

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD / A

1 JANUARY 2023

MAY THE LORD UNCOVER HIS FACE TO YOU AND BRING YOU PEACE. Pope Paul VI declared New Year's Day the World Day of Peace. It is appropriate because on this day we honour Mary who brought the Prince of Peace into the world. Better than anyone else, she knew the peace that is at once her Son's gift and the fruit of a life lived in obedience to God.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth for ever.

or cf. Isa 9: 1, 5; Lk 1: 33

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.

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 are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father: 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. O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, 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

Num 6: 22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8. R. v. 2

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. R.

2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. R.



3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

SECOND READING

Gal 4: 4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians.

When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Heb 1: 1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2: 16-21

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib . . . When the eighth day came, they gave him the name of Jesus.

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

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 God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfilment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one

day we may rejoice in its completion.

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 THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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 Heb 13: 8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The Octave of Christmas concludes by honouring Mary as the Mother of God continuing the long and rich tradition that goes back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. The formula that Levites and priests were instructed to use when blessing the people of Israel has a special resonance when applied to Mary. She could surely say that she had been blessed in the gift of Jesus, that God's face had shone upon her, and that God had been gracious to her in ways that she could never have anticipated or imagined. Her positive response to the words of the angel Gabriel opened a pathway for all humanity.

In the letter to the Galatians, we get a glimpse into Paul's wonder at the mysterious ways of God knowing that our ability to cry out in the Spirit 'Abba, Father' would not have come about if Jesus had not been born of Mary. He describes this birth as taking place in the fullness of God's time. Jesus was born as a member of the people of Israel, but this is only a part of his identity and role in God's saving plan that extends to all creation.

The first witnesses to the birth of Jesus in Luke's Gospel were the shepherds who were informed that a Saviour had been born in Bethlehem, the city of David whose own career as king started humbly as a shepherd. In a similar way, Jesus' humble beginnings in a manger will lead to blessings for all of us. Like Mary, we are called to treasure all this in our hearts.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S—DONCASTER

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, 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/StGregsDonny

 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: Recommences in Feb 23

Please be alert! I got Covid-19—NO idea where—it IS still with us: Masks, sanitising, isolating if test +ve

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: The Epiphany of the Lord
Isa 60:1-6, Eph: 3:2-3A, 5-6, Matt: 2:1-12.

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

Please pray for:

Those who are **sick** at this time including 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 Rodofo, Angel Gustavo, Margaret Hansen, Angelique Giacomini, Maureen Tresise, Kevin Parker

And those who died recently Maria Mazzolini, and for **the repose of the souls of** Elena Toh, Giuseppe Marcello, Yap Huat Goon, Lee Kim Heok, and all whose anniversaries occur about now.

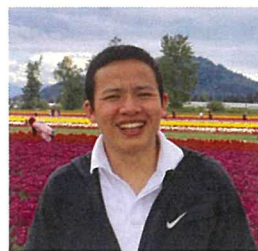
Thoughts from the PP:

Last weekend my surprise testing positive for Covid-19 prevented me participating in our Christmas Masses, though I felt almost present for the four St Greg's Masses as I sat in my lounge and listened to the singing for Carols and for Mass: clearly audible from next door. Almost present! But isolated.

I know from reports that we had about 400/150/150/350 people present across the Masses: over a thousand people singing and praying to the glory of God among us. Thank you for joining together so joyfully to affirm our faith.

It was most moving, I cried, when Margaret sent me a video of the singing of the final hymn from the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday/Christmas morning. Such a wonderful thought and action. Thank you. Thank you all.

And thank you greatly to everyone who helped make our Christmas gatherings a success. Mary and Margaret and Mo and Gavin and other singers and Bishop Les of course, and Joan and Peter and all the lectors and communion ministers and collectors and Ray and James and ...



Recognise this young man? Sadly, he's finished his stay with us.

One consequence of my being in isolation was that I could not publicly give a blessing and say 'goodbye' to Jude as he concluded his pastoral placement with us. I think you would agree that he has been a great grace and joy for us as he used this year to grow in understanding of parish life. As Jude finished packing and loading his car last Sunday and then came back inside, he came to me for a blessing. Of course I gave him God's blessing from all of us. A blessing of thanks for his presence with us and a blessing of thanks for his gift of pastoral care for so many of you, and a blessing of joy for his vocation, and a blessing of hope asking that he will allow the Holy Spirit to live within his heart as strongly tomorrow as it does today. Please keep him in your prayers.

Today, with the New Year we celebrate the Feast of Mary the Holy Mother of God. This feast brings home again the truth that God has come among us. Mary did not come before God, of course. But she was the essential human element of God coming to be with us (always, in all times and places). Without Mary's acceptance of being Mother humanity, you and I, would be completely cut off from knowing and sharing in God's love.

As we move into this new year of 2023, let us frame any New Year's resolutions around God's love and how we can share that love. My experience of New Year's resolutions that focus on me is that they last until January 2nd at best. Certainly it is laudable to seek to lose weight or work fewer hours or pray more and so on. Absolutely laudable. But when it focusses on ME, I fail. Far more successful is looking beyond myself: prepare and deliver more insightful homilies so that you can more deeply see God's love: that means I pray more and because I am focussed on something good I want to do I eat less.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

God bless, Fr Charles.

St Gregory's is committed to growing a Child Safety Culture with Love

31/Dec/1 Jan

Sat 6.00pm

Sun 9.00am

Sun 10.30am

Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH

MONEY COUNTERS: Ray Lewis

LECTORS

Robert McHugh, Anne Davine

Siona Fernandes, Queenie Wood

Mary Stocco, Amanda Stefanovski

Jane Ma

Carole Tang, Boris Klaric

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Peter Whiting, Sharron Wilkinson

Mary Stocco

Nucia La Rocca, Brendan Pon

Tina Paulino

MORNING TEA: N/A

COLLECTORS

Francus Yim, Alfred Lee

FLOWERS Connie Amalfi

NEXT WEEK 7/8 Jan

Sat 6.00pm

Sun 9.00am

Sun 10.30am

Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH

MONEY COUNTERS: Ray Lewis

LECTORS

Gerard O'Donnell, Ian Barnes

Tony Nimmo, Michael See

Luisa Yambao, Chris Anggoro

Benedicta Wong, Enza Scaffidi

Carole Tang, Boris Klaric

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Iris O'Farrell, Margaret O'Donnell

Joan Dinneen, Rachael Kay

Robert Rukavina, Dai Si,

Margaret O'Donnell, Mary Tonti-Fillipini

MORNING TEA: N/A

COLLECTORS

Gerard O'Donnell

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.

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?

ALL volunteers must have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) and sign an new Code-of-Conduct.

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 Inner City Soup Van Hub

is looking for new volunteers to pack and/or distribute food hampers to those experiencing disadvantage. If you are interested, please access the following link for further information: <https://svdpvolunteers.applynow.net.au/jobs/SVDP1323-soup-van-volunteers>



Visions of the Promised Land creatively blends live music, media & sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love and human destiny. Join Christopher West & team as they offer a vision of the Gospel through the lens of St John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Choose from:

Tue, 24 Jan 23, St Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, 290 Childs Rd, Mill Park

Wed, 25 Jan 23, St Mary's Community Centre, 26 New St, Dandenong

Schedule: 6pm - food for purchase, 7pm start, 9.30pm finish

Open to all. All children under 18 years must be supervised by an adult.

Tickets: \$25 general, \$10 concession/student, free for children 10 & under.

Register: www.trybooking.com/CETXQ

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 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.

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 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.



Searching for New Year Resolutions? Wanting to get closer to God? Finding new meaning in life? We have several Groups and Volunteering Opportunities in our Parish throughout the year that may have the answers for you: All groups are starting in February 2023.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:

Wednesdays at 9.45 am in the church meeting room. Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384.

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: (Grade 6 to Year 9) Third Friday of the month from 7pm-9pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: (18- 30 Years Old) Fourth Friday of the month from 7:15pm-9.30pm \

PRAYER GROUP: Thursday every Fortnight in Church Meeting Room (**CHARISMATIC MASS & ADORATIONS:** First Friday of the Month from 7pm- 8.15pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 10.30am Mass

ROSARIES every Wednesdays and Fridays after 9am Mass.

MARK THEM IN YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2023!

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

Vinnie's (Lorna Phillips)

Sacristan / support of running Mass (Mary Stocco)

Liturgical Ministries (Communions Lectors/Readers/ Collectors, Power-point Operators)

Visiting (Holy Communion) those at home, sick or in aged care (Joan Dinneen)

Knights of the Southern Cross (David Perrin/Chris Perera)

Counting Roster (Ray Lewis)

Florist (Geraldina Donato) and

Care of the Church (Office)

Please contact the Office on 03 94128425 or doncaster@cam.org.au