

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) / B

7 APRIL 2024

THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE. Our belief in the teachings and resurrection of Jesus prompts us to be a part of the Christian community. In turn, our experience of Christian community strengthens our faith. It was only when Thomas was with the other disciples that he met the risen Christ and came to believe in him. It is a simple truth that faith builds community and community builds faith.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

1 Pet 2: 2

**Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.**

### 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. God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,

increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. 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 4: 32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

*The whole group was united, heart and soul.*

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

RESP PSALM Ps 117: 2-4, 15-18, 22-24. R. v. 1

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (or Alleluia)**

1. Let the sons of Israel say: / 'His love has no end.' / Let the sons of Aaron say: / 'His love has no end.' / Let those who fear the Lord say: / 'His love has no end.' **R.**

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; / his right hand raised me up. / I shall not die, I shall live / and recount his deeds. / I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, / but not doomed to die. **R.**

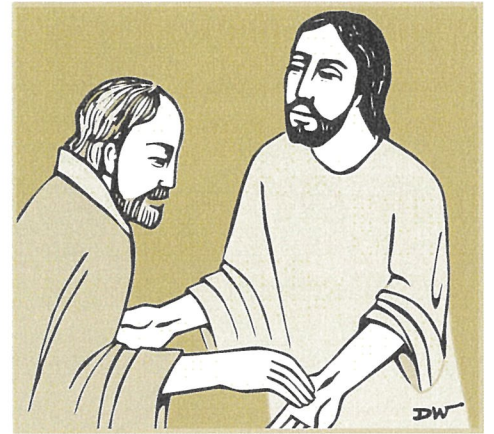
3. The stone which the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes. / This day was made by the Lord; / we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

### SECOND READING

1 Jn 5: 1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John  
*Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves



the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 20: 29

**Alleluia, alleluia! / You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; / happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! / Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Jn 20: 19-31

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.**

*After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,



they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him;

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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. Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and of those you have brought

to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. 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 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 20: 27

**Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, / and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. 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, alleluia, alleluia!

**R. Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

As we bask in the light of resurrection, today we see two witnesses to the resurrection, and the transformation of lives.

The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, the second volume attributed to Luke, and it presents to us a changed way of living. Firstly, the whole group of believers are described as 'of one heart and soul' (v. 32). The apostles appear as testifying with great power to the resurrection and 'great grace was upon them all' (v. 33). The remarkable addition here is that they shared everything in common, sold property and distributed funds so no-one was in need (v. 34-35). This radical transformation of their way of life is not a defining feature of our communities today, even though adopted by many religious congregations throughout the Church's history. While not diminishing the great charitable works operating today, this way of life remains a challenge to us in a world where rich become richer and poor increase in number and poverty.

In juxtaposition to the Acts account, the Gospel outlines the appearance of Jesus among the apostles and the repetition of 'Peace be with you' (vv.19, 21). In this gathering behind closed doors, Jesus tells the apostles that he is sending them out. He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them, commissioning them. Eight days later in the same room Jesus arrives saying once again 'Peace be with you' (v. 26) and here is the experience of the doubting Thomas, forever recorded for anyone who might doubt that the resurrection happened and is real.

How will our lives be transformed by the resurrection?

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 Easter, Year B

6/7 April 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](https://www.instagram.com/StGregsDonny)

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

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

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Charles Balnaves

**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:** Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19, Ps 4: 2, 4, 7, 9, 1 Jn 2: 1-5, Lk 24: 35-48

**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 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, 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** Yuen Mooi Chong, Guido Antonini, Helen Sant, Kiki Alimwidjaja



## Thoughts from your Parish Priest,

Did you get caught by April 1? April Fools Day? I was slightly caught by an article about the 25m high monolith in St Peter's Square being removed, unseen, overnight.

Did you miss "Fall Forward" this weekend? Advance your clock by an hour at the end of Daylight Saving for 2024? Most of my clocks, and particularly my alarm clock, advance automatically these days so my alarm goes off on time. But ... it's easy to look at one of the analogue clocks after I get up and ... almost got caught.

Did you miss Easter? It seems some people did. I visited the Aboriginal Community Elders Service to lead a prayer service on Wednesday and met a lovely lady leaning on her gate holding two homegrown cucumbers. We said hi. I said Happy Easter! And ... she said that's over and done with. No, I said, we've got 40-something days to go till the end of the season. Ah, she said—you must be a pastor of some sort ... (and then we talked some more). We know of course that The Resurrection is every day and we celebrate the whole Easter Triduum every time we celebrate the Mass. Christ Jesus is always with us. This special season merely helps us to know that more and more deeply every year.

Thank you to ... everyone who helped bring about Holy Week this year. I've been totting it up very roughly and there were about 75 people at St Kevin's and over 150 at St Greg's who helped make Holy Week run so beautifully and sacredly and joyfully. From working bee to church cleaning and flowers and choir and readers and lectors and altar servers, and liturgy people and ... so on and on: yes—it takes a lot of work to ensure that we present a meaningful moment of spiritual growth with the journey from Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem through death and into Resurrection. And the journey continues: Ascension and Pentecost are just a few weeks away. And thank you to those of you who participated with your presence, your prayer, your singing, your being part of the community.

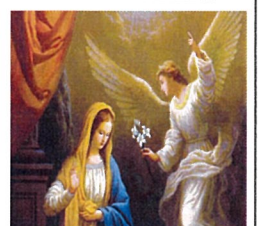
On another topic. Volunteering for the parish, if you don't already. What holds you back? Why can't you provide some of your time and talent? We have many volunteers but nowhere near enough. We need more of you to help. What is holding you back—or more importantly how could I, how could the parish, help enable you to be willing and able to offer your time and talent? To give a little more so you can help us all to spread the Good News even more effectively.

PS: a joint submission from St Greg's and St Kevin's about being synodal is almost ready for final approval by Parish Pastoral Councils. I will share this with everyone once it is finalised and has been submitted. It is amazing to see the ways in which we are already working in a synodal : working in a way which shares responsibility for our faith life between myself and the whole parish.

*Easter Blessings Alleluia Alleluia. 43 days to Pentecost! Fr Charles*

## Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord 8 April 2024, Monday

Please join us to celebrate Mass in  
St. Gregory the Great Church at 9.00am



*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

**LECTORS**

Joseph & Lorna Philip  
 Philip Dunlop, Chris Perera  
 Aiden Leung, Paola Villanueva  
 Dot Haynes, Gerald O'Donnell

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Mary Wilson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Bill Taylor, Marion See**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Moir White, Sharron Wilkinson  
 Tony Nimmo, Katica Puhali  
 Maggie Yong, Lucy Giardino  
 Margaret O'Donnell, Judy Ablaza

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

Iris &amp; Karen

Alfred Lee

**FLOWERS:** Tessa Leung**NEXT WEEK 13/14 April**

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

**LECTORS**

Rebecca Law, Peter Whiting  
 Ray & Kay Lewis  
 Karen Chay, Sauro Antonelli  
 Jane Ma, Noel Anthony

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Mary Wilson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Anne McGrath, Josie Masters**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Robert & Dianne McHugh  
 Margaret Wallace & Joan Dinneen  
 Edith Ma, Lilian Antonelli  
 Alfred Lee, Seleana Ng

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

Gerard O'Donnell

**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.

**Thank you to those who have already given generously.**



**Easter Offering Envelopes are in the Stewardship Sets** and are placed on the pews and tables in the Church foyer. In addition to your regular giving, the Easter offering directly supports the clergy as follows: 5% to the Archbishop, 12.5% to

support priests in poorer 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 your parish priest and assistant.

Thank you very much for your sincere generosity!

## A Night on the Camino De Santiago



Join Lawrence Cecconello from St Kevin's Parish Social Justice Action (SJA) group in a fascinating journey of discovery, as he takes you through the origins, history and culture that surrounds this legendary pilgrimage to the shrine of the apostle St. James, in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. The Camino de Santiago is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a global treasure, attracting many thousands of seekers, adventurers, and pilgrims from all over the world each year, with each individual taking on their own challenge, be it spiritual, physical or psychological. There are various routes but ours will be the Via Podiensis, from the French town of Le Puy En Velay to St. Jean Pied De Port at the foot of the Pyrenees mountains, which Lawrence completed in May 2023. The Camino de Santiago is not just a path or a walking trail, but a transformative journey that enriches mind, body, and soul.

This (free) online ZOOM EVENT is from 7:30pm-8:30pm on Wednesday 17th April 2024. REGISTRATION is essential, at <https://www.trybooking.com/CQMXU>

**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](mailto:st.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com) and Jess will get back to you.

Tennis club use for tennis playing: contact Gianna on 0438 410 506.

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 thru 9412 8425 or [doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:doncaster@cam.org.au). We only have 2-3 persons on the Roster & would love to have extra hands on Friday or Saturday mornings. It usually takes around 2 hours. We can open the Church if you cant make those days.



# Cornerstone Youth Group

## PIZZA & GAMES NIGHT

**19 APRIL 2024**  
**7pm - 10pm @ St Gregory School hall**  
**\$5 Entry!**

**Activities**  
 Pizza & Drinks  
 Fun Activities: Dodgeball, Scavenger Hunt and more

**RSVP by 15th April: Contact Vera - [Doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:Doncaster@cam.org.au)**



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Project Compassion during Lent through the envelopes or with credit cards. Those of you who have Project Compassion boxes, we ask you to change the coins into notes and to put your box in the big box in the foyer. Thank you very much for supporting people in desperate need in developing countries.