

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH / B

31 DECEMBER 2023

SEE THIS CHILD! Many parents have looked at their newborn child and wondered: what will this child turn out to be? Parenting is always a journey in faith in which there will be occasions of joy, and also times of pain, as Abraham and Sarah, and Mary and Joseph, discovered. On this feast of the Holy Family, let us pray for all families.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Lk 2:16

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

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. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: 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. O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the

bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. 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 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless ...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 104: 1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7, 8

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, / make known his deeds among the peoples. / O sing to him, sing his praise; / tell all his wonderful works! **R.**
2. Be proud of his holy name, / let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. / Consider the Lord and his strength; / constantly seek his face. **R.**
3. Remember the wonders he has done, / his miracles, the judgements he spoke. / O children of Abraham, his servant, / O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, / his promise for a thousand generations, / the covenant he made with Abraham, / the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**



SECOND READING Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb 1: 1-2

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2: 22, 39-40

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.

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Longer form Lk 2: 22-40

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. We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace. 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, II OR III OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever. 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

FAMILY TREASURE

What a treasured gift is a child, especially one longed for. In the story of Abram and Sarah we see how bereft they are to have no heir, no child, yet God gifts them Isaac. The Gospel tells us of another couple, Mary and Joseph, who also have a child gifted by God, Jesus. They "stood and wondered about the things that were said about him [Jesus]." While both of these sets of parents and their sons had a much larger role than many, let us not lose sight of the sacredness of family: the ability to bring a life into the world and to nurture that life to fullness.

The invitation on this feast of the Holy Family is to reflect on family – our own family, those around us and in our world. Families come in all shapes and sizes. The Holy Family is centred on Jesus and our families, centred on Christ, grow in holiness and love, face challenges together and are held in God's care. Parents and carers can identify with Mary and Joseph wondering and worrying about their son. A child raised in a loving environment has the opportunity to thrive and to grow into their full potential. The treasure of a family is not limited to the nuclear family but to the extended relationships through all of its members, centred on Christ, forming a community where all can thrive in faith and love whatever might come.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph , Year B

30/ 31 December 2023

Parish Office:

Hours: **Mon—Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm**

Tel: **9412 8425**

Email: Doncaster@cam.org.au

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

www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster

Website: 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

(New Year's Eve Vigil)

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 Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6, Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, Ep 3:2-3, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

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: for 2024

Contact Margaret O'Donnell at DoncasterRE@cam.org.au

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP: in recess

Wednesdays at 9.45am in the church meeting room.

Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384.

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: in recess Third Friday

of the month from 7.00pm-9.00pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: in recess 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 Santhil Mani, 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 Pardillo.

and for those who died recently

Bill Barnes, Josie Gonzalez, Luisa Vierra

and for those whose anniversaries

occur about now Kristanto Winoto,

Maria Kit-Yung Chu, Robert Styevko,

Mario & Claudia Gattino



Words from PP,

Thank you to the thousand or more people who filled St Gregory the Great Church with life and joy for our Christmas Masses. We had a technical hitch or two at Masses with the sound volume and my lapel microphone but despite those nuisances Jesus Christ is born Alleluia, Alleluia. And thank you Lord for helping me not catch Covid-19 again so that I could be a full, active, and conscious participant in the Christmas Masses.

My thanks again to the Choir who came and played and sang for three of our four Christmas Masses. And thanks to the sacristans and altar servers and various ministers of Word and Holy Communion who stepped forwards to help open our hearts to receive the love that Jesus Christ has for each of us.

Thank you to Margaret, Dot, Gerard, Tan family, the Teo family, Tony & Lynley, Thomas, Marjorie & Philip, the Vanguardie family, Newmans on the Park, Tony & Lynley, Newmans on the Park, Melaleuca lodge, Luisa, Josephine, Terry, Aliya, Joe & Geraldina, Bernadine, John, Cathy & Noel, Mary, Agnes & Seng, a parishioner, Diane & Robert, Mary, Erin, Sauro & Lilian, Iris, Michelle & Andrew, Joseph & Lorna, Elmo & Lorraine, Grazia, Dierdre, Marcello, Ava, Zara, Thomas, Kai, Adia, Anselm, Jo & Allan, Amalfi family, Katica, Angela & Joseph, Mary, Chris, Brianna, Pia, Yvonne, Karen, Karen, Gianna, Peter, Maggie, Mary, and ... Everyone who attended Mass raised me up, lifted me in some way but those names listed are people I remember specifically in some way via—letters, handshakes, hugs, gifts, affirmations, thanks. Your gift of self to me added greatly to my celebration of Christmas and my sense of Christ present with me. There were many more people I should name than this – I know – but I cannot recall everyone. Even if not named, you warmed my heart.

2024: HAPPY NEW YEAR

We are very near the beginning of a New Year, a leap year, a year of Olympics, a year of seeking to grow our faith and our capacity to share it. 2024 will see us embark on a number of new efforts:

- A renewed Parish Pastoral Council, awake to helping guide the parish forwards.
- The start of the Alpha program—a pilot first to allow me and others in leadership to know the program personally and then find leaders for the longer term. Alpha is a gentle series of conversations that leads people towards a personal experience of Jesus Christ. A meal, a DVD, an open conversation, an opportunity to talk about Jesus and share our own feelings and understanding.
- The start of the Landings program—inviting people who have stopped being an active part of the Catholic church—asking them to come and sit and talk and open up about what has gone wrong for them in faith and to provide a safe space to talk and re-discover Jesus.
- New staff with Vera shifting days (Mon/Wed) and Luisa starting (Tue/Thur/Fri), and the hope of someone to help lead a communications effort and someone to help take up some of the operations needs and someone to assist with Pastoral/Parish Leadership.
- A new Assistant Priest Fr Isaac

Thank you for your help and your willingness to journey with me as your shepherd, with all my peculiarities and failings. It is a joy to me to be placed here with you by Jesus Christ.

God bless, Fr Charles

New Year's Mass Times

31st December- Feast of the Holy Family: 9.00am, 10.30am

Feast of Mother of God—Vigil New Year's Eve: 5.00pm

1st January Feast of Mother of God—New Year's Day: 10.30am

St Gregory's is committed to growing a Child Safety Culture with Love

THIS WEEK	LECTORS	MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	COLLECTORS
Sat 6.00pm	Joseph & Lorna Phillips	Moir White, Sharron Wilkinson	Iris O. & Karen D.
Sun 9.00am	Philip Dunlop, Chris Perera	Tony Nimmo, Rebecca Raymond	
Sun 10.30am	Tony Ting, Paola Villanueva	Maggie Yong, Lucy Giardino	
Sun 5.00pm (New Year's Eve)	Dot Haynes, Gerard O'Donnell	Margaret O'Donnell	Alfred Lee
NEW YEAR'S DAY ROSTER: Sunday 10.30am LECTORS: Noel & Cathy McClelland. SPECIAL MINISTERS: Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson			
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson		MORNING TEA: N/A	FLOWERS: Connie Amalfi
MONEY COUNTERS: Lina Pavone, Don Pavone			
NEXT WEEK 6/7 Jan	LECTORS	MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	COLLECTORS
Sat 6.00pm	Frances Cannizzo, Ian Barnes	Karen D'Souza, Iris	
Sun 9.00am	Ray & Kay Lewis	Queenie Wood, Margaret Wallace	
Sun 10.30am	Amanda Stefanovski, Sauro Antonelli	Robert Rukavina, Lilian Antonelli	
Sun 5.00pm	Jane Ma, Mary Tonti-Filippini	Alfred Lee	Gerard O'Donnell
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Stephen Ma, Boris Klaric		MORNING TEA: N/A	FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato
MONEY COUNTERS: Bill Taylor; Marion See			Mary Piccoli

For those who are Coeliac, we can provide low gluten (<20ppm) hosts or a separate chalice. Please let the priest of 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.

New Year Eve Prayer

God our Father,
We give thanks for all that has been
and, trustfully, we place the past into
your hands. We ask you to inspire us in
the year ahead to seek and fulfill your
will. May we truly look on each new day
as the start of the rest of our lives.
Enable us, with the power of your Spirit,
to remain positive and confident, and
live fully and joyfully with those people
you have placed into our lives. Lead us
to bring out the best in one another that
we may all grow as the people
you call us to be.
In Jesus' name
I pray, Amen.

Sacramental Preparation Classes 2024

Catholic children who do not attend our parish school are invited to participate in programs to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion or Confirmation.

All information and registration/payment forms are available from our website. For further information parents may contact the parish office on 9412 8425 or by email on DoncasterRE@cam.org.au.

There will be an information evening on **Tuesday, February 20th at 5pm**, in Parish room at St Gregory's school.

Please bring this information to the attention of any families you know who may wish to avail of this opportunity.

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!

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: 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



Christmas Offering Envelopes: are in the Stewardship sets and on the seats for those who are not in our Envelope Program. The Christmas offering directly supports the clergy as follows: 5% to the Archbishop, 12.5% to support priests in other parishes, 12.5% to support the retired and sick priests, the remainder supports the lease and running expenses of the priest's car, plus the running and hospitality of the presbytery and the stipends for the Supply priests and finally your parish priest, who thanks you very much.



Going to Hospital? Here are some tips for parishioners:

1. Before operations or serious procedures, ask your parish priest to anoint you before you go to hospital. (Our hospital chaplains have to respond to emergencies, but we can all help them with a little forethought).
2. If you are taken to emergency in a serious condition, your relatives should ask the hospital staff to contact the priest who is chaplain to the hospital.
3. If admitted to a public hospital make sure your admission form records that you are a Catholic. The Pastoral Care team will ensure that you receive the Eucharist.
4. If you are admitted to a private hospital, please record that you would like a priest or member of the Pastoral Care team to visit. (If you do not make this request, the pastoral care practitioners and the chaplains will not be told that you are a patient).