

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

28 APRIL 2024

REMAIN IN ME. The branches of a vine will bear fruit only if they are attached to the vine. It is from the vine that they draw the life-giving nourishment they need. Likewise, we must remain attached to Jesus if we are to receive the life of God and produce the fruits of the Spirit in our world: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' (Gal 5: 22).

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 97: 1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord, / for he has worked wonders; / in the sight of the nations / he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

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. Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. 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

Acts 9: 26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

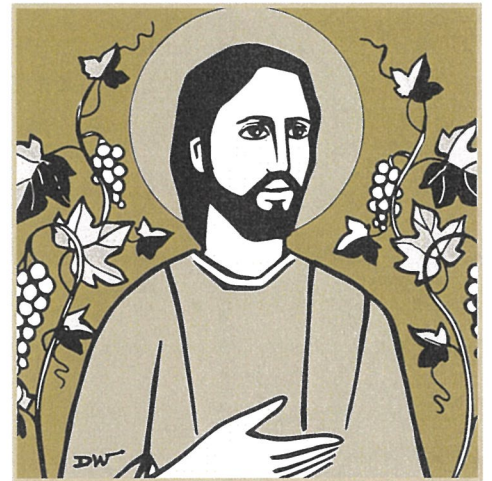
RESP PSALM

Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (or Alleluia!)

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. / The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. / They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. / May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, / all families of the nations worship before him. / They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; / before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**



3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. / They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, / declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: / 'These things the Lord has done.' **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4-5

Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 1-8

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.

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes
to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken
to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine
in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away
– he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown
on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you
should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

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. O God, who by the wonderful exchange
effected in this sacrifice have made us
partakers of the one supreme Godhead,
grant, we pray, that, as we have come to
know your truth, we may make it ours by a
worthy way of life. 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-V OF EASTER

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. Jn 15: 1, 5

**I am the true vine and you are the
branches, says the Lord. / Whoever
remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit
in plenty, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Graciously be present to your people,
we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have
imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from

former ways to newness of life. 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

'MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME'

The juxtaposition of the story of Saul
(Paul) in the first reading from Acts
with the image of Jesus as the vine in
the Gospel speaks to the formation of
disciples of Jesus. In Acts we have a
glimpse into the beginnings of Saul's (not
yet called Paul) ministry who, with all the
zeal of his experience of the risen Christ,
joins the believers. Barnabus takes him
under his wing. Trouble erupts with the
Hellenists and Paul is whisked away from
Jerusalem to his hometown to where he
contemplates his call.

When we then hear the Gospel's
beautifully elegant description of the vine
and the branches we can connect with the
formation of the disciples and discern our
own call. The clear instruction is 'to make
your home in me', to make our home in
Jesus. It is a symbiotic relationship just
like the vine and its branches. We need
to remain/abide in Jesus to bear fruit.
No matter our zeal, our life of faith and
ministry grows and flows from Jesus.
This is further enriched by the words of
the second reading from the First Letter
of John where we hear that 'our love is
not to be just words or mere talk but
something real and active'. We are to live
the life God wants, to love one another
and live in God.

Vines and their fruit are no stranger to
us here in Australia, so we take time to
reflect on this image to see how closely we
abide in Jesus the vine.

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 Easter, Year B

27/28 April 2024

Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

Email: Doncaster@cam.org.au

Follow us on: @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 (or by appointment or before/after any Mass but allow time)

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

Hygiene: something my mother taught to be applied all the time to control disease spread.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48, Ps 97: 1-4, 1 Jn 4:7-10, Jn 15: 9-17

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

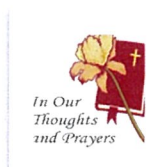
ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: 3rd Mondays 7.30pm in the School Parish Room

ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB: Membership enquiries: Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

Please pray for: Those who are **sick** at this time including Carmela Amato, Senthil Mani, Lily Lee, Giovanna Bernadeo, Tony Aloï, Clifford Bunardi, Sarina Louise Walker, Nancy Au, Elsie Poon, Patricia Luk, Shirley Freeman, Balwinder Kaur, Michael Mullens, Enzo Galota, Jason Khoo, Liam Fitzpatrick, Anne Credlin, Nola Tibaldi, 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

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Anna Bucoy & Silvano, Elisabetta Marcello, Caroline Perrin



From the desk of the PP:

ANZAC Day:

It has been an interesting ANZAC Day this year. We had an ANZAC Mass on the 21st for veterans and services men and women with Keith Wolahan MP (3 tours of service in Afghanistan) speaking meaningfully, eloquently, about the vast array of army, navy and air-force personnel who have lost their lives serving their country but also for so many family and friends, and the flow on impact their self-giving has had for our freedom.

The readings for the Mass on ANZAC Day spoke deeply into the peace that Christ brings: *Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.*

It is that peace which is embedded in the spirit of ANZAC Day, and in the words which Keith spoke: not a spirit of winning wars but the Holy Spirit, deep within each of us, speaking towards actions of love and mercy every day of our lives, in every circumstance of our lives, even amidst the extremes and complexities of war.

We Remember Them. ... Lest We Forget.

Alpha: You are welcome to join.

We are beginning the next Alpha Experience on Thursday May 30th 7:00—8:30 pm for 11 weeks with a retreat day on Saturday July 13th. Everyone is welcome to express interest in participating: so please call the office and put forward your name. We are limited in how many people we can have participate in each experience of Alpha (16 or 24 depending on who is willing and able to help lead the nights), so it is possible that your interest may have to wait until the next Alpha to be fulfilled. Yes I plan, we plan, that Alpha will be an ongoing effort in the parish. It has its limitations but it is an effective experience to help all of us become more deeply aware of Jesus and who Jesus is for us (and doubly for those who are not baptised).

Experience elsewhere shows that most people come to Alpha because of a personal invitation (as opposed to this sort of notice in the bulletin), so most people coming will probably be invited but it is not exclusive: please, express your interest. A limit we are imposing at present is on the number of people from other parishes who can come along. We want to build the experience and the leadership base in St Greg's and St Kevin's before we start being more open beyond our parishes.

Safeguarding

WWCC/ Code of Conduct: Please make sure you keep your Working with Children Check up to date. Sadly, I've had to sign off on the removal of two people from rosters recently due to their consistently not having up-to-date checks. These checks can seem like a vast imposition of an unreasonable government or archdiocese: they are not! They are a piece of the jigsaw of our witness and willingness to be consciously competent in looking to keep our children and others safe from harm in all reasonable ways.

Sacristy Access: We've been reviewing our sacristy practices in light of the new code of conduct and how it applies when we have altar servers present. Unless you are a sacristan or parent of a server, please don't enter the sacristy without knocking and seeking permission (most people do this already, thank you). **God bless, Fr Charles**

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

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Stephen Ma, Boris Klaric**MONEY COUNTERS:** Marion See, Marisa Maiolo**LECTORS**

Ashton Ng, Ashley Ng

Rachel Kay, Tonny Nimmo

Gril Job, Rob Rukavina

Isabelle Hii, Benedicta Wong

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Noel & Cathy McClelland

Rebecca Raymond

Sauro & Lillian Antonelli

Dot Haynes, Caterina Gioffre

MORNING TEA: Mary, Jonathan, Daniel**COLLECTORS**

Alfred Lee

FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato
Mary Piccoli**NEXT WEEK 4/5 May**

Sat 6.00pm

Sun 9.00am

Sun 10.30am

Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Ana Klaric, Boris Klaric**LECTORS**

Frank Ryan, Alvin Priyana

Ray and Kay Lewis

Aditya Hendarto, David Perrin

Jane Ma

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Peter Whiting, Sharron Wilkinson

Joan Dinneen

Robert Rukavina, Dai Sim

Margaret O'Donnell, Alfred Lee

MORNING TEA: N/A**COLLECTORS**

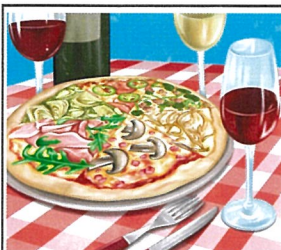
Gerald O'Donnell

FLOWERS: Tessa Leung

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.

**Parish Pizza and Wine Night**

All parishioners and friends are warmly invited to a pizza and wine social gathering on Saturday, 11th of May after the 6.00pm Mass.

There are sign-up sheets on the table in the foyer. Please add your name if you would like to come to this celebration so we can cater for the appropriate number.

Catholic Care Victoria Sunday Appeal

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). As the Catholic Church's mission in action, CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Donations from our parish community help Catholic Care Victoria support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full.

Please donate to the Catholic Care Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

Spiritual Direction

"Christians of today are being called to become more grounded and grow in their own personal relationship with God to remain faithful to their Faith. Spiritual Direction is to accompany pilgrims on their personal journey to deepen this relationship. Terry Morton is training to become a Spiritual Director and would like to meet with anyone who might share their journey with him for their mutual growth. To find out more call Terry on 0402 307 384."

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 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

Children
Love
to learn

**2024 Open Days & Tours**

Tuesday February 20th 2024 9.30am-11am

Wednesday 6th March 2024 9.30am-11am

Tuesday 26th March 2024 9.30am-11am

Wednesday 1st May 2024 9.30am-11am

Wednesday 7th August 2024 9.30am-11am



Scan the QR Code or call 9848 4483 to register



396 Manningham Road, Doncaster, VIC 3108

Call 9848 4483

www.sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au**Attention all Crafty People!**

You are all warmly invited to come and join the St Kevin's ladies weekly for an afternoon of craft, conversation and laughter. Every Tuesday 1-3pm. In the Gathering Space at St Kevin's Church 26 Herlihy's road, Lower Templestowe.



Help is needed to keep our church looking clean and welcoming. If you would like to become a "heavenly duster" please contact the parish office on 9412 8425 or doncaster@cam.org.au. We only have 2-3 persons on the roster and would love to have extra hands on Friday or Saturday mornings. It usually takes around 2 hours. If you can't make those days please let the Office know and we can open the Church on different days.