

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / A

25 DECEMBER 2022

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

see back page for relevant Mass

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. 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 *see back page for relevant Mass*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

see back page for relevant Mass

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS:

see back page for relevant Mass

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, II OR III OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

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

see back page for relevant Mass

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

see back page for relevant Mass

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

SOLEMN BLESSING

P. May the God of infinite goodness, who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

R. Amen.

P. May God, who willed that the great joy of his Son's saving Birth be announced to shepherds by the Angel, fill your minds with the gladness he gives and make you heralds of his Gospel.

R. Amen.

P. And may God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

R. Amen.

P. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

VIGIL MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ex 16:6-7

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page

COLLECT

O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 62:1-5

RESP PSALM Ps 88: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia Alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:

The Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 1:1-25 (*Shorter form, 1:18-25*)

Profession of Faith – see front page

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we look forward, O Lord, to the coming festivities, may we serve you all the more eagerly for knowing that in them you make manifest the beginnings of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Isa 40:5

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may draw new vigour from celebrating the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, by whose heavenly mystery we receive both food and drink. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – see front page

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 2:7

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

or

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page

COLLECT

O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 9:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia Alleluia!

Good news and great joy to all the world: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2:1-14

Profession of Faith – see front page

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 1:14

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, that we, who are gladdened by participation in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity, may through an honourable way of life become worthy of union with him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – see front page

DAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Greeting, Penitential Act, Gloria – see front page

COLLECT

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 52:7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97:1-6

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

SECOND READING Heb 1:1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia Alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 1:1-18

Profession of Faith – see front page

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day, when you manifested the reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

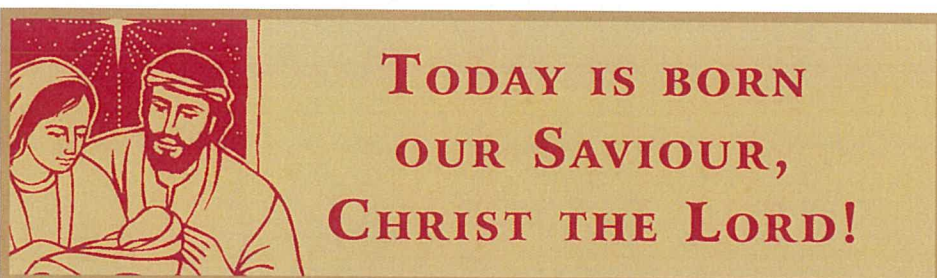
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O merciful God, that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing – see front page

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S—DONCASTER

Christmas Day, 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.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) (no livestreaming)

Sat: Vigil 6.00pm; Sun 9:00am, 10.30am

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

Num 6:22-27 ; Gal: 4:4-7, Lk: 2:16-21

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 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, Angelique Giacomini, Maureen Tresise, Kevin Parker

And those who died recently Vittorio Pettorino, Sr Helen-Mary Langlands, Barbara Kelly and **for the repose of the souls of** Mario & Claudio Gattini, Charlie Connizzo, Frederikus Kristanto Winoto and all whose anniversaries occur about now.

Christmas Thoughts from the desk of the PP:

It is Friday and Christmas starts tomorrow evening: ALLELUIA ALLELUIA!!

I have a weakness for Christmas.

It is a time of deep, lasting, complete joy for me.

The joy of waking at 5:30 am, creeping quietly downstairs and being joined by my elder brother to search out my Christmas stocking. We were allowed up at 6 am but I'd be awake and go down and get my stocking and wait till 6 am to start opening all the little gifts. Not the "real" gifts but the little things my wonderful mother and father (probably mostly my mother) had gathered for each of us. They were gifts of love that we knew came from Mum and Dad: no mention of "Santa Claus". Tiny things—a torch and batteries (each individually wrapped) - always lots of little things. The joys of midnight Mass and falling asleep under the pews; the joys of waiting till mid-afternoon to be permitted to hop on my bicycle and ride to see my best friend Michael. The joys of presiding for my first Christmas Masses at St Catherine's and St Dominic's Churches in Melton. The joys of finally meeting up with so many of the St Kevin's and the St Gregory's parishioners after all the lock downs of 2021. The joy of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide me towards some words for your homily seeking to bring something fresh to celebrating the truth of Jesus Christ: God-is-with-us.

I know that there is great sadness: listening to Sherry at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and members of St Vincent de Paul Society and receiving appeals from the Smith Family and Catholic Mission and Salvation Army and others and then as I type hearing news of storms with 3 cm hail destroying homes around Geelong/Melbourne. Yes, the world is not the perfect place that boy seeking his Christmas stocking may have thought it. And I pray and I seek to alleviate the sadness and help as much as I can. But ...

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS BORN! Jesus the Christ is among us! God is with us. The possibility of growing into goodness exists. The reality that being created in the image of God can translate into the capacity to turn always towards what is good and right and just and merciful. Yes: Christmas brings me joy. Deep lasting joy.

I know in myself that that joy does not easily express itself in my face and in joyful laughter. I know my face can resist that joy and laughter bursting through to quirk my lips and crease my eyes and shake my belly. The moment of delight that expresses in laughter can be gone before my face and body responds. But the joy is there because Jesus Christ journeys with me.

Jesus journey's with me Sherry Balcombe and Vicki Clark through their incredible passion for justice for their people. Jesus journeys with me through the smile and optimism of those Iranian families I am meeting recently who have lived through persecution for their faith. Jesus journeys with me through the abiding love shown by Margaret and Pat and Iris and Carmel and Fiona and Mal and Noella and James and Vianney and Brian ... all the others who have helped prepare us for Christmas. Jesus journeys with me in my family.

Joy! Abiding! Deep! Real! Arising from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit moving me to love as God loves by accepting Jesus the Christ into my heart once again. Thank you for joining me in this Joy and accepting me as your pastor and leader. *God bless, Fr Charles.*

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

CHRISTMAS WEEK

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

FLOWERSMary Piccoli
Geraldina Donato**NEXT WEEK 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
 Joan Dinneen
 Nucia La Rocca, Brendan Pon
 Tina Paulino

MORNING TEA: N/A**COLLECTORS**

Francus Yim, Alfred Lee

FLOWERS Connie Amalfi**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?

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.

Sacramental Preparation Classes 2023

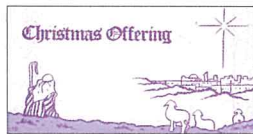
Catholic children who do not attend our parish school are invited to participate in programs to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion or Confirmation.

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.

URGENT!!! ALL volunteers must have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) and sign a 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.

**MADE FOR MORE**

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

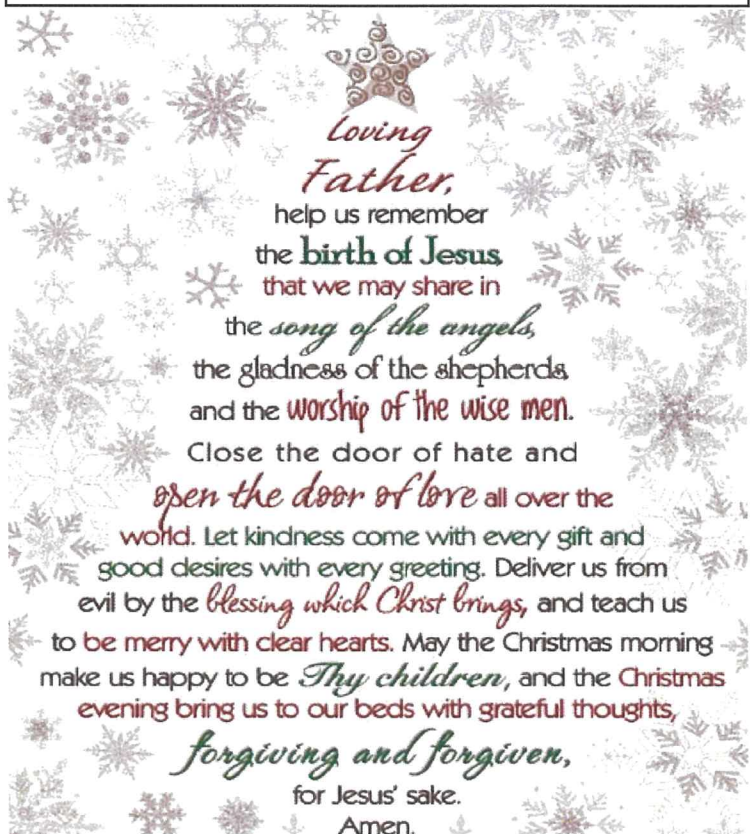
Schedule: 6pm - food for purchase, 7pm start, 9.30pm finish

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

Thank you again- Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Thank you for your further generous support of our Vinnies Christmas appeal. Additional donations of \$915 have been received making a total of \$2256 excluding online donations. Special thanks for the donations of gifts and toys, from our school and parish, which will bring Christmas joy to many people who are struggling financially. This year we have been able to provide gift cards, hampers or food vouchers to more than 80 families and toys to over 66 children. Thank you so much.



May the Lord bless you on this Christmas and always!