

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

9 JANUARY 2022

THE CLEANSING WATERS OF RE-BIRTH. In Luke's Gospel, the baptism of Jesus marks the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of a new era, that of the saving ministry of Jesus. This feast, which occurs early in the new year, is a good time for us to resolve to begin a new era in our own lives. Putting the past behind us, let us commit ourselves to making a fresh start in our service and love of our brothers and sisters.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Mt 3:16-17

**After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**

## 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. Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father. 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

*(is either said or sung)*

## COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. 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** Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.  
*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.*

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PS** Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1

**R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

1. Lord God, how great you are, / clothed in  
majesty and glory, / wrapped in light as in  
a robe! / You stretch out the heavens like a  
tent. **R.**

2. Above the rains you build your dwelling, /  
You make the clouds your chariot, / you  
walk on the wings of the wind, / you make  
the winds your messengers / and flashing fire  
your servants. **R.**

3. How many are your works, O Lord! / In  
wisdom you have made them all. / The earth  
is full of your riches. / There is the sea, vast  
and wide, / with its moving swarms past  
counting, / living things great and small. **R.**



4. All of these look to you / to give them  
their food in due season. / You give it, they  
gather it up: / you open your hand, they  
have their fill. **R.**

5. You take back your spirit, they die, /  
returning to the dust from which they came. /  
You send forth your spirit, they are created; /  
and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.  
*He saved us through the water of rebirth and  
renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has  
made salvation possible for the whole human  
race and taught us that what we have to do  
is to give up everything that does not lead to  
God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must  
be self-restrained and live good and religious  
lives here in this present world, while we  
are waiting in hope for the blessing which  
will come with the Appearing of the glory of  
our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He  
sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free  
from all wickedness and to purify a people so  
that it could be his very own and would have  
no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our  
saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not  
because he was concerned with any righteous  
actions we might have done ourselves; it was  
for no reason except his own compassion that  
he saved us, by means of the cleansing water  
of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy  
Spirit which he has so generously poured  
over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He  
did this so that we should be justified by his  
grace, to become heirs looking forward to  
inheriting eternal life.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. Lk 3:16

**Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to  
come is mightier than I; he will baptise  
you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.  
Alleluia!**



## GOSPEL

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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.**

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash

away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**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 BAPTISM 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: 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 Jn 1:32, 34

**Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. 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.**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

### BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the midst of the terror, loss, and grief of the exile, Isaiah spoke words of hope, consolation, and healing. The inhabitants of Jerusalem wondered whether God had abandoned them. Would their suffering extend into a dark and hopeless future? When all seemed lost a word of hope was proclaimed – a word that went to the heart of Jerusalem. They could now look forward to the return of the exiles, the rebuilding of the city, and a future in which they could rest assured that God was among them.

Late in the first century, the letter to Titus reflected on the ways that God had been true to that promise of presence and gentle care through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Cleansed by baptism, and renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit Christians were now called to respond appropriately by the manner of their own lives. God had been gracious to them and now they were called to respond by living good and religious lives as they waited for his return.

The Gospel passage today informs us that the people looked at John the Baptist with the eyes of hope, filled with longing for religious reform and liberation from the power of Rome. Isaiah proclaimed to the people of Jerusalem: 'Here is your God.' When Jesus comes for baptism this word is now radically enfleshed in the person of Jesus himself. He will gather the weak and the wounded, the blind and the lame revealing God's compassionate and gracious love.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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

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# WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S—DONCASTER

## The Baptism of the Lord / Year C—9 January 2022

### Parish Office:

Hours: Tue—Fri 9.30am 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

Parish Secretary: Tuesday—Thursday Stella Leone  
Friday—Bernadine De Silva

### MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 6.00pm

Sunday: 16th 8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Wednesday and Friday: 9:00 am

**NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND MASS**

**MASKS MUST BE WORN**

**SOCIAL DISTANCING DESIRABLE**

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:** 2nd Sunday in Ord Time  
Is 62: 1-5; Ps 95: 1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

**RECONCILIATION:** See notice in the body of this bulletin

**BAPTISMS:** Please ring the Parish Office for future 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 9.45 am until Christmas recess.

Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384.

### CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP:

First Friday of the month from 7pm-9pm

### YOUNG ADULTS GROUP:

Once a month (as advertised) from 7pm—9.30pm

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE:** Third Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Church meeting 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 Roy Dos Santos, Judith Morton, Benito Pegorin, Pat McLeod, Joe Dimech, Lilia Go, Ralph Caparello, Anna Girardi, Theresa Yong, Maria Stone, Tony Ryan, Eliseo Pardillo, Siat Lin, Antoinette Tanzimat, Iris Henson Chan, Vincent Aloj, Margaret Dobran, Andrew Wilson, Fr Matthew Abraham CSsR, Rina Sacco, Wang Wei Qiao, Chen Shao Jioa, Bernie Keating, Rob & Tilly Rukavina, Paul Materazzo, Ian Angus, Nieva Bothe.

Those who died recently; Graham Stewart, Nohad Assaad and for the repose of the souls of all those, whose anniversaries occur at about this time.

### Words from Fr Charles:

#### The Baptism of the Lord:

I am back just in time for the end of the Christmas Season: the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The story takes a jump: birth and the shepherds, then a gap of perhaps a year till the Wise Men arrive (think of the age of children Herod wanted killed ...) and now Jesus is thirty and getting baptised. Great gaps in Jesus' life – unexplained beyond “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour.”

People try to imagine what filled the gaps, what did Jesus do as he grew up? We seem these days to want to know the details, to be able to give a full account of each second of each day. We want to tie down all the details. But ... that is not what God wants. We don't get any of that type of clarity from the Bible, Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament.

What we do get is clarity of what God wants to reveal to us: today, with Jesus' baptism we get the last piece of the proof of God's one-ness with us: Jesus is human (born of Mary and ultimately of Adam); Jesus arises from the history of the people (he is Hebrew and is of the line of David); Jesus grows in wisdom and years: with God / with Mary and Joseph. Now he shows that he shares in the consequences of our sinfulness. God doesn't distance himself from our stupidity of action but comes close and (without sinning) enters into the consequences of our sin so he can be with us and show us how to open our hearts to God's love through his Son Jesus.

Once again we are called to let Jesus be with us, to guide us, to carry us when needed.

God bless,

*Father Charles*



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



**THIS WEEK**

Sat 6.00pm  
 Sun 8.30am  
 Sun 10.30am  
 Sun 5.00pm

**LECTORS**

Frances Cannizzo, Erica Yeo  
 Ray Lewis, Kay Lewis  
 Brian Tyedin, Jenny Tyedin  
 Viviana Pereira, Brenda Fearon

**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Margaret Kenshole, Lorna Philip  
 Brian Setter, Tony Nimmo  
 Maggie Yong, Dai Sim  
 Judy Ablaza, Mary Tonti-Filippini Francis Yim, Alfred Lee (Ctrs)

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:****FLOWERS:** (Fri 14 Jan) Geraldina Donato and Mary Piccoli**NEXT WEEK**

Sat 6.00pm  
 Sun 8.30am  
 Sun 10.30am  
 Sun 5.00pm

**LECTORS**

Margaret O'Donnell, Gerard O'Donnell  
 Queenie Wood, Margaret Wallace  
 Luisa Yambao, Tony Ting  
 Rebecca Law, Jane Ma

**MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST**

Noel & Cathy McClelland  
 Ray & Kay Lewis  
 Brendan Pon, Mary Martin  
 Matthew Collins, Viviana Pereira Alfred Lee, Nita Pereira (Ctrs)

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** (Sat 22 Jan) Leth Go, Mary Wilson**FLOWERS:** (Fri 21 Jan) Cecilia & Stefanus Gunawan**FACE MASKS:** Please adhere to the current government directives

**1<sup>st</sup> Rite of Reconciliation:** Fr Charles, when celebrating Mass, will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 30 minutes before Mass starts up till 10 minutes before Mass. If another priest is celebrating then you may approach and request the sacrament but it is up to him to decide.

AND: 15<sup>th</sup> January I shall be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in St Greg's Church from 9-10 am.

**Masses with congregations:** As per current regulations, there is no requirement of checking for status of vaccination at Mass. Parish staff and the Volunteers must still be fully vaccinated. You must check in via the Services Vic app or write down your details, for contact tracing purposes.

**FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED INDOORS FOR YOUR SAFETY.**

**Weekday Mass times in the coming week:** St Greg's 9.00am Wednesday and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday 9.15am at St Kevin's.

**Masses next Sunday:** as per the normal Mass schedule (6:00 pm Saturday 15th; 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 5:00 pm Sunday 16th).

**Facebook:** Keep an eye on your Facebook site – if you have 'friended' or 'like' the St Greg's or the St Kevin's Facebook page(s) it will tell you when we are on line: hopefully: Sunday 10:30 am at St Greg's.

**Statue of Our Lady:** We are opening so ... the Statue of Our Lady is much loved and is kept safely at the home of Shirley Mullens but you now can make arrangements for it to start travelling. Contact the office to make arrangements. Offer a prayer of thanks and praise each day.

**Friends Not Joining Yet?** Do you have a friend who hasn't come back to Mass yet? Perhaps spend a little time with them to see if you can help them re-join the community in person – not forcing, merely offering to journey with them.

**Going away in January?** Please remember your commitment to our Parish Stewardship Program and put your contributions in before you leave or make them up when you return home safely. Over January, our parish has to make its regular payments for utilities, repairs, levies and salaries. Thank you.

**BAPTISM**

Welcome to the family of  
**Mason Anthony Cannizzo**  
 who will be baptised at  
 St Gregory's Church this Sunday.

**Heart of Life****Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation—2022 Program****Seminars**

All seminars are available in-person or online via Zoom. Please book and pay at least one week in advance for all Seminars and Reflection events. This can be done by credit card via tel 03 9890 1101 [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) or email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)

**Religious Experience**

Peter Malone msc 14 x Mondays, 9.15am–11am, 14 Feb to 20 Jun  
 The varieties of religious experience, Biblical and theological foundations, symbols and storytelling, as well as religious experience as the focus of spiritual direction, are examined and reflected upon. Cost: \$475

**Discernment\***

Jeff Hood 14 x Mondays, 9.15am–11am, 14 Feb to 20 Jun  
 This seminar focuses on the movements of God's Spirit and spirits not-of-God in our lives and in our ministry. Discernment of spirits and discernment of God's will are explored. Cost: \$475

**The Human Experience of God\***

Robyn Reynolds olsh 14 x Mondays, 2.30pm–4.15pm, 14 Feb to 20 Jun  
 Through guided reflection on our human experience of God, we grow in appreciation of both our own experience and the experience described in classical writings about God and prayer. Cost: \$475

**Spirituality of Human Life Stages B\***

Lynn Moresi 14 x Mondays, 2.30pm–4.15pm, 14 Feb to 20 Jun or 14 x Tuesdays, 9.15am–11am, 15 Feb to 31 May  
 This seminar examines the role of emotions in forming healthy self-awareness and development; processing anger; acknowledging shame; recognising our moral agendas; the core virtues of faith, hope and love. It also examines a spiritual director's understanding of how the range of both painful and affirming emotions contribute to a person's self-engagement and relationships with others. The following fundamental human experiences will be explored from the developmental perspective: painful emotions; grief and loss; gender identity and sexuality; love and friendship. Cost: \$475 for either Monday or Tuesday stream.

\* recommended as professional development for spiritual directors and others in ministry