

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

4 DECEMBER 2022

GOD'S KINGDOM IS NEAR. John the Baptist urged the people to prepare for the coming of the kingdom by repenting of their sins. Their baptism by John in the Jordan River was an important ritual act of sorrow. But they also had to express their sorrow by reforming their lives. The sacrament of reconciliation, and right living, are excellent means through which we can prepare for the feast of Christmas.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 30: 19, 30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

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. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: 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.

The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT

P. Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances,

he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PS Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7

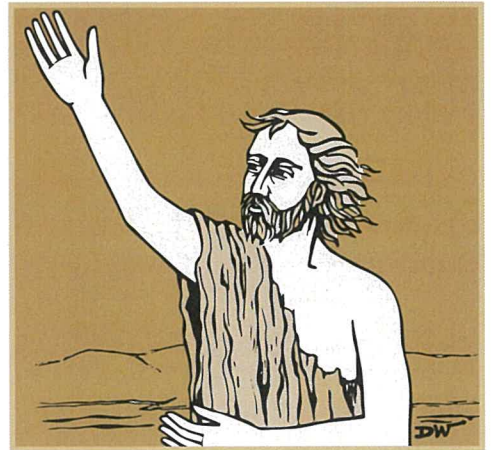
R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, / to a king's son your justice, / that he may judge your people in justice / and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

2. In his days justice shall flourish / and peace till the moon fails. / He shall rule from sea to sea, / from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry / and the needy who are helpless. / He will have pity on the weak / and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

4. May his name be blessed for ever / and endure like the sun. / Every tribe shall be blessed in him, / all nations bless his name. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 3:1-12

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.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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. Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no

merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OF ADVENT

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 Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. 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.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

CHANGE OF HEART

By the time Isaiah wrote, Israel had had some centuries of experience of kings, both good and bad. In that time there had been plenty of opportunities to learn what were the qualities that marked an ideal king – the presence of the spirit of the Lord, wisdom, insight, integrity, fairness, faithfulness, and concern for the poor. The longed for messiah would establish true quality of life, where even natural enemies would be able to live in peace.

One of the vexing problems Paul addressed among the Christians of Rome was how to overcome division and encourage tolerance, understanding and peace. His solution was to use the example of Jesus' tolerance and love as the basis and springboard for our way. In this way, even Jewish and Gentile Christians who were divided on the issue of food laws, would be able to live in peace with one another as they waited for the Lord's coming.

As John the Baptist began his ministry the time of the messiah, longed for by Isaiah, was finally dawning. The hope that had sustained generations was now being realised. John looked upon the evils of his day and saw that while the messiah was soon to return the people were not yet prepared to greet him. They mistakenly relied on belonging to the people of Israel by virtue of their birth. John saw that such children of God were as plentiful and as worthless as the stones that made farming so difficult. Then, as now, what was called for was a change of heart and an openness to the invitation to prepare for the Lord's coming among us.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S—DONCASTER

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

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) (no livestreaming)

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

Wed & Fri: 9:00 am (plus Tu/Thu 9:15 am St Kevin's)

CHILDREN LITURGY: 10.30am Mass

**CAUTION & CARE! Covid-19 has not gone completely
MASKS / SANITISING / ISOLATING**

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa 35:1–6, 10, James 5:7–10, Matt 11:2–11

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9.30-11am

By request before/after any Mass (come 15-20 m 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 9.45 am in the church meeting room.

Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384.

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: First Friday of the month from 7pm-9pm

PRAYER GROUP: Thursday every Fortnight in Church Meeting Room

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP:

Monthly 4th Fridays from 7:15pm—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 Sio Dewi, Theresa Yong, 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, Angelique Giacomini, Maureen Tresise, Kevin Parker

And those who died recently and for the repose of the souls of Min Mullens, Edith McManus, Kevin McManus, Julie Nunes, Ljubica Ficovic, Cico Ficovic, Gensio Braganolo and all whose anniversaries occur about now.

From the prayers of Fr Charles:

Jesus must have loved verbs—in a way he IS a verb: an action Word (spoken over the emptiness at creation). Which means that it should be no surprise that when reading through the Gospels for Advent this year, each week presented a theme inviting or calling us to action:

Week 1. Watchfulness! Stay Awake!

Week 2. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Week 3. What did YOU go out to see?

Week 4. You must name him Jesus.

There is a progression through the weeks isn't there—leading us, calling us, guiding us towards ... God's love. Christmas is one of those key moments in our year where we are called to renew our commitment to the journey of faith.

Each week we are asked to do a open our selves in a different way. During this past, first, week—a call for us to be willing to listen and see God's work for us. Next to be willing to help bring others to awareness of Jesus Christ. Then to be willing to look deeper, to delve further into what faith means to 'me'. Finally to be willing to look for Jesus and name his presence: to name HIM. Then we can be just a bit more ready to recognise what it means to celebrate Christmas.

Once we start thinking in this way we become, slowly, more capable of living our faith deliberately, intentionally, consciously. The habits of faith are essential if they free us to grow in love of God. The habits of faith are a burden if they constrain us into an unbendable routine.

I invite you to journey with me to Christmas with an open heart, mind, soul.

Warning!!! Boring item!!! - Well, NO!! It is not boring: it is vitally interesting!

Child Safety!!!

We still need some of our volunteers to front up and get themselves up to date with a Working with Children Check (.WWCC) and Code of Conduct.

Yeeesssss.... We are doing Ok—about 75% there (congratulations).

But—would you accept 75% compliance/accuracy/completeness from your bank or insurance company or supermarket or airline or landlord ...???

We need to get to 100% compliance, please.

If you do ANYTHING for the church on a regular basis you need a WWCC and to sign our Code of Conduct.

Not sure? Call 941238424 or email doncaster@cam.org.au or drop in M-F 9-3.

During interviews recently we've been asking people what they think it means to be "ChildSafe" and pretty much universally people have said "it means ensuring there is no harm done to our children" and within that there was a thread of being intentional—thinking ahead about the risks and planning for them.

Last weekend I was at a restaurant with my family and my granddaughter went for a wander—no problem—I followed we had a lovely few moments chasing around the she hared off back to mum and dad. I dropped behind, didn't call to slow her, and next I know she tripped down a step and planted her face in the floor, because she was so keen to get to mum. No harm done in that case but hmmm! What about other risks ? How could I help avoid such things in future? That trivial incident captures something of the need we have to improve all the time to sensibly prevent possibilities of harm of all sorts. Your getting a WWCC does nothing in itself but within you it starts a process or continues a process of bringing care for children to conscious awareness (not worry). Through that awareness, over time, we learn to create a culture of safety with a culture of gentle review so that we can always improve.

God bless, Fr Charles

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:** Ray Lewis, Bill Taylor**LECTORS**

Robert McHugh, Frank Ryan
 Philip Dunlop, Greg James
 Rebecca Raymond, Aditya Hendarto
 Dot Haynes, Viviana Pereira
 Stephen Ma, Louise Moule

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Noel & Cathy McClelland
 Queenie Wood, Joan Dineen
 Pierre Tanzimat, Sauro Antonelli
 Francis Yim, Tina Paolino
MORNING TEA: Adeline, Isabelle, Isaac

Francis Yim, Alfred Lee (Collectors)

FLOWERS Irene Dharmawan**NEXT WEEK 10/11 Dec**

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

CARE OF THE CHURCH**MONEY COUNTERS:** Marisa Maiolo, Anne McGrath**LECTORS**

Anne Davine, Patrick Soosay
 Siona Fernandes, Tony Nimmo
 Karen Chay, Aidan Leung
 Enza Scaffidi, Gerard O'Donnell
 Mary Wilson, Leth Go

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Robert & Dianne McHugh
 Rachael Kay, Ray Lewis
 Maggie Yong, Edith Ma
 Mary Tonti-Filipini, Judy Ablaza
MORNING TEA: TBA

Gerard O'Donnell (Collectors)

FLOWERS Geraldina Donato
Mary Piccoli**ISOLATING / MASKS!!!!** Christian Charity demands we give thought to others when we catch Covid/Flu etc.

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.

Anointing of the Sick, can be provided before, during or after any Mass. Just let the Sacristan or the Priest know ahead of time.

Facebook: Live-streaming: We are no longer live streaming our Masses. We look forward to seeing you in person at one of our Masses.

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

Who has not rejoined? Have you got friends who haven't come back to our community fully yet? Maybe ask them if you can help?

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

For future Open Day or 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.

Christmas Masses Sign Up Roster is out in the Foyer. Please add your name and contact details if you could help in any of the Masses.

FLORIST WANTED— Our church has been adorned by beautiful flower arrangements done by a very small team of volunteers. And we need more people to help! It's usually once a month either on a Friday or Saturday morning roster. We also need help during the December & January holidays. So if you are only available during this time please contact us. If you are good with flowers and would love to help please ring the Parish Office 03 9412 8425 or email doncaster@cam.org.au.

URGENT!!! ALL volunteers must have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) and sign an new Code-of-Conduct (it is over two years since you last signed one so it is time for renewal). Please Renew your WWC and Sign the Code of Conduct available in the church foyer or our website. If you like them emailed please email the office.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

2022 Vinnies Christmas Appeal

We are still accepting donations until the 11th December 2022.

- Make a cash donation using one of the Vinnies envelopes or placing cash in the Vinnies Appeal Donation Box at the back of the church.
- Donate a toy or gift card for a needy family by taking a request label from the Christmas tree and buying a gift relevant to that label. Please do not wrap gifts.

St Gregory's The Great Children Liturgy

is inviting children of all ages to participate in a mini concert to be performed at the Parish Christmas Party. If your children are interested, please note the rehearsal for the Christmas performance:

Sunday 04-Dec after 10.30am Mass (11.30am - 1pm).

Saturday 10-Dec (11.00am -1pm).



St Gregory's & St Kevin's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, 11th December after the 5PM Mass.

Please join us for a fun filled night with our community. Food and drinks will be provided. Santa will make an appearance for the kids with a bag of treats. Raffle tickets will be sold 2 weeks ends prior to the event and will be drawn on the night. Please RSVP using the Sign Up Sheets

CHRISTMAS AT ST GREGORY'S**Thursday 15th December**

Rite of Reconciliation at
 St Kevin's Church
 26 Herlihy Road,
 Templestowe Lower
 at 7.00 pm

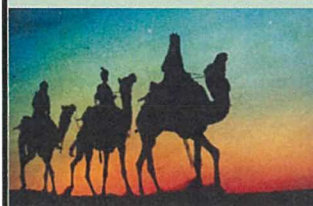
(with individual absolution available)

**Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December**

Carols at 6.30 pm, Mass at 7.00 pm
 Carols at 9.30 pm, Mass at 10.00 pm

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December

Mass at 9.00 am
 Mass at 10.30 am
 (No 5.00pm Mass)

**New Year's Eve****Saturday, 31st December**

Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.00 pm

New Year's Day**Sunday 1st January**

Masses at 9.00 am, 10.30 am
 and 5.00 pm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement in 2023.