

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

1 MARCH 2026

OASES ON THE JOURNEY. As followers of Jesus, we have nowhere to pitch our tents. We must journey with Jesus through the hardships of life to glory. There will be oases along the way – moments of consolation which reveal the presence of God among us. We cannot remain in these moments for ever, but they give us refreshment. Remembering them will sustain us on our pilgrim way.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 26:8-9

**Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.**

## 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.

*The Gloria is not said during Lent.*

## COLLECT

P. O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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** Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the

land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord is our help and our shield. / May your love be upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 2 Tim 1:8-10

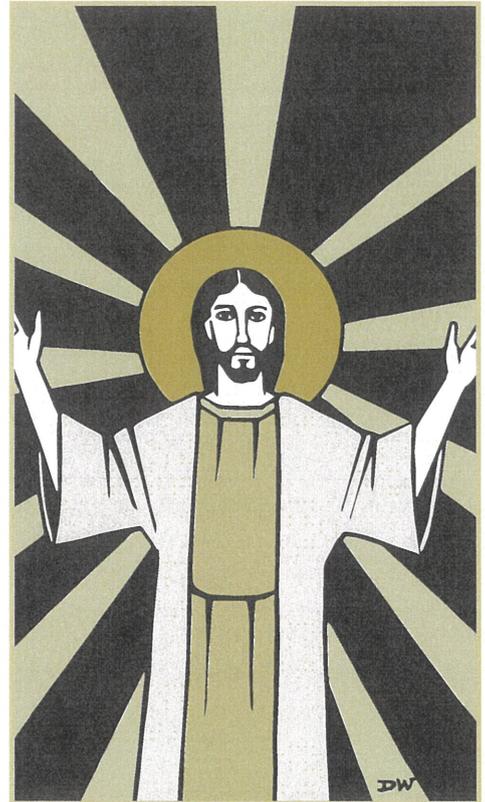
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:**

**this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL** Mt 17:1-9

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.**

*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with

fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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 this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. 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 2ND 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: 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 Mt 17:5

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

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, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### GOD'S BELOVED

On the Second Sunday of Lent the focus is on Jesus' transfiguration. This speaks into the experience in Matthew's audience of suffering and even death. With Jerusalem and Jesus' imminent suffering looming, he takes Peter, James and John on to a 'high' mountain, the place of divine encounter. The reference to 'high' celebrates the mountains' divine closeness. Here, alone, they are in the presence of God who comforts Jesus before what will shortly unfold in the Sacred City.

Two Old Testament figures appear, Moses (the traditional author of the Torah—the first five books of the Bible) and Elijah (the first recognised prophet of the Old Testament). Their appearance confirms that what is about to take place for Jesus will reveal God's protective presence. That presence is confirmed by the 'cloud [that] covered them with shadow' and the heavenly voice that attests that Jesus will always be God's Beloved and delightful One. The disciples' response to this experience is palpable. They are overcome with 'fear' – a deep sense of reverential awe in what they have just witnessed and experienced with Jesus, even though Peter earlier wanted to capture it by building three tents.

The scene is not a literal 'twitter-feed' of what actually or historically happened to Jesus. It is a story of theology and religious meaning for disciples aligned with Jesus who know the experience of suffering and death in their own day. At those times, we, too, must go up on to our 'high' mountain, accompanied by faithful friends, and allow God's presence and word to accompany us. We, too, need to hear that we are God's Beloved and delightful Ones.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

## Second Sunday of Lent (A)

### 28 February / 1 March 2026

#### Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm  
Tel: 9412 8425

Email: [doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:doncaster@cam.org.au)

Website: <https://www.stgregs.org.au/>

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Assistant Priest: Anton Aseervathampillai

Business Manager: David Hii

Parish Secretary: Mon & Wed: Vera Arief

Tue, Thurs & Fri: Luisa Yambao

Mon: Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

Sacristan: Mary Stocco - Mob: 0412 742 657

#### MASS TIMES:

St Greg's: Sat Vigil 6.00pm; Sun 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Wed & Fri 9.00am followed by Holy Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

YOUTH MASS EVERY 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5PM: 8 MARCH, 12 APRIL, 10 MAY, 14 JUNE

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9.30-11.00am (or by appointment or before/after any Mass but allow time)

Anointing of the Sick before/after any Mass or by appointment

St Kevin's: Sat Vigil 5.30pm; Sun 9.15am; Tue & Thurs 9.15am

**"Wash your hands" says my son to his daughter: sensible hygiene is essential at home and at church.**

#### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

##### Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Ex 17:3-7, Ps 94:1-2, 6-9, Rom 5:1-2, 5-8, Jn 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

BAPTISMS: Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

#### ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Tel: (03) 9848 4483

Email: [principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au)

#### PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Email Margaret O'Donnell at [margaretodonnell@gmail.com](mailto:margaretodonnell@gmail.com)

#### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:

Wednesdays at 9.45am in the church meeting room  
Contact Paola Cheng 0415 280 216

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: 3rd Fridays of the month 7.00pm-9.00pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 4th Fridays 7:15pm—9.30pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: 3rd Mondays 7.00pm 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 Camilla Bannon, Mary S.N Wong, Yuet Sim Chow, Jason Shum, Camilla Banon, Michael Armenio, Elmo Silvapulle, Anna Ziglinis, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Meredith Barnes, Priscilla Cheng, Michael Mullens, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently

Van Nilsson Evangelista

and for those whose anniversaries occur

about now Manuepillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Monica Sonya See, Patrick Widjono Tsjin, Roger Anthony Cheng



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

#### Words from the desk of the PP:

##### The Unexpected Fruits of Ministry:

Two stories of the Holy Spirit that surprised me and gladdened me.

One at St Greg's: I received the financial accounting for the past 12 months for our Piety Stall: a lovely profit of about \$1500. That's amazing. But ... just after I heard of the profit, a woman came up to me and asked for her rosary and crucifix to be blessed: and the look of praise and worship and love of Jesus in her eyes as I blessed the items spoke to the Holy Spirit guiding her. The 'sale of goods' goes so much further and deeper than 'sales' and into helping people live lives full of God's love and love for God.

One at St Kevin's: as I said hello and goodbye to people after Mass at a recent Sunday Mass, a parishioner complimented the Lector for the day saying something like "the way you read the first reading: I heard it freshly, I heard what I needed to hear today." It wasn't me as presider: it was the Lector. Speaking God's word well and it was heard and changed that person's heart.

Thank you to the people who made these two stories possible. And thank you to all who help us celebrate the Mass and operate as a true of Body of Christ in the world today: you are a grace.

There are many more stories to be told, and I'd like to gather them. If you have a story of the way your ministry has touched people and gone beyond what you expected: please tell me, or send it to me at the parish office.

##### Noise / Talking in the Church AND the use of projected images/words:

I love, and am most appreciative, of the attentiveness and reverence and sense of openness to God that you bring to our church, thank you.

It has been my observation, though, that we have had a shifting practice in a few things. Partly good / partly drifting too far.

I love the community spirit that is evident when you feel free to talk in the church. I also love the sense of wonder and awe that arises when it is quiet in the church – a quiet that helps open my heart to God's love.

A few people have spoken to me about excessive noise inside the church, and I sympathise. They weren't asking for total silence but asking for a balance: a measure of restraint in voices that keeps conversations in the church as a low/local level. Talking quietly to each other.

Alongside this are two observations I have as we seek to be full, active and conscious participants during Mass.

The first: we project a lot of the Mass on the screen – please try to make your focus the presider, the lectern, the altar. The screen is an adjunct to our worship but it is easy to end up just focusing on the screen waiting for the next thing to show. I can find this myself when I am in the congregation. Please seek to make the lectern / the altar of sacrifice and meal your primary focus and only look to the screen when a response is required from you. The second: talking during Mass. I know this can be essential, so I am not suggesting zero speech, but please keep any talking during Mass to a minimum and keep it *sotto voce* – at a whisper/low level. Your voice carries and distracts many others.

##### Ministers to Assist at Holy Communion:

We need more ministers to assist with distribution of Holy Communion at all Masses.

It is a ministry none of us is worthy to undertake but is a ministry that Jesus asks you to step forward for: **He** makes us worthy. Please look into your heart, listen to the Holy Spirit calling and sign up. There will be some formation and training.

The roster tells me we don't have enough ministers to assist at Holy Communion at any of our Sunday Masses.

**6:00 pm:** we need **6 more** ministers and ideally 10.

**9:00 am:** we need **12** more ministers and ideally 16.

**10:30 am:** we need **6 more** ministers and ideally 11.

**5:00 pm:** we need **8 more** ministers and ideally 12.

I look forward to seeing a long list of new names seeking to join this vital ministry. If we can get these numbers we can look at distribution of both the Body and Blood of Christ.

*God Bless, Fr Charles.*



#### Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

Father in heaven, we give thanks to you for the gift of the Holy Spirit guiding us and leading us and gracing us to know your son Jesus Christ and to learn to spread the Good News to the world around 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

**LECTORS**

Frank Ryan, Alvin Priyana  
Chris Perera, Jacqueline Rogers  
Jonathan Gunawan, Gril Job  
Benedicta Wong, Enza Scaffidi

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Agnes Chee, Sharron Wilkinson  
**MONEY COUNTERS:** Don & Lina Pavone

**NEXT WEEK 7/8 Mar**

Sat 6.00pm  
Sun 9.00am  
Sun 10.30am  
Sun 5.00pm

**LECTORS**

Joseph & Lorna Philip  
Tony Nimmo, Paola Villanueva  
Sauro Antonelli, Erin Djukiadmodjo  
Youth Mass

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Stephen Ma  
**MONEY COUNTERS:** Marian See

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Sharron Wilkinson, Iris O'Farrell  
Margaret Wallace  
Nuccia La Rocca, Rob Rukavina, Maggie Yong  
Mary Tonti-Filippini, Alfred Lee

**MORNING TEA:** Lunar NY Celebration

**FLOWERS:** N/A

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Frances Cannizzo, Margaret O'Donnell  
Mary Stocco  
Maggie Yong, Lilian Antonelli, Nuccia La Rocca  
Youth Mass

**MORNING TEA:** N/A

**FLOWERS:** N/A

For those who are Coeliac, we can provide low gluten (<20 pmm) hosts. Please let the priest or sacristan know your need.

**St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School**

**Open Days:**

Tue 3rd March, Tue, 5th May,  
Thurs, 29th Oct at 9.30-11.30am

(03) 9848 4483 | principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

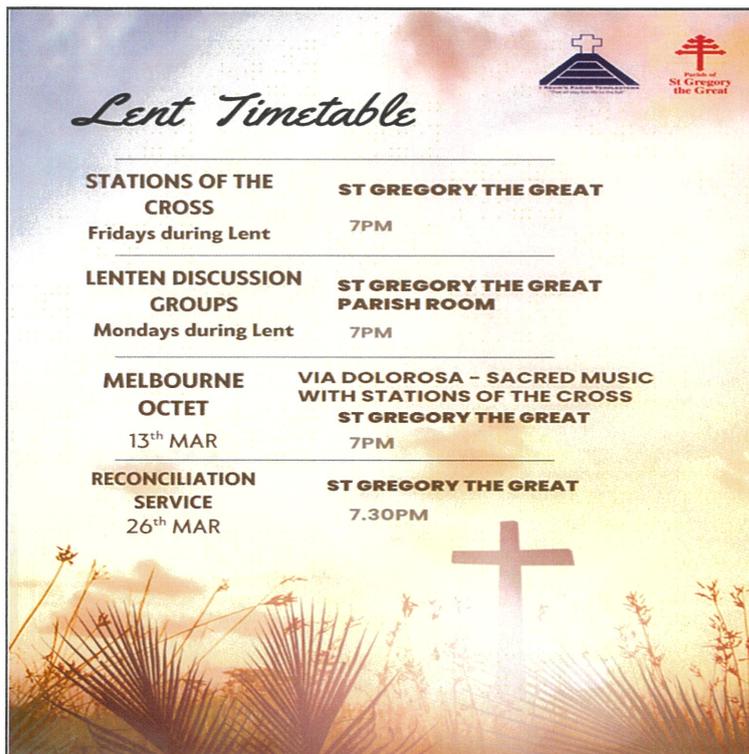
School Tours: contact 9848 4483  
sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au



**Parish Facilities:** The Tennis Club Room and Courts, Parish Hall and Parish Room are available. Room bookings can be made: St.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com

*Lent Timetable*

<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b> Fridays during Lent	<b>ST GREGORY THE GREAT</b> 7PM
<b>LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS</b> Mondays during Lent	<b>ST GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH ROOM</b> 7PM
<b>MELBOURNE OCTET</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> MAR	<b>VIA DOLOROSA - SACRED MUSIC WITH STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b> <b>ST GREGORY THE GREAT</b> 7PM
<b>RECONCILIATION SERVICE</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> MAR	<b>ST GREGORY THE GREAT</b> 7.30PM



**Ways of Giving—**  
**Thank you for your generosity and continuous support!**

**Scan and Give**  
Scan this code with your phone camera and donate directly to our church. Choose Payment for Church Donations. It's simple and secure.

**Give by Contactless**  
Use our Eftpos Machine located in the church Narthex. You can donate with: a debit/credit card. It's simple and secure.

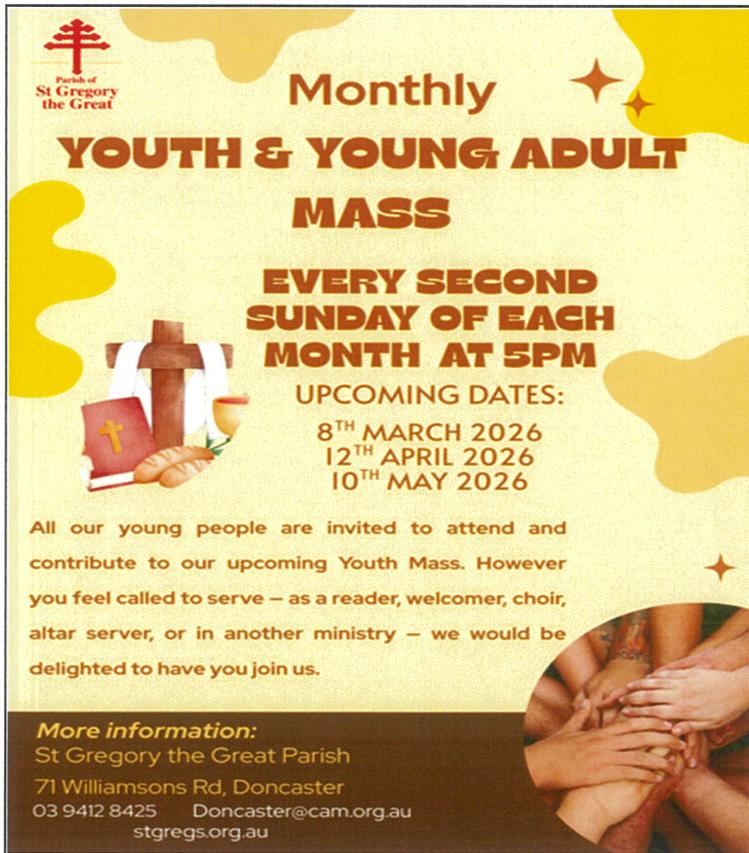
**Monthly YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MASS**

**EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5PM**

**UPCOMING DATES:**  
8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026  
12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026  
10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

All our young people are invited to attend and contribute to our upcoming Youth Mass. However you feel called to serve – as a reader, welcomer, choir, altar server, or in another ministry – we would be delighted to have you join us.

**More information:**  
St Gregory the Great Parish  
71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster  
03 9412 8425 Doncaster@cam.org.au  
stgregs.org.au



**The Melbourne Octet** presents

**VIA DOLOROSA**  
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FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026  
@7PM

[www.melbourneoctet.com](http://www.melbourneoctet.com)



**Caritas AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION**

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
28 February – 1 March 2026

**UNITE AGAINST POVERTY**  
this Lent

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.  
**Or online at:** [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)  
**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

