

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 FEBRUARY 2023

BE HOLY! The word 'holy' can conjure up the image of someone who is always praying and, perhaps, cut off from everyday earthly realities. Today's readings, however, remind us that holiness is not measured by the calluses on our knees but by our love for others. Most essentially, holiness is God's gift. We are a holy people because God loves us and dwells among us making us the temple of God.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

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 are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: 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. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. 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 Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus
You must love your neighbour as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 3:16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.



Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Jn 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 5:38-48

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.

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples; 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone

hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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. As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord, with the observance that is your due, we humbly ask you, that what we offer to the honour of your majesty may profit us for salvation. 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 Ps 9:2-3

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may experience the effects of the salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries. 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

INCLUSIVE LOVE

How should we deal with the hurts that we receive? Should we respond by retaliating? Is there any future in the way of peace and forgiveness? These questions are as pressing today as they were in the ancient world. The people of Israel based their behaviour on the nature of the living God. As God is holy, so Israel was to express its holiness by forbearance and forgiveness among its members. Members of the people of Israel were called to love one another and forego the duty of vengeance when it came to other covenant members.

Jesus took this even further and extended it beyond Israel into our relationship with all people. Now even enemies are to be treated as brothers and sisters. Jesus knew that it is by forgiving that we can share in the nature of the living God and so become complete. It is by our preparedness to forgive that we share in the even-handed perfection of God whose love is poured out for all, deserving or not.

Perhaps Paul was mindful of Jesus' words that a house divided against itself cannot stand (cf. Mark 3:25) when he reminded the Corinthians that they were the Temple of God. Since each member shared in the gift of the Spirit there was no place for division or competition. Paul, Apollos and Cephas were united in their ministry as servants of the Gospel. If they were united, why was the community divided? It was now time to turn the other cheek and live in unity and peace.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

18/19 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 **See Ash Wednesday times** & 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: 1st Sunday of Lent

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Matt 4:1-11.

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 Max Passarella, 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 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: Gina Marcucci, Lucy Caruana **and for those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Emilio Molinari, Nevio Pigatto, Natalia Pigatto, Ernesto Argiro

From the PP:

Graffiti! We have a problem I'd like your help with.

We have been getting an increasing amount of graffiti principally affecting our pews on the East side of the church. And it is that is beginning to degrade our pews. And the graffiti has been getting degrading our pews. I hesitate to say there is a trend but just this week one strong swear word was drawn on a pew. The parishioner who found this graffiti was shocked that such a thing would be done within our church.

If you see someone scratching into the pews—ask them to stop if you are comfortable to so otherwise report the event. If it's your child: please bring along more resources to help them stay focussed during Mass: we want you here, we want your children here. I can help you find materials that can help you help them learn to stay sensible and focussed as they learn about and get drawn into the wonder and glory that lies within what is admittedly a complex celebration of Word and Eucharist.

Slightly different damage to pews: **Chewing Gum:** Please dispose of your chewing gum into the bin outside the church before you come in to the church—please don't stick it on the underneath of pews. It is both unhygienic and totally disgusting.

The consequences of this graffiti: we will need to spend several thousand dollars to remove the graffiti and repair the pews.

Formation Sessions: 1 Hour each session.

Lectors (Readers):

- Option 1: 10 am Saturday 25th February
- Option 2: 7 pm Thursday 2nd March

Ministers Assisting at Holy Communion:

- Option 1: 10 am Saturday 11th March
- Option 2: 7 pm Wednesday 15th March

These ministries are vital for the effective celebration of Mass. When you 'read' you are not reading you are proclaiming, you are God's voice speaking. When you 'give out communion' you are not giving out communion you are helping the people around you to receive Jesus Christ himself into their lives, their bodies, the depths of their very selves.

Please make sure you come along to one of the sessions. It is vital that we form ourselves for these ministries so that we can know Christ more fully.

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,** Parish Pastoral Council etc. etc. Please look into your heart: what are you called to do or do more to help us be the presence of Christ for the parish of St Gregory's.

God bless, Fr Charles

LENTEN PRAYER GROUPS:

We will start Lenten prayer groups this Week. 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.

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:** Don & Lina Pavone**LECTORS**

Catherine and Noel McClelland
Michael See, Margaret Wallace
Jenny & Brian Tyedin
Enza Scaffidi, Dot Haynes
Mary Wilson, Leth Go

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Iris O' Farrell, Margaret O'Donnell
Katica Puhaj, Joan Dinneen
Sauro Antonelli, Brendan Pon
Caterina Gioffre, Tina Paolino
MORNING TEA: Brian & Jenny Tyedin

COLLECTORS

Gerard O'Donnell, Vivianna Pereira
FLOWERS: Connie Amalfi

NEXT WEEK 25/26 Feb

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

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.

COME AWAY DAYS IN 2023 AT HOLY CROSS TEMPLESTOWE

The Come Away Days program resumes at the Passionist Holy Cross Centre, 207 Serpells Road Templestowe on Tue, 21 February. The theme of the day is "Living from your heart." The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and group interaction in the peaceful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The day concludes at 2pm with a celebration of the Eucharist. Cost of the day is \$25.00 or a donation according to your means. For further details contact Frank Burke, burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au or 0407998781.

2023 Virtual Lent Series**WHEN:** Tuesdays – 21 & 28 February, 7, 14, 21 & 28 March 2023**TIME:** 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT**WHERE:** Via Zoom meeting* (will be forwarded after registration)

*You need to be registered to receive the video link.

COST: FreeOnline registration is essential at <https://garrattpublishing.com.au/>

The presentation will be recorded & made available after the session.

We will send an email with details on how to access the video once it is available.

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.**Pastoral Care Appeal 2023**

Pastoral Care Appeal 2023

Thank you! Last weekend, we

conducted the annual Pastoral Care Appeal in our parish. The presence of Catholic chaplains is a crucial witness to our faith, a crucial dimension of our service of love, and a vital testimony to the value of life in all its stages. Thank you to those who have supported this Appeal.

If you still wish to donate or if you would like to have more information about the Chaplaincy Services, please visit www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513 or find an envelope in the gathering space.

**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.

Parish Ministry Forum:

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.

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>

Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: **RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.** WEB: www.palms.org.au



HELP SYRIA. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes. ACN is begging for funds to support their long-time local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing and to make an offering please visit www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake or scan the QR code.

**Ash Wednesday Mass Times:**

St Gregory the Great Doncaster: 9am and 6pm
St Kevin Templestowe: 10.30am and 7.30pm

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