

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 FEBRUARY 2023

FOLLOW GOD'S LAW. The vast wisdom of God is revealed in the law God has given to us, a law designed to lead us to the fullness of life and happiness. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that law is not only about external behaviour. Our inner attitudes are also important. It is from within, from the attitudes of our hearts, that good or evil actions flow.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

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.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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. O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling 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 Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach
He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

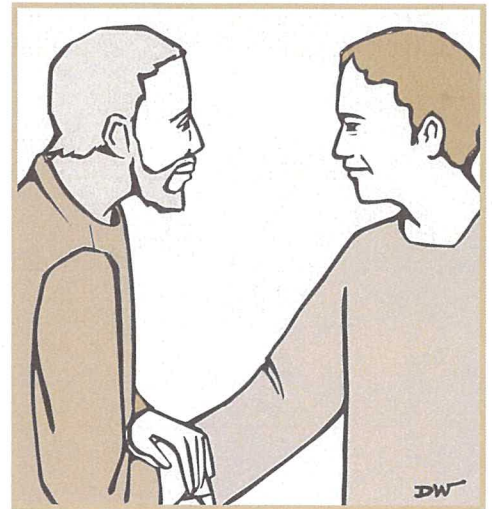
The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PS Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God's law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**



SECOND READING 1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths 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 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34

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.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Longer form 5:17-37

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 this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. 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: 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 cf. Ps 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

OR

Jn 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for

that food by which we truly live. 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, X and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

CHOICES

Choices are a part of the human experience. Some are minor and of little consequence, others will shape our futures and have lasting ramifications for our lives. Ecclesiasticus places a choice before us: we have the power to choose life or death, that is, whether we will follow the living God or not. While many people are fearful of God's judgement the point of the first reading is that any judgement on God's part is only a consequence of our own (cf. John 3:17.12:47).

Jesus invited his hearers to make a decision about the standard they used to live their life of faith. They had grown up with the Jewish law but now the invitation is made to choose a new set of criteria. In the next few weeks, the excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount invite us to choose once again the values that Jesus places before us. Today the challenge is made in terms of our attitude regarding violence, sexual morality and the quality of our speech.

Paul places a choice before the Corinthians – to model their lives on the wisdom of the cross. In Paul's time, the mystery cults abounded and such groups considered themselves as having been initiated into the elect, those who had knowledge and power denied to those around them. He knew they had been given the gift of the Spirit and wisdom, but it was the misunderstood and paradoxical wisdom of the cross.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

11/12 February 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/StGregsDonny

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: (This Week)

Sat: Vigil 6.00pm; **Sun 9:00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm**

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

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

Please be alert! Covid-19 is still with us.

Masks, sanitising, isolating if testing positive.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ecc 15:15-20, 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10, Matthew 5: 17-37.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9.30-11.00am

By request before/after any Mass (come 15-20 mins early)

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:

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

PRAYER GROUP: Thursday of every fortnight in the

School Parish Room

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Fourth Friday of the month

from 7:15pm—9.30pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: Third Monday of

the month at 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 Lucy Caruana, Max Passarella, Kevin Parker, Betty Pike, Jill Hodson, Teresa Yong, Pat & Helen La Manna, Alex Ablaza, Mary Grace Lim Siew Lan, Meredith Barnes, Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Sio Dewi, Michael Mullens, Pat McLeod, Gilbert De Claro, Gabrielle Byrne, Brian Croft, Chee Choong Seng, Chee Mee Lian, Chianna Sacco, Roy Dos Santos, Lilia Go, Maria Stone, Eliseo Pardillo, Siat Lin, Vincent Aloï, Margaret Dobran, Andrew Wilson, Fr Matthew Abraham CSsR, Wang Wei Qiao, Paul Materazzo, Ian Angus, Eliasari, Dennis Clarke, Marisa Rodolfo, Angel Gustavo, Margaret Hansen.

and for those who died recently: Margaret McEnery

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now: Evan Tume (5th Feb 21), Francesco Salvatore, Pasquale Salvatore.

Fr Charles' thoughts, which ran to funerals and almost eulogies this week: Over the past week or so, two people I knew (Marg and Jill) and two people I knew very well (Betty and Betty) have died. May they rest in peace!

Passed away, slipped away, they are at rest, they left this life, they were called home, they were called back to God: these euphemisms all have an element of truth in them but they avoid the discontinuity that death brings: our existence in this world that we know must end in order that we be born into eternal life.

I find it important for me say "Mum died" "Tanya died" "Dad died" "Betty died" because it opens up the magnitude of God's love for us. God's love is so complete that he wants us to join him completely and totally.

The euphemisms all leave some choice in our hands about what happens when in truth we must trust totally in God.

When I am able to do this, or at least approximate, this trust, then there is hope and the people I know and love remain present for me and with me.

They are not just memories, important as memories are. They remain a part of my life because they remain a part of the Body of Christ, the Communion of Saints.

With Marg and Jill: perhaps their presence for me will be slight in future, but listening to the stories of how they brought God's love alive in our parishes and our schools – they will be very much present in a wonderful new way for their families and for the many many people who worked closely with them.

With Betty Natoli and Betty Pike, for me, they will be guides along with my parents, my wife, and many others. Betty Natoli because she showed me the importance of enthusiasm and showed me the meaning of being welcoming. Betty Pike, Aboriginal Elder, because she showed me what it means to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, and how to connect faith and life.

I remember walking into the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry with Betty Pike and as she walked by the baptismal font she dipped her fingers, crossed herself and said "Good morning Jesus" – simple – deep – heartfelt words.

I remember a call from Betty Natoli when I had just been appointed here. "Hello" "Fr Charles" then tentatively (unusual for Betty) "Is it true? You're to be my parish priest?" To which I answered yes. AH FR CHARLES HOW WONDERFUL. In her over the top wonderful voice she made me welcome before I even arrived.

These will not just be memories: because of their faith (and Jill's and Marg's faith) they are part of the Heavenly Hosts and will be with me, with us, in a wonderful new way forever.

God bless, Fr Charles.



The first of our four Working Bees will be held on **Saturday, 18 February 9am – 11am**. A major focus for this Working Bee will attending to garden maintenance, in addition to other regular maintenance tasks.

Things to bring: General gardening tools, pick axe, wheel barrow, crow bars, spades, shovels, forks, rakes, sweeping brushes, whipper snipper, sewer rods, hammers, shears, hedge cutters, chain saws, window cleaning equipment, paint brushes, etc.

LENTEN PRAYER GROUPS:

We will have Lenten prayer groups this Lent. **Sign Up Sheets** are available in the narthex. Groups start in the week of Ash Wednesday. Currently we plan for four groups to meet Mon 7:30 pm; Wed 2:00 pm; Thurs 2:00 pm or 7:30 pm. (or you could go to the session at 9:15 am Thurs at St Kevin's) It would be wonderful to need to form more groups.

Lent starts in just a few weeks—please make a decision early and join a group. These discussion groups are a good way to prepare and enter into the Resurrection.

We will also have an booklet available for individual reflection.

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

THIS WEEK

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

CARE OF THE CHURCH**MONEY COUNTERS:** Mal de Alwis**LECTORS**

Patrick Soosay, Ian Barnes
 Siona Fernandes, Rachael Kay
 Tony Ting, Paola Villanueva
 Children of St Gregory the Great School
 Carole Tang, Agnes Chee

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Sharron Wilkinson, Lorna Phillip
 Tony Nimmo
 Mary Stocco, Rebecca Raymond
 Margaret O'Donnell, Seleana Ng
MORNING TEA: Don & Lina Pavone

COLLECTORS

Stephanie Ng
FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato,
 Mary Piccoli

NEXT WEEK 11/12 Feb

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

CARE OF THE CHURCH**MONEY COUNTERS:** Don Pavone**LECTORS**

Catherine and Noel McClelland
 Michael See, Margaret Wallace
 Jenny & Brian Tyedin
 Enza Scaffidi, Dot Haynes
 Mary Wilson, Leth Go

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Iris O' Farrell, Margaret O'Donnell
 Katica Puhaj, Joan Dinneen
 Sauro Antonelli, Brendan Pon
 Caterina Gioffre, Tina Paolino
MORNING TEA: Brian & Jenny Tyedin

COLLECTORS

Gerard O'Donnell, Vivianna Pereira
FLOWERS: Connie Amalfi

SANITISING/DISTANCING/MASKS/ISOLATING !!!! Maybe with our care we can keep ourselves and those around us healthy

Weekday Mass times in the coming week: Tue/Thurs: 9:15 am St Kevin's Lower Templestowe; Wed/Fri: 9:00 am St Greg's Doncaster.

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.

Transport : Don't leave people stuck at home unable to come to Mass: offer a hand or let us know at the Parish Office.

Welcoming! See someone you DON'T know? go up and have a chat and get to know them. We have new people from at least Italy, Iran, Ireland.

Welcome Teachers, Students and Families of St Gregory the Great Primary School.

A Journey to Freedom**Thursdays 8-9:30 pm 23 Feb. 2, 9, 23 March**

A FREE four week Zoom based Bible Study, with daily reflections. Presented by The Way Prayers Group, Greensborough North. This course forms part of the works of the Catholic School of Evangelisation. To learn

PRAYER GROUP THURSDAY EVERY FORTNIGHT

Please join us in Reflections and Prayers at 7 pm on Thursday, 16th February in the Church Meeting Room. For further information please contact the Parish Office at doncaster@cam.org.au

Sacramental Preparation Classes 2023

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: **9412 8425 or via email: DoncasterRE@cam.org.au**

An **Information Evening** will be held on **Tuesday, 14th February at 5pm** in St Gregory the Great School—Parish Room.

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

Sacramental Dates in 2023 for Catechist Children are:

Reconciliation: Tue, 14th March (for children from Grade 3 onwards)

First Eucharist: Sat/Sun 4/5th June (for children from Grade 4 onwards)

Pastoral Care Appeal 2023

This weekend is the Pastoral Care Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to be the messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing, illness, pain, loneliness, grief and death. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

**St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School**

Next Open Day **14th Feb 9.30-11am, 21st Apr 9.30-11am, 8th Mar 9.30-11am**, or for a School Tour 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.

COME AWAY DAYS IN 2023 AT HOLY CROSS TEMPLESTOWE

The Come Away Days program resumes at the Passionist Holy Cross Centre, 207 Serpells Road Templestowe on Tue, 21 February. The theme of the day is "Living from your heart." The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in the peaceful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The day concludes at 2pm with a celebration of the Eucharist. Cost of the day is \$25.00 or a donation according to your means. For further details contact Frank Burke, burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au or 0407998781.

Parish Ministry Forum:

Wed.8th March 6:30—8:30 pm: Dinner provided—Everyone invited. During 2022 we held ministry forums to start to grow our of Covid-19 time and rejuvenate all our ministries and our whole parish with the aim to be more effective in how we live our faith and also seeking to grow our capacity to Reach Out: Bring People to Jesus. Please join me, join us as we continue this journey at this forum in March.



You are invited to attend the annual Lourdes Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday, 18th February 2023 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 will be Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

Everybody attending will receive a gift pack containing water from the grotto at Lourdes, rosary beads and prayer resources.


YOUTH NIGHT
JOIN US from 7 to 9 PM

@ The Parish room at St Gregory the Great

Welcome Year 6 - 9



Every 3rd Friday of each month

Inviting Youths in grade 6 to year 9 to join us for our Cornerstone Youth group meeting on the 17th February from 7pm to 9pm.

Cornerstone group will meet on the first Friday of each month. Our youth group is not only a good place to stay connected with friends, but to grow your faith towards God. Come journey with us!"