OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 JULY 2023

WHEAT AMONG THE WEEDS. The world in which we live is a mixture of wheat and weeds. Wonderful acts of heroism and self-sacrifice occur alongside shocking acts of violence and abuse of power. In the midst of a world tainted by sin we are called to live the values of the kingdom of God. This can be difficult, but the Spirit will help us in our weakness and God, the just and merciful judge, will reward us.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

os 53:6,

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

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. Your 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. Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom *In the place of sin, you give repentance.*

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

- 1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. R.
- 2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. R.
- 3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. R.

SECOND READING Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:24-43

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil: the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. *Shorter form 13:24-30.*

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 in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. 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-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

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 Ps 110:4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

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 forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE SPIRIT COMES TO US IN OUR WEAKNESS

It has been said that nothing is as strong as gentleness and that nothing is as gentle as real strength. Oftentimes gentleness is interpreted as a sign of weakness or indecisiveness. If God is all powerful, how is it that God does not judge our world? The book of Wisdom gives a glimpse into how the people of Israel reflected on this question in the centuries immediately preceding the birth of Jesus. What the surrounding people saw as God's weakness they had come to see as God's gracious strength which provides a model for our own lives.

The parable of the darnel addresses a similar question for the community of Matthew. In a time of opposition, they may have impatiently wondered why God had not forcefully intervened to establish the kingdom on earth. Jesus' parable of the darnel calls them to understand that the time of judgement will come when each person receives what their actions deserve. In the meantime, the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast are timely reminders that while the kingdom's beginnings may be humble and hidden the final outcome is assured.

Like Matthew, Paul saw that the period between the resurrection of the Lord and his return at the end of time was a time of struggle between good and evil. This struggle continues, and Paul reminds Christians of every age that we are not alone in this struggle since the Spirit is the one who carries our prayers and pleas to our gracious and loving God.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 22/23 July 2023

Parish Office:

Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm

Tel: **9412 8425**

Email: <u>Doncaster@cam.org.au</u>
Follow us on: @StGregsDonny

www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster

Website: www.stgregs.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Parish Secretary: Mon & Tue: Nadia Bolzonello

Wed-Fri: Vera Arief

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 9:00 am & Fri: 9:00am (Tues & Thur 9:15 am St Kevin's)

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9.30-11am

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

Common sense hygiene please: Masks, sanitising, isolating if testing positive for Covic-19, etc..

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Isa 55:10-11, Rom 8:18-23, Mt 13:1-23

BAPTISMS: Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Principal: Michelle Verna Tel: (03) 9848 4483

 $\textbf{Email:} \ \, \textbf{principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au}$

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 Tom Moleta, Rosa Aloi, Diana Carnell, Umberto Gianello, Michael Mullens, Judy Jones, Luke Kakoschke, Victor, Natalie, Max Passarella, Teresa Yong, Helen La Manna, Alex Ablaza, Mary Grace Lim Siew Lan, Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Sio Dewi, Pat McLeod, Gilbert De Claro, Gabrielle Byrne, Brian Croft, Chee Choong Seng, Chianna Sacco, Roy Dos Santos, Lilia Go, Maria Stone, Chee Mee Lian, Eliseo Pardillo, Siat Lin, Vincent Aloi, Margaret Dobran, Andrew Wilson, Fr Matthew Abraham CSsR, Wang Wei Qiao, Paul Materazzo, Ian Angus, Eliasari and Dennis Clarke.

And for those who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Catherine Masters, Grazia Corfi, Teresa Salvo

From the desk of the PP ...
Apologies / corrections.

First, Two week ago I mentioned the members from Australia at the Synod on a Synodal Church. I misunderstood / misread the range of Australian based participants at the Synod on a Synodal Church: there are actually five bishops and five others as members in various roles and four expert facilitators. Which is marvellous indeed! As part of my comments I spoke of people 'saving the Plenary Council' - on reflection and after some discussions with others that was an overstatement—the Council did not need saving—it did need a re-think about how it was structured—and many people contributed to that re-think which led to success. There remains much of course much to be done to implement what was decreed and we pray that that process will continue and be enhanced by the Synod on a Synodal Church.

Second, you may not have noticed but I did notice: I commented in one of my homilies that the descendants of Joseph, the son of Jacob sold into slavery in Egypt, gave a line of descent to David and then Jesus. Wrong! A mis-statement in the moment. Other than being tribes of Israel and all descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the lines of Joseph do not lead to the line of Judah and Benjamin that lead to King David and ultimately to Jesus.

I don't think either of these matters would be earthshaking in their consequences if I just let them lie unaddressed—but admitting them and correcting them is important to me—and the truth is important to me, and honesty is important to me, and accepting responsibility is important to me. It is a part of being a good person and a good disciple of Christ. Jesus Christ calls us to these characteristics in a good healthy loving community and even in small things I find it important to seek to live up to the ideal.

Parish Planning/Future Thinking: The Support Group assisting me has organised a joint meeting of Parish Pastoral and Finance councils next week (25th July, at St Kevin's) to discuss aspects of ways to improve the effectiveness of how each of the parishes of St Gregory the Great and St Kevin's work. After that discussion I/we will be bringing ideas forwards to the broader parish communities. Each layer of feedback and comment is important as we seek to grow as communities of disciples of Christ. We are not in a hurry—both parishes are currently financial—so I/we want to discern with you how best to move forwards, keeping our history and growing into greater faith and faith communities.

St Gregory the Great Gates: The gates are basically finished—there remains some connecting up and testing of the various software and hardware but Vera, Nadia and I, along with Michelle, Josie, and others from the school received training on the software last Tuesday—setting up the basic operational parameters. As part of that training I received a fob so I can get in any time (we can always get out). Essentially for the first months of operation as we get familiar with them, the gates will only be closed from 10 am till 2:30 pm and 10 pm to 6 am on weekdays. Over time we will work out the best additional times to make the gates most effective and least onerous.

I am hopeful that we will not lose any parking spaces though there will be changes: particularly the two Seniors spaces immediately outside the main church entrance will be removed to create an easier flow of traffic. Two replacement Seniors spaces should become available in other locations.

<u>Safeguarding</u>: There will be a workshop on 27th July to go though the essential elements of safeguarding training which many of us need to do and to look at risk assessment for all of our activities. If you've received an invitation please accept and come along.

God bless, Fr Charles

THIS WEEK **LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Frank Ryan, Margaret O'Donnell Sun 9.00am Margaret Wallace, Mary Stocco Luisa Yambao, Tony Ting Sun 10.30am Dot Havnes, Benedicta Wong Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH Boris Klaric, Stephen Ma

MONEY COUNTERS: Lina & Don Pavone

NEXT WEEK 29/30 July **LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Alvin Privana, Gerard O'Donnell Sun 9.00am Queenie Wood, Sauro Antonelli Sun 10.30am Aidan Leung, Karen Chav Sun 5.00pm Thomas Ong, Isabelle Hii CARE OF THE CHURCH Andy Ng. Yvonne Tan MONEY COUNTERS: Marion See, Maria Verrocchi

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Moira White, Lorna Philip Joan Dinneen, Tony Nimmo Robert Rukavina, Dai Sim Margaret O'Donnell, Viviana Pereira

MORNING TEA: Seleana & Thomas

Alfred Lee

COLLECTORS

FLOWERS: Connie Amalfi

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Neol & Cathy McClelland Rachel Kay, Katica Puhali Fred & Agnes Fulia

Judy Ablaza, Mary Tonti-Filippini

MORNING TEA: Multicultural Day

COLLECTOR

Alfred Lee FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato

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.

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

Next Open Day 9th Aug 9.30-11am, or for a School Tour please contact the School Office on 98484483.

Congratulations to St Gregory The Great children and children from neighbouring schools that are receiving their Sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday, 23rd July.



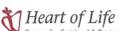


Jane and Alfred are going to World Youth Day in Lisbon and will also be visiting Fatima. If you have prayers that you would like to bring to Our Lady of Fatima, please drop them in the box in the narthex and they will be offered up while on the pilgrimage. Please note that the prayers will be collected on this Sunday 23rd of July.

Retreat in Everyday Life - Moments of Grace - over five weeks, beginning Monday, 31 July and concluding 28 August (at Heart of Life, Malvern, or via Zoom) Flexible timing.

The Retreat in Everyday Life involves a commitment to daily prayer and weekly spiritual accompaniment for an hour per week over five weeks with this year's theme 'Moments of Grace'. This is an ideal opportunity for a Parish or spiritual community to retreat together, as well as for individuals who would like to experience an opportunity to recognise God's presence in their everyday lives in a more intentional way. Register your interest https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/retreat-in-everyday-life-moments -of-grace/ or info@heartoflife.melbourne and we will be in touch to have a conversation. Cost: Donation

Mindfulness & Meditation - Saturday, 28 Aug 23, 10 am - 3.30 pm When we are present to the 'now', centredness and relaxation become a natural part of life, and we know how to act from a heart of love. Facilitated by Paola Cheng who is a Spiritual Director, mental health social worker and meditation teacher, this is a day of prayer in the practice of Mindfulness and Meditation. We invite you to bring an open mind and heart to iourney with others and within oneself. Bookings via https:// www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/mindfulness-meditation/? or email info@heartoflife.melbourne. Cost: \$60 (BYO Lunch)



Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern, Victoria 3144, Australia Tel: (03) 9890 1101 Fmail: info@heartoflife.melbourne Web: www.heartoflife.melbourne



ST GREGORY' S MULTICULTURAL DAY

SUNDAY 30TH JULY 2023 The Children Liturgy Team encourages all parents, grandparents, carers and guardians to

bring their children along to 10:30 Mass, dressed in their heritage colours / costumes. All children are to take part in the offertory pro-

cession on the day.

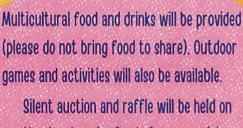
Bring special memorabilia of their family heritage for a show and tell at Children Liturgy's session.

Enjoy outdoor games & activities and multicultural food. Don't forget to support the silent auction and raffles funds raising for our parish's future social activities.



The Parishes of St Gregory the Great Doncaster and St Kevin's Templestowe warmly invite parishioners and friends to our





the day, to raise funds for our social activities. Please come along, to bid for

items and buy tickets.





Sunday 30 July after 10.30am Mass Church of St Gregory the Great Doncaster

RSVP: Email doncaster@cam.org.au or use sign up sheets at church

Come in your cultural costumes or colours, and join us for an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun!



Please be mindful of food intolerances or allergies, as food and drinks may contain allergens. Parents and carers are requested to ple their children at all times.

