

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

18 DECEMBER 2022

A MAN OF HONOUR. Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on Joseph, the husband of Mary, who played such an important role in God's plan of salvation. Joseph was a man of honour who combined respect for the law with compassion for Mary. He was open to hear God's word to him. He is an example for us all.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

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.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT

P. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 7:10–14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself

coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 23:1–6. R. cf. vv. 7. 10

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

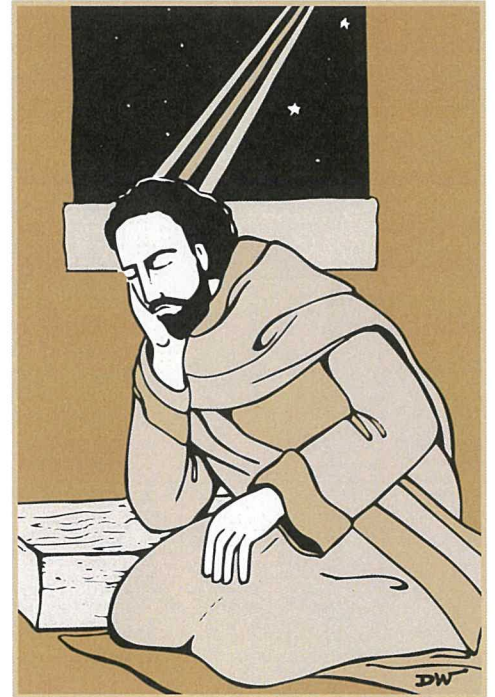
SECOND READING Rom 1:1–7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from



the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 1:18–24

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 was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when

the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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. May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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 II 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 Isa 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.

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, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

GOD CARES

While many people can assert that God exists, it is often a huge leap to be able to say with confidence that God cares about what we are going through. It is even a greater leap to be able to say that God actually cares enough to be with us in the complexity and challenges of our lives. Both the first reading from Isaiah and today's Gospel proclaim that God cares enough to be with us and that the living God often works in and through the most disturbing and surprising events. King Ahaz had given in to despair in the face of the imminent attack on Jerusalem by more powerful forces. Joseph was struggling to come to terms with Mary's pregnancy which was both disconcerting and unexpected. Both Ahaz and Joseph were led to recognise that God's presence was to be seen in the birth of a child whose very name – God with us – was a constant reminder not to lose heart in the God who loves us.

As Paul begins the letter to the Romans, he reflects on the marvellous call that he has received to be an apostle. He sets the story of Jesus firmly within the saving history of God's dealings with the people of Israel, but this is not the end of the story. The God of surprises has made it clear to Paul that what happened in the birth of Jesus belongs to all humanity. In Jesus, God has come close to all peoples and Paul's mission is to preach this message to the nations.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S—DONCASTER

Fourth 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](https://www.facebook.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) (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

Please be alert! People we know have Covid-19—it IS still with us: Masks, sanitising, isolating

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Christmas Day

Isa 52:7–10, Heb 1:1–6, Jn 1:1–18

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 (Closed till February)

PRAYER GROUP: Thursday every Fortnight in Church Meeting Room (Closed till February)

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Monthly 4th Fridays from 7:15pm—9.30pm (Closed till February)

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 Meredith Barnes, Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Sio Dewi, Michael Mullens, Pat McLeod, Gilbert De Claro, Gabrielle Byrne, Brian Croft, Chee Choong Seng, Chee Mee Lian, Chianna Sacco, Roy Dos Santos, Lilia Go, Maria Stone, Eliseo Pardillo, Siat Lin, Vincent Aloï, Margaret Dobran, Andrew Wilson, Fr Matthew Abraham CSsR, Wang Wei Qiao, Paul Materazzo, Ian Angus, Eliasari, Dennis Clarke, Marisa Rodolfo, Angel Gustavo, Margaret Hansen, Angelique Giacomini, Maureen Tresise, Kevin Parker

And those who died recently James Ting, Rev Joseph Patrick Hyman PE and **for the repose of the souls of** Ignatius See, Jovita Fernando, Charlie Cannizzo, and all whose anniversaries occur about now.

From the desk of the PP,

On Wednesday of this past week I had some space in my day to do a bit of catching up. I have a tendency to use scraps of paper as well as my notebook for making note of what needs doing. As I worked through the various scraps of paper (about forty of them) I was also sorting files and I ended up with files all over the place.

It reminded me of a management psychologist who visited my office, many years ago now. She arrived at the door of my office and said "Ah yes!! I see what Ron (her boss) meant: you are a raging 'P'" Apparently with the personality profile method the company was pushing at the time I am classified as 'perceiving' on one facet of my preferences. This type of personality is comfortable with situations where there are many things happening and no way to finish one thing before the next starts. That was the nature of my role at the time: lots of different projects to be looked after.

Of course I am not defined by a personality profile type but it remains a real facet of my life that am Ok with having many things on the go at once. And that is useful as we progress along the path of me helping lead two parishes with so much happening. There is Christmas fast approaching. And brochures about Lent and Easter arriving already. There are schools finishing the year and funerals needed and visits to the sick and Masses at aged care facilities. And there is all the thinking that is happening in the Parish Pastoral Councils of the two parishes and working with the many ministries of the two parishes. And ... I am on the board of CatholicCare Victoria and, and, and ...

And do you know what happens along the way: The important things get done first. Things get finished, things get done: because people step up to help. Thank you!! Our parishes would cease to operate at all in a functional sense if you didn't help. More importantly: without the giving of self that you do to help things happen we would lose the knowledge of Christ that is essential to being Christian.

As we enter the final week leading to our celebration of the truth of God-with-us in Jesus the Christ: please, take a few moments to just sit back, stand back, and allow the joy of Christmas to enter into your days.

God bless, Fr Charles.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all parishioners and visitors that attended our Christmas party last weekend.

We raised a total **\$663** from both Raffles and Cash Donations!

Our Raffle Winners:

1st Prize: Alice

2nd Prize: Florence Noonan

3rd Prize: Nam Doan

4th Prize: Sonia

Last but not least, **THANK YOU** to St Gregory's Parish Social Committee for putting up a wonderful event for us.

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:** Phillip Dunlop, Josie Masters**LECTORS**

Frances Cannizzo, Ian Barnes
 Peter Molinari, Angela Molinari
 Aditya Hendarto, Paola Villanueva
 Benedicta Wong, Viviana Pereira

Carole Tang, Boris Klaric

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell
 Katica Puhaj, Joan Dinneen
 Fred & Agnes Fulia
 Tina Paolino

MORNING TEA: Don & Lina Pavone**FLOWERS** Connie Amalfi**NEXT WEEK 24/25 Dec**

24th Dec 7.00pm
 24th Dec 10.00pm
 25th Dec 9.00am
 25th Dec 10.30am

CARE OF THE CHURCH**MONEY COUNTERS:** Ray Lewis**LECTORS**

Gerard O'Donnell, Chris Perera
 Viviana Pereira
 Brendan Pon, Tony Nimmo
 Sauro Antonelli, Mary Stocco
 Andrew Khalil, Mary Wilson

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Robert & Dianne McHugh, Margaret O'Donnell, Iris O'Farrell
 Joan Dinneen, Katica Puhaj
 Sharron Wilkinson, Mary Tonti-Filippiini, Moira White
 Maggie, Sauro Antonelli

MORNING TEA: N/A**COLLECTORS**

Iris, Robert, Dianne, Peter B

Phillip D, Abigail

Kim, Teresa, Michael, Maggie

FLOWERS Mary Piccoli

Geraldina Donato

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.

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.

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. 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 WWCC and Sign the Code of Conduct available in the church foyer or our website. If you like them emailed please email the office.

Christmas Offering Envelopes: are on the seats for those who are not in our Envelope Program. The Christmas offering directly supports the clergy as follows: 5% to the Archbishop, 12.5% to support priests in poorer parishes, 12.5% to support the retired and sick priests, the remainder supports the lease and running expenses of the priest's car, plus the running and hospitality of the presbytery and finally your parish priest, who thanks you very much.



Columban Art Calendar is still available for purchase from the Piety Stall. The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. They are \$10 each and make a great Christmas present!

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.

For further information parents may contact the parish office on 9412 8425 or by email on DoncasterRE@cam.org.au

There will be an information evening on Tuesday, 14th February at 5pm in St Gregory's Parish Church. Please bring this information to the attention of any families you know who may wish to avail of this opportunity.



Welcome to the families of **Lucas Tan** who will be baptised at St Gregory's Church this Sunday

NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE?

Disposal of a car from a deceased estate, or when a family member has had to relinquish their licence or go into residential care, can be a challenging process - getting a roadworthy, taking photos to advertise on the internet, cleaning and polishing, taking calls (if they come), even garaging it until a prospective buyer turns up (if indeed they do!).

If you need to dispose of a vehicle either from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, please consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Geelong Foundation", a registered charity with tax deductible status which for nine years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims / survivors of church-related sexual abuse.

Many of these suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and have limited or no employment. A donated vehicle could vastly improve their quality of life.

If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", please contact Fr. Kevin Dillon (0421 777 360, or frkdillon@outlook.com.au) or Adam Kaali (0411 486 605, or adam-kaali@hotmail.com).

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

Rite of Reconciliation at
 St Kevin's Church
 26 Herlihy's 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