacraments. Prayed over people when they come needing support and guidance in some need, often for an urgent need.

But ... I have never to my memory been prayed over other than when receiving a Sacrament. Something new for me.

This past Thursday I had that experience: being prayed over by two members of our parish life. Obviously this way of prayer is not something new that has never been experienced by anyone ever before. No, it is an old experience, Charismatic groups know it, and we know that Jesus prayed over people. But for me to be intentionally prayed over by others, not priests: that was special, new, and it evoked a few thoughts.

I got the gift of the Holy Spirit I had asked for – the prayer was answered in my heart, new confidence arose. It took courage for me to name to others an area of my life for which I wanted prayer, an area of vulnerability. It took trust to allow two people to come close enough to put their hands on my shoulders and speak and even greater trust that the words they would speak would be the right words. It took openness and patience in myself to wait for the touch of the Holy Spirit arising from the prayers spoken over me by people who in turn were trusting that the Holy Spirit would give them the words I needed to hear.

Awesome! God's grace is multifaceted and efficacious! Praise the Lord!

Working Bee: St Greg's

Saturday 23rd March – yes, I am getting in early! Please Save the Date.

We are planning to have a working bee on 23rd March from 9 am to 11 am. Attendance over the past two years has usually been only 3-4 people. I know times are busy but I find those numbers disappointing, despite the enthusiasm and capacity of those who do come. It would be great to get 20 or 40 people along, even if you only come for 45 or 60 minutes in the period from 9 am to 11 am. I say there is lots to be done but don't usually list the things so here are some: Cleaning the insides and outsides of the windows of the gathering space (bottom section only); Making sure all cobwebs are removed inside and outside to reachable height; Weeding / tidying up of the gardens along the front of the church and in front of the centre of the gates; Light pruning of trees near the west and south sides of the church (up from the carpark); Cleaning around the doors / windows to remove accumulated dust / mud/spiders webs/etc; Removing weeds from the gravel surrounding the rear of the church and the bricks in the Memorial Garden (and especially baby Agapanthus plants); Helping Geraldina and Mary to finish pruning / clearing / feeding / mulching the Memorial Garden (if not already finished); Brushing the walls and doors inside the church up to a reachable height to remove dust/grit/cobwebs and vacuuming the carpet afterwards as needed; ditto outside (but no carpet to clean); Fitting draught / leaf excluders to the bottom edge of doors to the Memorial Garden & entry doors; Removing chewing gum (yes, yuck!!); Control the spread of ivy behind the church. Save the date. Bring some tools. PS: I am getting a quote from a landscaper about getting the main garden outside the church cut right back and brought under control – this seems to me something beyond a working bee. But everything else is small jobs.

God bless, Fr Charles

LENT- EASTER TIMETABLE 2024

St Gregory the Great Doncaster

Every Friday during Lent: **Stations of the Cross** at 7pm

Wed. 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 @ 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 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: Andy Ng, Yvonne Tan MONEY COUNTERS: Philip Dunlop, Maria Verrocchi	LECTORS Alvin Priyana, Peter Whiting Rachel Kay, Mary Stocco Tony Ting, Erin Djukiadmodjo Mary Tonti-Filippini, Benedicta Wong	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
NEXT WEEK 2/3 March Sat 6.00pm Sun 9.00am Sun 10.30am Sun 5.00pm CARE OF THE CHURCH: Stephen Ma, Boris Klaric MONEY COUNTERS: Don & Lina Pavone	LECTORS Cathy McClelland, Gerard O' Donnell Kay Lewis, Ray Lewis Karen Chay, Aidan Leung Thomas Ong, Jane Ma	MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST Maira White, Lorna Philip Katica Puhali Maggie Yong, Lucy Giardino Judy Ablaza, Margaret O'Donnell MORNING TEA: N/A	COLLECTORS Gerard O' Donnell, Viviana Pereira 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.

Help us direct your contributions effectively!

We have noticed some miscellaneous donations in the Parish Church Account To assist us to credit your donation to your name, we ask that contributors include their name as a reference. Thank you for your continued support.

New No Parking Area

To reduce traffic hazard /congestion in front of the church, we have designated that area "No Parking". Please observe the change.
Note: We created 2 new spaces to allow for this loss so there is no net loss of parking places.



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!

Come Away Day

The first Come Away Day of the year will be held at Holy Cross on **Wednesday 28th February**. The theme of the day is **'Welcome the freshness of this new day'**. The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around 2pm. The cost of the day is \$25.00 or a donation according to your means. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

This year's service, written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine, offers an opportunity to join with them in prayer. The day promotes informed prayer and prayerful action for the women of a focus country.

Friday 1 March 2024

10.00 am Service: East Doncaster Baptist Church, 47-53 Tunstall Rd, Donvale. Speaker: Merrell Kitchen
7.30 pm Service: St. Mark's Anglican Church, 302 High St. Templestowe Lower. Speaker: Venerable Dr Colleen O' Reilly AM
More info: Ph 9846 2012, email: info@manninghamuc.org

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

School Open Day 20th February 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.

Sacrament Commitment Mass—All Welcome 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.

PARISH CENSUS

Fourth and Last Weekend!!! We invite each member of our parish to participate in our census process. By completing the census form which will be made available during Mass, we can have accurate details for our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also enable the parish to strategically plan for important events, ministries, and other future endeavours. **Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality.**



Vocations News from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Thank you for your prayers for Vocations over the years. We were delighted to accept eight men to the Seminary for Melbourne this year:

Chinh Tran, Rohan Prince, Luke Kennedy, Luke Emslie, Tung Phan, Joseph Maae, Patrick Harris and Mathews Noble.

Many of you have personally helped and encouraged these men along their journey to apply to the join the Seminary; it truly is a team effort! Please continue to pray for them!

Second Sunday of Lent 24 & 25 February



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

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.

