

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

5 MAY 2024

I CALL YOU FRIENDS. We often refer to Jesus by honorific titles, such as Lord, but do we also think of him, as he thinks of us, as a friend? The Talmud suggests that we should do two things: acquire a teacher and choose a friend. In Jesus we have both the best teacher and the best friend we could ever hope to have.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Isa 48: 20

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, 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. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**R. For we have sinned against you.**

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

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

**R. Amen.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

## 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. Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. 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 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PS** Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2

**R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (or Alleluia!)**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Jn 4: 7-10

**A reading from the first letter of St John**  
*God is love.*

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God  
and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have  
known God,  
because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14: 23

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will  
come to them.**  
**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Jn 15: 9-17

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.**

*No one can have greater love than to lay down  
his life for his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,  
so have I loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's  
commandments



and remain in his love.  
 I have told you this  
 so that my own joy may be in you  
 and your joy be complete.  
 This is my commandment:  
 love one another,  
 as I have loved you.  
 A man can have no greater love  
 than to lay down his life for his friends.  
 You are my friends,  
 if you do what I command you.  
 I shall not call you servants any more,  
 because a servant does not know  
 his master's business;  
 I call you friends,  
 because I have made known to you  
 everything I have learnt from my Father.  
 You did not choose me,  
 no, I chose you;  
 and I commissioned you  
 to go out and to bear fruit,  
 fruit that will last;  
 and then the Father will give you  
 anything you ask him in my name.  
 What I command you  
 is to love one another.'  
 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 our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,  
 together with the sacrificial offerings, so that,

purified by your graciousness, we may be  
 conformed to the mysteries of your mighty  
 love. 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: Save us, Saviour of the world,  
 for by your Cross and Resurrection  
 you have set us free.**

### 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 Jn 14: 15-16

**If you love me, keep my commandments,  
 says the Lord, and I will ask the Father  
 and he will send you another Paraclete,  
 to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Almighty ever-living God, who restore us  
 to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ,  
 increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this  
 paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts

the strength of this saving food. 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

#### THE INCLUSIVENESS OF GOD

Our first reading from Acts today is an  
 edited story of the encounter of Peter  
 and Cornelius. It is worth reading the full  
 episode of Chapter 10. What we have is  
 enough to relate the momentous occasion  
 when Peter, a Jew, enters the house of  
 Cornelius, a Gentile. This is significant of  
 itself, laying aside any impropriety. More  
 than this, Peter declares that God shows  
 no partiality. It doesn't matter whether  
 Jew or Gentile, anyone who fears God and  
 does what is right is acceptable to God.  
 Simultaneously with Peter speaking, the  
 Holy Spirit came upon all the audience,  
 Jews and Gentiles alike.

In John's Gospel, Jesus begins: 'As the  
 Father has loved me, so I have loved  
 you, remain in my love.' This invitation  
 to abide or remain in God's love opens  
 the command to love one another which  
 is ever more poignant in light of the  
 inclusivity of God. In this passage Jesus  
 calls his disciples 'friends' and no longer  
 servants, indicating the closeness of  
 their relationship, their walking together  
 and their collaboration in the work of  
 Jesus. Yet we know even today there are  
 barriers or hurdles that Pope Francis also  
 acknowledges but urges us to find a way  
 forward as a Church. 'Abide in my love'  
 could be our mantra so the love of God  
 is enacted to everyone we meet. How can  
 we seek to be inclusive of all who seek  
 God? How do we develop our ecumenical  
 relationships and outreach to all those  
 whom God desires to be welcomed?

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

4/5 May 2024

## Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

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

Follow us on: @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

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: The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1: 1-11, Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9, Eph 1: 17-23, Mk 16: 15-20

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 Carmela Amato, Senthil Mani, Lily Lee, Giovanna Bernadeo, Tony Alois, Clifford Bunardi, Sarina Louise Walker, Nancy Au, Elsie Poon, Patricia Luk, Shirley Freeman, Balwinder Kaur, Michael Mullens, Enzo Galota, Jason Khoo, Liam Fitzpatrick, 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

Patricia Thelma Farley, Antonia Barberio, Errol Andrade, Anne Margaret Credlin

## and for those whose anniversaries

occur about now Claude & Merle de Alwis, Jacqueline Nelson, Victor Rosales, Maria Beiza, Kevin Cheng Shu Kong



## From the desk of the PP:

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting:

We did an interesting exercise during our PPC meeting this past Tuesday evening: We were given 120 cards to choose from. Each card presents a 'virtue' - choose the virtue that speaks most deeply to you.

My first two preferences (Love and Faith) plus five others were taken but that left 113 virtues to choose from. I chose integrity.

The eight virtues we chose were: Integrity, Love, Faith, Perseverance, Cooperation, Responsibility, Courage and Resilience. As we chatted around these choices, we realised again that the reason it was difficult to choose one virtue is because all are important and all are linked, intertwined in how we live our lives.

It is encouraging for me to see those eight virtues joined together (there would have been ten but two members were not able to attend, and there would have been twelve if I had managed to locate another two members— please come and see me if you are interested).

Knowing that you are and I am surrounded by people who live those virtues to the best of their ability means we/I know that the Holy Spirit will run amok beautifully among us and lead us into the places where we should be as a parish: a parish that is a people of Christ Jesus in this world of Australia in 2024 and beyond.

Thank you to the members of the PPC. The Current PPC is made up of: three mandatory members by virtue of our positions: Fr Charles, Fr Isaac, Michelle Verna (school principal) and seven others: Alfred Ablaza as the interim Chair, Vera Arief as note-taker/organiser, John Mabilia, Dot Haynes, Margaret O'Donnell, Mary Tonti-Fillipini, Yvonne Tan, Marcello Diamante.

There will be some more notes from the meeting that come out but I thought I'd speak to that Spirit-filled 'Virtues' process.

By the way, we undertook to have members of the PPC, not me, speak at all Masses every two months—so you will start to see PPC members on a regular basis.

### Business Manager:

We received seven applications for this role. After careful review we narrowed this down to four who will be interviewed on next Tuesday. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to choose the right person for the role: with a lot of work and great help from the Holy Spirit.

**CatholicCare Victoria Appeal:** There will be a special second collection this weekend for CatholicCare Victoria. My memory of the organisation goes back to 1982 and it being the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau and I've been giving to it regularly ever since. I am a board member for CatholicCare Victoria and as such I get to see the broad range of good works that this organisation does: the people are amazing who provide service and who receive service. In a world where our governments each year seem to pull more money out of charitable organisations, we need to step up and help fill the gap. So please, be generous.

**Safeguarding:** There will be a regional safeguarding gathering at St Kevin's on May 14th at 11 am. This will introduce the new Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct: I am sure you will be aware of these as you will have taken or at least glanced at them in the gathering space.

*God bless, Fr Charles*

*St Gregory's Child Safety Culture—Revised Code of Conduct—please take a copy*



**THIS WEEK**

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

**NEXT WEEK 11/12 May**

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

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Carole Tang, Agnes Chee**MONEY COUNTERS:** Iris O' Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson**LECTORS**

Catherine & Noel McClelland  
Philip Dunlop  
Sauro Antonelli, Amanda Stefanovski  
Natalie De Silva, Dot Haynes

**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Lorna Philip, Iris O'Farrell  
Katica Puhali  
Tony Ting, Pierre Tanzimat  
Seleana Ng, Viviana Pereira

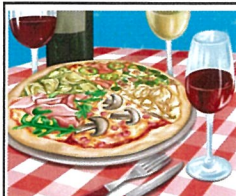
**MORNING TEA:** N/A**COLLECTORS**

Seleana Ng  
**FLOWERS:** Connie Amalfi

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.

**New Stewardship Envelopes**

The new sets of envelopes are available in the Foyer for those who opted for cash giving. The envelopes are in alphabetical order by surname. And you may notice that your envelope number has changed. Please start using these envelopes from **weekend of 18th & 19th May 2024 onwards**. If you have any questions please call the Office. We thank you and greatly value your contribution to our Parish.

**Healing Service**

With Fr Brendan Maria, CSE and Sisters of Daughters of Carmel

Come and join us for  
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
with intention of  
healing and healing  
prayer ministry

**SUNDAY,**  
**19 MAY 2024**  
**5.45-7.00 PM**

(after 5PM Sunday Mass)  
there will be refreshments after service

St Gregory the Great Church  
71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster

INFO: Vera  
doncaster@cam.org.au



HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY

holyltrinitycarmel.com #ShareTheJoy

**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.

**Catholic Care Victoria Sunday Appeal**

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). CatholicCare Victoria works with individuals, families and communities to build strength, resilience, and empowerment to reach their full potential. Your generous donation will help the most vulnerable members of our community – those facing unemployment and homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, people in hospitals and prisons, newly arrived refugees, and those experiencing grief and trauma. Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your compassion and generosity will help the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. You can donate using the appeal envelope available, donate online at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

**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](mailto: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 cant make those days please let the Office know and we can open the Church on different days.

**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."