

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

5 FEBRUARY 2023

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE! We all have our special gifts, but sometimes we fail to recognise this. We may feel that we have little to offer others. That is never true. As Jesus says: 'You are the salt of the earth! You are the light of the world!' Let us ask Jesus to help us recognise our unique gifts and share them with others.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 94:6-7

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

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.

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.

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. Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unflinching care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor;
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then your light will shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 111:4-9. R. v. 4

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright. (or Alleluia!)

1. He is light in the darkness for the upright: / he is generous, merciful and just. / The good man takes pity and lends, / he conducts his affairs with honour. **R.**

2. The just man will never waver: / he will be remembered for ever. / He has no fear of evil news; / with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **R.**

3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; / open-handed, he gives to the poor; / his justice stands firm for ever. / His head will be raised in glory. **R.**



SECOND READING 1 Cor 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:13-16

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.

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

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. O Lord, our God, who once established these created things to sustain us in our frailty, grant, we pray, that they may become for us now the Sacrament of eternal life. 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 cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who have willed that we be partakers in the one Bread and the one Chalice, grant us, we pray, so to live that, made one in Christ, we may joyfully bear fruit for the salvation of the world. 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, \times and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

When the people of Israel returned from exile it was a time of great hope and rejoicing. God's promises had proved true and their persistence in faith had been rewarded. Now was the time to rebuild and people set about re-establishing their lives, homes and businesses. During the exile, they had been united in their suffering but now there was the danger of people looking after themselves at the cost of others. Isaiah was concerned to nip this in the bud showing that the best foundation on which to rebuild was their concern for others, especially the poor and the disadvantaged. In this way, their lives would be a shining example. In the gospel, Jesus calls each of us to examine the quality of our care for our brothers and sisters. It is by means of our practical concern that we can be salt for the earth and light for our world.

Paul was concerned that the faith of some of the Corinthian Christians was not built on a firm foundation. They had been overly impressed by the quality of the preaching and rhetoric of the various preachers who had worked among them. He knew that while their response was understandable, it was nonetheless misguided. At the end of the day, he knew that rhetoric and philosophy would never build a foundation that could challenge the one built on the self-giving love of Jesus. With their eyes fixed on the crucified one, they could learn true wisdom and the meaning of love.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

4/5 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.instagram.com/StGregsDonny)

www.facebook.com/StGregsDoncaster

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: 6th 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 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 Aloji, 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 McEniery, Margaret Bath, Tze Siew Lim, Imad Naffah.

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now.

From the desk of the PP:

This past week we welcomed back our children to school and on Wednesday we had the grade 3 & 4 children participating for the first time this year and it changed the Mass. Not just because there were more people there, though that certainly was true. Something more subtle. More important!

You might not notice from the pews but from where I stand in the sanctuary the sounds from everyone are focussed, perhaps magnified and so I notice changes in sound and direction. Sometimes that is the noise from outside that can completely dominate but putting that aside, the children bring a completely different 'tone' to the Mass. The acoustics of the church tell me that something new is present—a welcome and pleasing change of sound.

Their responses during the Mass are given a half to one octave higher than that of adults because their voices haven't broken yet, That higher tone reverberates differently in the church. It is distinctive. It fills a gap. It brings new life. It opens the heart to new possibilities.

The children's contribution didn't strike me as strongly last year—we started with only one class at a time, widely spaced because of Covid-19 limits and with fewer adults present: the effect of the children was muted. This year it was striking.

I make a point of this change in sound partly because it delighted me but mostly because it points to far deeper implication. Our children bring new life to our lives as families and as a parish community. We need to hear them and welcome them and learn from them. We also need to help them know what they are contributing to so that as the years go on they are drawn to love the Mass because it changes their lives as they offer thanks to the Father for his Son Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

One thing we can do is share our deepest feelings about why the Mass is important to us (I don't go to Mass because of obligation I go because of the joy Jesus Christ brings me; what brings you each week: share it). Another is to explain the Mass specifically. I don't think I did enough of that explaining to my children and I think it contributed to their stopping attending because the Mass seemed ritual alone with no 'real-presence.'

We need our children, please be generous and inventive in helping them to learn to know their Lord and Saviour. God bless, Fr Charles

'Standing in Solidarity with the suffering and injustice of the Palestinian people'

The 'Banyule Churches Together' Ecumenical Group sponsors the annual Lenten McKinney Lectures. This year they are privileged to have the Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, Palestine, Br. Peter Bray FSC, as our guest speaker.

The Lecture is on **Thursday 23 February 7.30pm** at the Cunningham Centre (opposite St. Bernadette's School) 53 Stanley St, Ivanhoe. The topic is a topic which should be of interest to many in our community.

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:** Sharron Wilkinson and Iris O'Farrell**LECTORS**

Frank Ryan
 Peter Molinari, Angela Molinari
 Amanda Stefanovski, Mary Stocco
 Jane Ma, Stephanie Ong

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Moira White, Peter Whiting
 Ray Lewis, Kay Lewis
 Fred & Agnes Fulia
 Mary Tonti-Filipini, Judy Ablaza

MORNING TEA: N/A**COLLECTORS**

Seleana Ng, Judy Ablaza
FLOWERS: Tessa Leung

NEXT WEEK 11/12 Feb

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
 Gerard O'Donnell, Viviana Pereira

Carole Tang, Agnes Chee

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Sharron Wilkinson, Lorna Phillip
 Tony Nimmo
 Mary Stocco, Rebecca Raymond
 Margaret O'Donnell, Seleana Ng

MORNING TEA: N/A**COLLECTORS**

Stephanie Ng
FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato,
 Mary Piccoli

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.

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 more: Contact Emilia 0418 120 902 or Emilia.sacchetta@bigpond.com

Book so that you can get the Zoom link and the course booklet.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CFNKH>**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:** Saturday/Sunday 4/5th June (for children from Grade 4 onwards)**Confirmation:** Sunday, 23rd July (for children from Grade 6 onwards)**Pastoral Care Appeal 2023**

Next weekend is the Pastoral Care Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes, so that the vital work of the Catholic Chaplains can continue. The Chaplains support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres. Your gift can help people find comfort and hope as they go through some of their darkest times of their life. Please give generously. 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.

Morning Tea Roster: We resume morning tea after the Sunday 10.30am Mass and we warmly invite volunteers to host after Mass. We would love you to be one of our small team of hosts, please sign up on the roster on the noticeboard in the foyer. Any questions, please call Karen on 0412 402 426.

**Parish Ministry Forum:**

Wed.8th March 6:30—8:30 pm: Dinner provided—Everyone invited.

Please put this in your diary and come along on the day.

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!"