

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

26 MARCH 2023

THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. The raising of Lazarus from the dead was a wonderful event. His sisters were overjoyed and many people came to believe in Jesus. But something more wonderful happened in Jesus' own death and resurrection. While Lazarus was restored to his former life, the death of Jesus produces a life that will last forever, a life that we receive in baptism. Let us pray for all who are to be baptised this Easter.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

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. Lord Jesus, you were lifted up to draw all people to yourself: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You shouldered the cross, to bear our suffering and sinfulness: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You open for your people the way from death into life: 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.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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 Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the

soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 129. R. v. 7

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, / Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be attentive / to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord, who would survive? / But with you is found forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord / more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 8:8-11

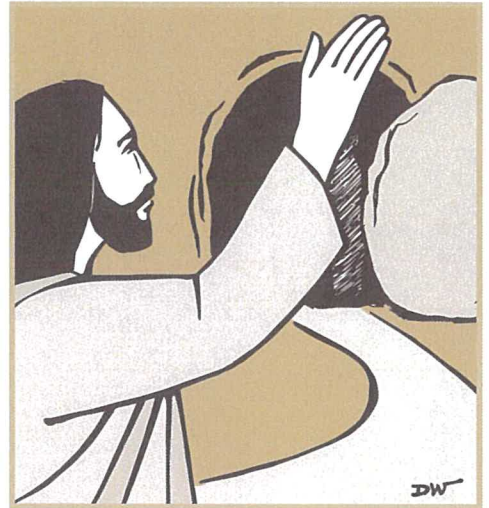
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;

whoever believes in me will not die ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,

and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me. But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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. Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. 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 5TH 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 cf. Jn 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

GOD'S PLEDGE TO US

Lent is always an invitation to travel on the path of conversion. We are called to do our part and yet the work is not solely ours. One of the threads uniting today's readings is the encouragement provided by God's pledge to work with us as we journey towards the new life of Easter.

Ezekiel wrote to a dispirited and discouraged people far from where they wanted to be. In exile they felt powerless to change their situation and wondered whether God still had the power, or desire, to save them. Ezekiel has no doubts that God will bring them back from the grave to new life.

In writing to the Christians of Rome, Paul is led to reflect on the nature of conversion and the Christian life from two perspectives. From our perspective, we are challenged to open our hearts to what is of spiritual and lasting value. Lest we become disheartened by our weakness, Paul reminds us of the critical role God plays in our coming to spiritual maturity. The gift of the Spirit within us is a sign of God's pledge to enliven us so that we may share in the new life of Jesus' resurrection. The moving story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a powerful reminder to us all that just as Jesus commanded, 'Unbind him, let him go free,' so it is with us. The Lord is still working with us to liberate what is bound, and to bring to life that which is not fully alive.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

25/26 March 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

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: Passion Sunday

Isa: 50:4-7; Phil: 2:6-11; Matt: 26:14-27:66

RECONCILIATION: Reconciliation not on Sat Apr 1

Please contact Office or Fr Charles for times

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 Luke Kakoschke, Victor, Natalie, Max Passarella, Teresa Yong, Helen La Manna, Alex Ablaza, Mary Grace Lim Siew Lan, Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Sio Dewi, Pat McLeod, Gilbert De Claro, Gabrielle Byrne, Brian Croft, Chee Choong Seng, 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 and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Anthony Pezzi, Mary Fernandes, Pietro Tomasello

From the Desk of Fr Charles:

Holy Week! It starts in a week with Palm Sunday. Then, the Three Days (Triduum) in which we relive the Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Christmas tells us God comes close, comes among us as one of us. Easter tells us God has given us new life and has healed our collective sin so it is natural for us to join him in his glory. Please, keep focussed on the growth in love of Christ you desired through your prayer, fasting and alms giving.

Gathering of Priests and Deacons of Melbourne: On Thursday I joined 150 priests and deacons for a day at The Manningham. We talked about World Youth Day with about 585 young people going from Melbourne and about the Clergy Conference in June which will focus on Liturgy and how we can bring even more life to our celebration of Mass.

The Vocations Office has new leaders and is looking to help us find ways to encourage an understanding of vocation, with a focus of course on fostering priestly vocations.

Youth and Young People: Emma and Sylvana have begun working in the Archdiocese Proclaim Office to provide some new approaches to helping young people, individually and collectively, grow in capacity to discern the calls that God makes in their lives.

I was encouraged that there are new efforts happening at a diocese wide level that can support us as we seek to grow share our love of Christ. God bless, *Fr Charles*

EASTER TIMETABLE 2023

St Gregory's Doncaster

Communal Penance Service (30th March) at 7.30pm

Palm Sunday (1st/2nd April) - Masses as per usual

Holy Thursday (6th April) - Mass at 7.30pm

Good Friday (7th April)

Stations of the Cross at 10.00am

Passion of our Lord at 3.00pm

Easter Vigil (8th April) Mass at 6.30pm

Easter Sunday (9th April)

Masses at 9.00am, 10.30am and 5pm



Feast of Annunciation Mass. Saturday, 25th March at 9am. Please let Father Charles know if you would like to receive Sacrament of Reconciliation before or after Mass.

Chrism Mass- You are warmly invited to join us for the annual Chrism Mass, which will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 1 April at 10am. In this ancient and beautiful liturgy, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, together with all of Melbourne's priests, will bless the oils being used in the sacraments for the year ahead.

This year the Mass will be celebrated on a Saturday to enable more people to come along and participate in this significant moment in the Church's calendar. Father Charles will be attending and is inviting Parishioners to come together with him. **As a result, there will No Confessions on the 1st of April.**

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

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:** Philip**LECTORS**

Ian Barnes, Robert McHugh
 Peter Molinari, Angela Molinari
 Aidan Leung, Karen Chay
 Enza Scaffidi, Alfred Ablaza
 Agnes Chee, Boris Klaric

Dunlop, Josie Masters

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell
 Joan Dinneen, Margaret Wallace
 Fred & Agnes Fulia
 Caterina Gioffre, Judy Ablaza
MORNING TEA: Angelo Lee & Thomas Kim

COLLECTORS

Francis Yim, Alfred Lee
FLOWERS: Lent-No Flowers

NEXT WEEK 1/2 April**Sat 6.00pm**

Sun 9.00am
 Sun 10.30am
 Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH**MONEY COUNTERS:** Ray Lewis, Surin Fernando**LECTORS**

Margaret O'Donnell, Gerard O'Donnell, Ashley Ng
 Michael See, Peter Molinari, Angela Molinari
 Jenny Tyedin, Brian Tyedin, Karen Chay
 Thomas Ong, Stephanie Ong, Benedicta Wong
 Stephen Ma, Louise Moule

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Robert & Dianne McHugh
 Rachael Kay, Joan Dinneen
 Dai Sim, Rob Rukavina
 Tina Paolino, Viviana Pereira
MORNING TEA: Lina & Don Pavone

COLLECTORS

Seleana Ng
FLOWERS: Lent-No Flowers

AUTUMN THEN WINTER—more infectious illness (Covid, Flu, ...)! Perhaps our care with masks / sanitising will keep others safe.

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! We have a new Welcoming Group: but still: if you see someone you DON'T know? go up and have a chat and get to know them.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

Next Open Day **3rd May 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.

Father Charles' Progress Report on Parish Planning is now available in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy on your way out. God bless.

ANNUAL PASSION PLAY 2023

Each year, for the past 23 years, the Passion of Jesus Christ has been enacted in Melbourne by a group of volunteers; This is a real scene by scene representation of the Ministry of Jesus by people in real open air natural surroundings. This promenade Play will be performed at the Holy Cross Centre, 207 Serpells Road in Templestowe 3016, where the natural surroundings of a vast tree-lined park form part of the theatrical scenery adding to the spiritual and moving experience. From the Entry into Jerusalem to the Resurrection, the audience literally follows in Christ's footsteps from scene to scene. The Melbourne Passion Play is professionally produced and directed. The event is free of charge and it will be performed on **PALM SUNDAY 2nd April at 1.30 pm** and on **GOOD FRIDAY 7th April at 10.00 am**. Free off-street parking is also available. For more information visit the website www.passionplay.info



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities



across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Teresa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

God gave all children the right to feel safe at all times



I asked at Masses a few weeks ago if Safeguarding Children is OUR responsibility: you answered YES!! To live this responsibility, today, we need to learn to be conscious about how to assess what a safe situation is. Then we need to know what to do if we think something is not right—we pray it never happens but we know it does. This forum is for you!

Mayor Deirdre will speak about how important Safeguarding is in Manningham City. (Its not a "Church Thing", it is societal.) And, **Brech Burgess** will speak to the practicalities. And **YOU** will get time to discuss, ask questions. **Please!** Fill the hall at St Greg's and join this important moment for learning and discussion. Make it an element of your Prayer and Charity for Lent. Church or School, Parent or Relative: this is for you!! Please come along, God bless, Fr Charles

SAFEGUARDING FORUM!!!

Friday 31st march 7:30 pm—8:30 pm
Guest Speaker: Mayor Deirdre Diamante plus Safeguarding Officer Brech Burgess
 Please make time for this Forum.

HELP WANTED!! We are in need for volunteers to help us to keep our church clean and beautiful The task involves dusting furniture and windows, clean the seats and tables in the church, narthex, sacristy and narthex. You will be rostered on with another person. It usually takes place on a Saturday morning. If you could help please email *"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."* **St. Mother Teresa.**

Social Justice Action

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

Indigenous Voice

An Australian Indigenous Voice Referendum is now on track following Government and Coalition agreement last Wednesday. Therefore don't forget to REGISTER via St Kevin's Parish website for a very relevant joint St Gregory's Social Justice **Online forum 7:30pm-8:30pm on Wednesday 12 April** at <https://www.stkevinsparish.org.au/community/get-involved/social-justice-action/>. There you can also find details or alternatively REGISTER for a live version of the online Forum, directly at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Thornbury. Further details or Enquiries 0409 967 207. John Costa, St Kevin's Parish, Social Justice.

Working Bee!!! Next Saturday, 1st April at 9am-11am! Help needed to clean up around the Church and the garden in preparation for the Holy Week and Easter. Many hands make light work. Don't forget to bring your gloves and garden tools!

