

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

26 FEBRUARY 2023

A TIME OF PREPARATION. The forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness can be likened to the season of Lent. Jesus' time in the wilderness was a time of preparation for his ministry, a time in which he confronted the temptation to choose self and not the Father. For us Lent is a time of preparation for the feast of Easter. It is a time in which we are invited to examine whether the will of God is central to our lives.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

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.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

*A reading from the book of Genesis
Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

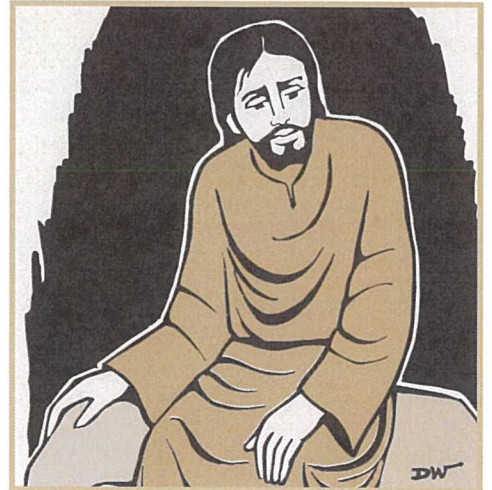
RESP PSALM Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

2. My offences truly I know them; / my sin is always before me. / Against you, you alone have I sinned; / what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**



4. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me. / O Lord, open my lips / and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 5:12, 17-19.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Longer form 5:12-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Mt 4:1-11

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.

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the
test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

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. Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we
pray, to make these offerings, for with them
we celebrate the beginning of this venerable
and sacred time. 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 OF 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Mt 4:4

**One does not live by bread alone, but
by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Renewed now with heavenly bread, by
which faith is nourished, hope increased, and
charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that
we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true

and living Bread, and strive to live by every
word which proceeds from your mouth.
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

IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS

At the dawn of human history, Adam and Eve were seduced into trying to grasp equality with God. In their quest to become like God they gained some knowledge, but it left them chastened and disillusioned. Created in God's image they now saw that dignity was distorted by sin and became aware of their nakedness, vulnerability and need for God.

Prior to commencing his public ministry, Jesus undergoes a time of testing and preparation. During this time Jesus shares in all the trials that Israel experienced in the desert. They lost their way in the desert but Jesus gives us hope as he reveals the qualities that mark God's children. He knows the source of his life is to be found in God so there is no need to make his own bread. He knows that God is with him, and does not need to put God to the test. He is certain that God is the source of his life and power, and rejects the call to worship Satan.

Paul looked at all of salvation history and saw that Adam and Jesus marked two vital moments in God's dealing with humanity. What had been lost by one had been more than regained by the other. Through the gracious gift of Jesus' death, we are able to begin anew as God's children. As we begin the season of Lent we are invited to reflect on our own story, to begin once again with thankful hearts, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

First Sunday of Lent, Year A

25/26 February 2023

Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

Email: Doncaster@cam.org.au

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: (This Week)

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)

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Gen 12:1-4, Tim 1:8-10, Matt 17:1-9.

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: 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 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, 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: Sergio Mattioli and for those whose anniversaries occur about now: Paul Kwun Fook Wong, King Wan Ma, Members of the Tang family, Betty Boyd.

Some thoughts from the PP:

I included a 'call for members' last week and I include it again this week, with a few extra ministries. At the time, I omitted to say THANK YOU to all those who already give of their time and talent to assist in drawing us more deeply into God's love. Thank you!!

I received some response for assisting with the computer operation (thank you!!!) and Mary has been helping people by demystifying the sacristy (little things like lighting and snuffing the candles, finding extra hosts when Fr Charles needs them in the middle of Mass, helping the altar servers to vest).

Call for members: we need more people to step in and help us function fully and effectively: **computer operators (6 pm Sat / 5 pm Sun)**, **sacristans**, **lectors**, **ministers assisting at holy communion**, **ministers visiting the sick/homebound**, **social committee**, **young adults**, **youth group**, **children's liturgy**, **RCIA group leadership**, **flowers**, church cleaning, Parish Pastoral Council etc. etc. Please look into your heart: what are you called to do to help us be the presence/light of Christ for others.

Yes it takes a commitment but if you're reading this you are 90% of the way there because you believe in Jesus Christ and you want to make a difference.

Church Acoustics—months ago (September) I let you know I had an acoustic technician come out and analyse our church. After that an audio technician came out to assess our public address system. Next week, I will be meeting with them and the archdiocesan architect to talk about possible ways forward.

There is a real issue as despite my best efforts, I am still getting people coming up and telling me they can't hear—quite a number of people. More often than not they are actually saying 'I can't understand what is said' which means the deficiencies identified by the acoustic and audio technicians are real. Often I can hear what is said or understand it because of the volume of background noise in the sanctuary.

There are three major issues: background noise, reverberation of sound in the complex shape of the church, and a public address system that is not suitable for the demands placed on it. Unfortunately fixing these issues doesn't come cheap (I don't have costs, just that statement). At the moment this has been a side issue for me because I think it is important. Once I have an idea about possible manageable solutions I'll be having real discussions with the Finance Group to make sure any works are an appropriate and worthwhile investment of the money you have given so generously. And of course I'll discuss it more with the Parish Pastoral Council and with yourselves.

Most of the work we need to do to build up our community of faith is work among people, work we are discussing at the parish forums we've been having, work my support group and the PPC have been helping me come to an understanding of. Within that broader effort how we gather to praise and give thanksgiving and be nourished in Word and Eucharist is important so the acoustics of or beautiful worship space play a real part: if you can't hear and understand you will not be nourished as much and not be able to grow in faith as much as I / we would wish.

God bless, Fr Charles

Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday during Lent at 7pm at St Gregory the Great Doncaster
Every Tuesday during Lent after 9.15am Mass at St Kevin Templestowe



LENTEN PRAYER GROUPS:

It is not too late!!!

Lenten prayer groups have started this Week but you can still join, just contact the Parish Office for details if you'd like to join a group.

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:** Maria Verrocchi, Maggie Yong**LECTORS**

Ashton Ng & Ashley Ng
 Queenie Wood & Amanda Chong
 Karen Chay & Aidan Leung
 Mary Tonti-Filipini, Benedicta Wong
 Boris Klaric, Stephen Ma

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Robert & Dianne McHugh
 Ray & Kay Lewis
 Robert Rukavina, Dai Sim
 Judy Ablaza, Margaret O'Donnell
MORNING TEA: Adeline, Isabelle, Isaac

COLLECTORS

Francis Yim, Alfred Lee
FLOWERS: Lent-No Flowers

NEXT WEEK 04//05 March

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

CARE OF THE CHURCH**MONEY COUNTERS:** TBA**LECTORS**

Rebecca Law, Gerard O'Donnell
 Philip Dunlop
 Luisa Yambao, Chris Anggoro
 Francis Yim, Viviana Pereira
 Andrew Khalil, Yvonne Tan

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell
 Joan Dinneen, Rachael Kay
 Tony Ting, Pierre Tanzimat
 Tina Paolino, Seleana Ng
MORNING TEA: TBA

COLLECTORS

Seleana Ng, Gerard O'Donnell
FLOWERS: Lent-No Flowers

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 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.

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.

Project Compassion 2023

Lent is a time when we support the work of Caritas Australia in a special way through Project Compassion.

Caritas Australia helps to empower some of our most marginal sisters and brothers; it embraces some demanding situations because it says yes to our neighbours. The theme for Project Compassion is "For All Future Generations". This year that theme asks us to think about the great yes that Mary said when the angel told her that she was to become the mother of Jesus. She freely accepted a unique place in the history of the human family.

Please ensure you collect your box before leaving today.

**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. The classes will begin in March 2023.

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.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

Next Open Day **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.

Parish Ministry Forum: PLEASE SIGN UP

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. RSVP via the Sign Up Sheets in the Church foyer or email doncaster@cam.org.au

We invite you to pray for
 St Gregory The Great Primary School children
 that are making their commitment for their
 Sacrament of Reconciliation this weekend.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
 2023**

Friday March 3rd

Theme "I have heard about your faith"
 Writer Country - Taiwan

10.00am
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 51 Victoria Street, Doncaster
 Speaker: Craig Petty from
 Compassion Australia
www.compassion.com.au

8.00pm
 St Clements Catholic Church
 Egan Drive, Bulleen
 Speaker: Rev Swee An Koh
 Manningham Uniting Church

All welcome Refreshments served
 Contacts 0438 034 739 9850 1150

St Gregory's
 & St Kevin's
 Invitation

**PARISH
 PIZZA
 & WINE
 CELEBRATION**

All parishioners and friends are warmly invited
 to St Gregory's Parish Pizza & Wine gathering on
Saturday 18th March
 after the 6pm Mass in the Church Narthex

Register via
Sign-up Sheets

Please add your name to sign up sheets
 if you intend to join the celebration.
 We look forward to seeing you.