

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

BAPTISM OF THE LORD (FEAST) / A

11 JANUARY 2026

'THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED.' Just before he confronts the tempter in the desert, Jesus is baptised in the Jordan. He is revealed as the beloved Son of God. His baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry, of the time when the role of John the Baptist will decrease and Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God, by word and deed, will increase.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Mt 3:16-17

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'.

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 came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You come in word and in sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: 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

Almighty ever-living God, / who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan / and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, / solemnly declared him your beloved Son, / grant that your children by adoption, / reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, / may always be well 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 Isa 42:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 28:1-4, 9-10. R.v.11

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**



2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**
3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:

'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 3:13–17

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.

When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him. Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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 BAPTISM 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: 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 ANTIPOHON

Jn 1:32, 34

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your

Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. 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

THE BELOVED

Today's feast that celebrates the baptism of Jesus with the story of his baptism from Matthew's Gospel. The story, written in the mid-80s, is slightly different to what our ears would usually hear. It begins with John the Baptist's humble unwillingness to baptise Jesus. 'It is I who need baptism from you...and yet you come to me!' (3:14) While John's conviction is appropriate, Jesus encourages John to baptise him.

Perhaps Matthew's story reflects a historical memory of some who might have believed that perhaps John was the Messiah. This lingering memory is addressed in the dialogue between John and Jesus. Matthew's version, nevertheless, accentuates Jesus' humility in undergoing the baptismal ritual, very familiar to the Gospel's audience of Jewish followers of Jesus. Ritual bathing was part of a Jewish purification process before they entered places of holiness. Every Jewish house had its own *mikveh*, the ritual purification bath.

In today's Gospel, Jesus becomes that place of holiness in his baptism, in the *mikveh* of the Jordan River. God's Spirit descends upon him and God's voice attests, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him' (3:17). These words about Jesus' belovedness will be heard again as he is transfigured on the mountain (17:5) *en route* to Jerusalem where death awaits. God's attestation of Jesus, of God's delight in him, despite everything that will unfold in the remaining chapters of the Gospel, never leaves him. This divine conviction about Jesus and God's words are also God's conviction and words that the evangelist wants the Gospel audience, including us, to hear. All people, female and male, are God's beloved ones. God's delight and favour rests upon us. It is a Gospel conviction that we need to remember especially when life's struggles come our way.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

10/11 January 2026

Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

Email: 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
(Resumes 2nd Feb 2026)

YOUTH MASS EVERY 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5PM: 11 JAN, 8 FEB, 8 MARCH, 12 APRIL

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:

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isa 49: 3, 5-6, Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10, 1 Cor 1: 1-3, Jn 1: 29-34

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

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Email Margaret O'Donnell at margaretodonnel@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 (Resumes Feb 2026)

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 4th Fridays 7:15pm—9.30pm (Resumes Feb 2026)

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 Elmo Silvapulle, Anna M, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Phaisan Luethamphakdee, Priscilla Cheng, Marleen Liu, Amy Liu, Chantal Wong, Michael Mullens, Bob Ulehla, Carmel Aloi, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently Angela Isabel Incorvaia, Victoria Cheng

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Manuelpillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Robert Styevko, Mary Chek Saw Khum

Words from the desk of the PP:

I read a piece, thank you Thomas, about Christmas traditionally (pre-Vatican II) extending out to 40 days, until the presentation of Jesus in the temple (2nd Feb). There were some useful reflections within the article about how often 40 arises (40 years in the desert, 40 days in the wilderness, 40 (weekdays) of Lent. Which got me thinking: why do we have a season called 'Ordinary Time.' The word Ordinary arises from the Latin 'ordo' for order and it has come to have two usages. The first, and the first to come to mind is that "ordinary" means having no special or distinctive features; normal; commonplace; standard.

And the other usage, the one relevant for us, is that these days are ORDERED, the arise from the fact of our redemption in Jesus Christ and the need for us to live our lives by virtue of being his followers in a way which is ordered towards our salvation at the end of time.

Ordinary time is ordinary only because it is the time during which we focus on living our lives as disciples rather than focussing on the, admittedly important and wonderful, events of Jesus' birth and passion and death.

Which means that during Ordinary Time we should be:

Practicing the faith – doing the things of faith that the community does (e.g. attending Mass (and thank you for doing so)).

Living out the faith in action in the world – to draw people to Jesus; to help the poor and marginalised; to be merciful and forgiving and loving and just.

Growing our intentional relationship with Jesus.

Developing our appreciation of and knowledge of the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

Becoming more and more involved in witnessing to the faith (in sensible ways).

Reflecting on our lives and our relationships, giving thanks for the blessings we receive and considering where we might improve (maybe offering to heal a long-broken relationship with family or friend.)

Growing in being a forgiving person and community.

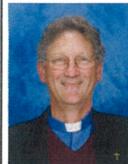
Developing new habits of seeing the good (the presence of Jesus) in others and ourselves and responding to it.

... what might be your focus?? Your "Ordinary" thing to seek to grow in so that you grow towards everlasting life?

I am not entirely sure why the shift from 40 days of Christmas came, after the Second Vatican Council I believe, but I am sure that the focus on "ORDINARY" time is vital: time for you and I to live our faith fully in every aspect.

Toilets / Hand Towels: Thank you to whoever was using undue numbers of sheets of hand towels and throwing great clumps away: thank you because wastage seems to be less over each week. BUT!! Please keep trying to stop entirely because every weekend I get a comment or two about not being able to use a hand towel because they had all been wasted.

God bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For the Royal Commission into Antisemitism – that it will lead to outcomes that foster the living of God's love among all Australians (and not be about finger pointing / blaming).

THIS WEEK

Sat 6.00pm **LECTORS** Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh
 Sun 9.00am Greg Lesmana, Tony Nimmo
 Sun 10.30am Jenny & Brian Tyedin
 Sun 5.00pm **YOUTH MASS**
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mike Yambao
MONEY COUNTERS: Christopher Lim, Josie Masters

NEXT WEEK 17/18 Jan**LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Joseph & Lorna Philip
 Sun 9.00am Margaret Wallace
 Sun 10.30am Jane Gunawan, Jonathan Gunawan
 Sun 5.00pm Dot Haynes, Benedicta Wong
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Phil Handang
MONEY COUNTERS: Lina & Don Pavone

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Robert & Dianne McHugh
 Mary Stocco
 Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina
YOUTH MASS
MORNING TEA: N/A

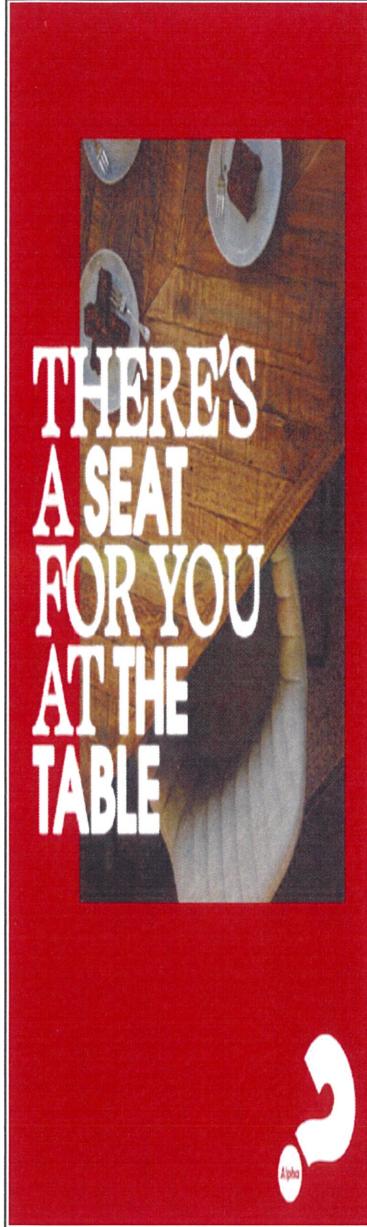
FLOWERS: Mary Piccoli

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Margaret O'Donnell, Frances Cannizzo
 Katica Puhalj
 Mary Stocco, Erin Djukiadmodjo, Tony Ting
 Judy Ablaza, Dot Haynes
MORNING TEA: N/A

FLOWERS: Irene Dharmawan

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



Alpha

Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm
 28 January to 25 March,
 Plus a day retreat on Sat 14 March

**Meals included—Free
 donation welcome**

St Kevin's Parish
 30 Herlihys Road
 Lower Templestowe

To register email:
templestowe@cam.org.au
phone 03 9850 5983
or
doncaster@cam.org.au
phone 03 9412 8425
Find out more at
alpha.org.au

Sacramental Preparation Classes

Catholic children who do not attend our parish school are invited to participate in programs to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation. For further information parents may contact the parish office on 9412 8425 or by email on margaretodonnel@gmail.com. There will be an information session on Tuesday, 17th February at 4.30pm in St Gregory's Parish Church. Specific details for celebrating each sacrament will be made available at that meeting. 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 School Tours and Open Days visit

sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

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

**Ways of Giving—**

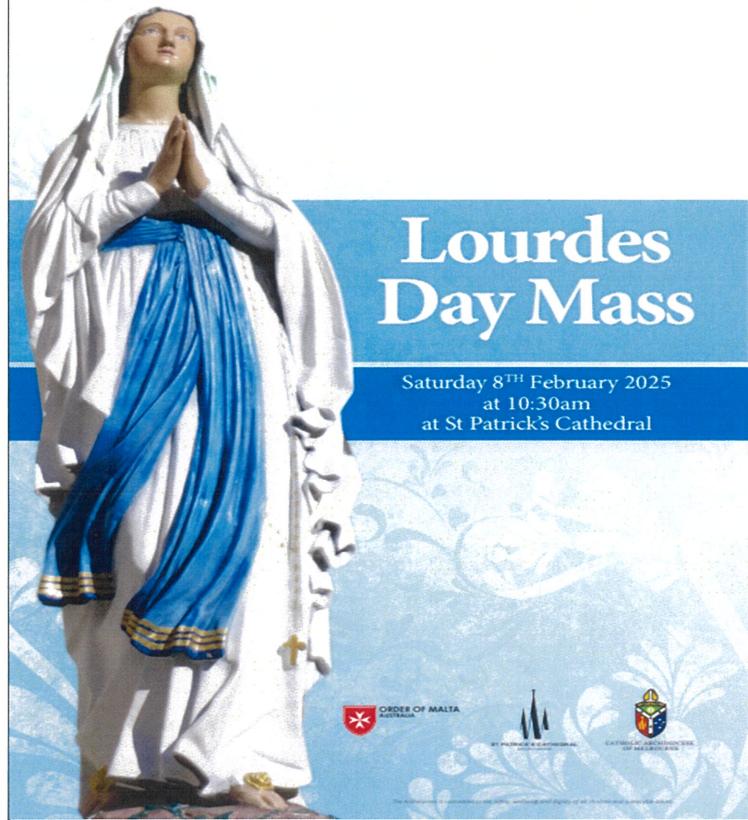
Thank you for your generosity and continuous support!

**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.

**Lourdes Day Mass**

Parishioners are invited to attend the annual Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday, 14th February 2026 at 10.30am. This is a special occasion to pray for our sick, infirm and elderly and those who care for them. The principal celebrant at the Mass will be His Grace, Archbishop Peter Comensoli. Tell your friends about the Mass, especially those who aren't well. In fact, bring them along. A poster about the Mass is on display in the narthex of the Church.