

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 FEBRUARY 2026

FOLLOW GOD'S LAW. The vast wisdom of God is revealed in the law God has given to us, a law designed to lead us to the fullness of life and happiness. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that law is not only about external behaviour. Our inner attitudes are also important. It is from within, from the attitudes of our hearts, that good or evil actions flow.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *cf. Ps 30:3-4*

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

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.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

Glorify 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 teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling 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

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach
He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

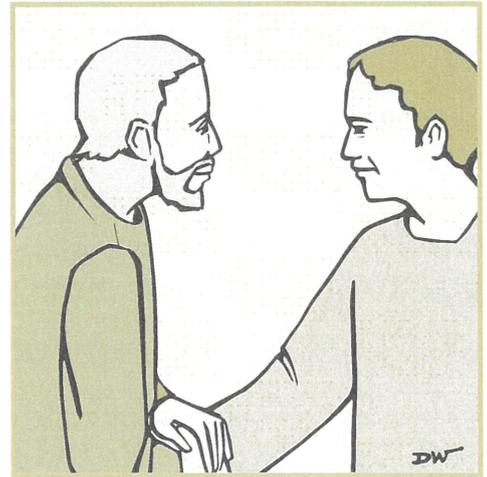
The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PS *Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1*

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God's law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34

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.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court:

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Longer form 5:17-37

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 oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. 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: 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 cf. Ps 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

OR

Jn 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. 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 and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

HONOURING THE TORAH

As we continue to hear Jesus' teaching in Matthew's 'Sermon on the Mount', we now move into a very Jewish-oriented section. Matthew's audience were Jewish followers of Jesus. They were very familiar with the teachings of the Old Testament, from the Torah (the 'Law') and the Prophets. Jesus now reflects on these teachings stressing that he has come, not to abolish them, but to 'complete them'. In other words, Matthew is not rejecting the Jewish teaching heritage of the audience but deepening it. This preservation and honouring of the Torah is central in Jesus' teaching.

In fact, the one who keeps and teaches others the injunctions of the Torah will be regarded as 'great' in God's Kingdom. Matthew moves to explicate some of the key moral injunctions of the Torah. Each begins with the same formula: 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors...' Then follows Jesus' interpretation of the Torah for Matthew's Jewish listeners. It is important to note how this teaching is presented. The usual translation has '... But I say to you...' This is not what the Greek text has. There is no contrast, no 'but', between what the ancients said and what Jesus teaches. There is no contrast between the old (the Torah) and the new (Jesus' teaching), and no rejection of Judaism or its ancient wisdom summed up on the Torah.

Jesus deepens the meaning behind these different aspects of Jewish law concerning murder, adultery and oath-breaking, getting to the heart of each. Undergirding each is the invitation to integrity of relationships. This, too, is the invitation to us, to live with a wholeness of being to others, God and the world.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

14 / 15 February 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

YOUTH MASS EVERY 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5PM: 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:

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17, Rom 5:12, 17-19, Mt 4:1-11

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 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 Michelle Rodriguez, Mary S.N Wong, Yuet Sim Chow, Jason Shum, Katica Puhajj, Camilla Banon, Michael Armenio, Elmo Silvapulle, Anna Zigliinis, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee,, Meredith Barnes, Priscilla Cheng, Michael Mullens, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Manuepillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Nevio Pigatto, Natalia Pigatto, Frank Pigatto, Emilio Molinari, Manuel Rosales-Beiza, Esteban Rosales, Gordon Weiland, Joyce Balnaves



Words from the desk of the PP:

Lent and Other things coming along:

This Lent we have something 'extra' on during most weeks. Our aim is to provide you with a variety of ways in which to approach your Lenten Journey. Please get involved in these or some other active ways of bringing your

- Lenten weekly discussion groups (Margaret O'Donnell at St Greg's and Carmel Purdey at St Kevin's) (free sessions but a \$5 donation towards the books appreciated).
- +Mark Coleridge's daily reflection for Lent and Easter. Please only take one if you are seriously interested in following this path of daily reflection (a \$5 donation towards the books appreciated)
- Stations of the Cross (Tuesdays: St Kevin's after 9:15 am mass; Fridays: St Greg's 7 pm, in the church)
- The Heartbeat of the Mass: Fr Frank O'Loughlin: 21st February 10am to 1 pm and 5th March 7 pm to 9 pm – both held at St Greg's in the church gathering space.
- The Melbourne Octet – as part of Stations of the Cross on Friday 13th March at St Greg's.
- Penitential service for both St Kevin's and St Greg's: at St Greg's 7:30 pm 26th March.
- And in there is Lunar New year and then all the things of Holy Week and Easter leading to Pentecost.

It is a lot! You don't have to do everything! But! Please! I would love every one of you to participate and come along for at least two of these ways of journeying with Christ towards the Resurrection and the new life and deepening of faith that the Holy Spirit gives us.

Alongside and after Lent and Holy Week come all the other things happening in our parishes: Sacramental initiation, Alpha, social gatherings, formation for ministry, RCIA, baptisms, weddings, funerals, ... lots is going on.

And, on a longer horizon:

- A joint parishes assembly, probably in May 2026, to discuss parish life.
- The Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod in October 2026.
- Australian Catholic Youth Festival reunion 28th February – two weeks from now.
- World Youth Day (Seoul South Korea, 3-8 August 2027).
- Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2028 and Eucharistic Congress 2028 – Sydney – dates yet to be provided.

Yes the Congress seems far in the future but we have been asked to begin to prepare by spending a Holy Hour in prayer on 1st March (2nd Sunday of Lent) – wherever you are that day – make some time (an hour if possible) and just be present for Christ.

Yes, a lot happening – please take a bit of time to keep track. Think about your journey of faith and commitment as an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ and find out where you are called to offer your time and talent to help the parishes move.

God Bless, Fr Charles.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 18 February, and we warmly invite you to join us as we begin this sacred season together.

The distribution of ashes will take place at the following Masses:

9:00am and 6:00pm – St Greg's

11:45am – St Kevin's

9:15am and 7:00pm – St Clement's, Bulleen

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey — a time of prayer, reflection, and renewal. We encourage you and your family to attend one of these Masses as we prepare our hearts for Easter.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For each of us, the people of St Gregory's and St Kevin's Parishes as we enter our Lenten journey: That our hearts will open ever further to the glory of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

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: Phil Handang, Avindya Fernando
MONEY COUNTERS: Philip Dunlop, Marian See

LECTORS

Gerard O'Donnell, Robert McHugh
 Philip Dunlop
 Aidan Leung, Karen Chay
 Nat De Silva, Stephanie Ong

NEXT WEEK 21/22 Feb

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

LECTORS

Peter Whiting, Frances Cannizzo
 Greg Lesmana, Luisa Yambao
 Jenny & Brian Tyedin
 Isabelle Hii, Viviana Pereira

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mike Yambao

MONEY COUNTERS: Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Noel & Cathy McClelland
 Margaret Wallace
 Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina
 Catherina Gioffre, Judy Ablaza

MORNING TEA: Mary & Jonathan

FLOWERS: Le Nguyen

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Lorna & Joseph Philip
 Tony Nimmo, Mike Yambao
 Tony Ting, Dai Sim, Lucy Giardino
 Seleana Ng, Dot Haynes

MORNING TEA: Brian & Jenny

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

(03) 9948 4483 principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

For School Tours and Open Days visit

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



The Melbourne Octet presents Via Dolorosa Sacred Music, Prayers and Readings with the Stations of the Cross
Friday, 13 March at 7:00pm
St Gregory the Great Church, Doncaster



Lunar New Year Celebrations and Welcoming School Families!

Join us for a BBQ to celebrate the Lunar New Year and to welcome our school families to our Parishes!

Sunday, 1st March 10.30am Mass followed by celebrations in the oval
 St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster

Enjoy a special Lion Dance performance!

We encourage everyone to dress in red or wear their Lunar New Year outfits.

RSVP: Please use the trybooking link:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DJEJT> or QR Code or via the Sign Up sheet in the Church foyer



Food and Drinks will be provided and outdoor activities for families (weather permitting)

Please be mindful of food intolerances or allergies as food may contain allergens. Parents and Carers are requested to supervise children at all times



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.

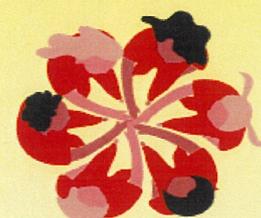


Give by Contactless
 Use our Eftpos Machine located in the church Narthex. You can donate with: a debit/credit card. It's simple and secure.

Cornerstone Youth Group

Friday, 20th February 7-9PM

Build your faith and connect more deeply with God while hanging out, having real conversations, and making lasting friends. Come be part of an amazing journey!



St Gregory the Great Parish Room.
 71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster
 info: doncaster@cam.org.au or 03 9412 8425

Youth from Year 6 to Grade 10

Lenten Prayer Groups

Lenten prayer and discussion groups will be held on Mondays from 7pm-8.30pm in the Parish room of the school. They will run for the 6 weeks of Lent starting on Monday 23rd February & ending on Monday, March 30th.

The theme for this year is "Compassio" (to suffer with). Lent is a grace-filled invitation to stand with Jesus and with one another as we journey through the season.

We warmly welcome you to join in these Lenten discussions and ask that you please sign on the sheets provided so that we know how many to cater for. Each participant will be provided with a beautiful "Compassio" booklet which includes Art works as well as daily reflections and prayers to help us journey through Lent. For further information please call Margaret O'Donnell 0402 838 754 or email margaretodonnell@gmail.com

St Kevins & St Gregory's Parish Seminars Lent 2026

Celebration of the Mass is our central action of worship wherein we seek a close communion with God and our community. All are welcome to attend the two sessions which are to be held during Lent this year. Our Parish Pastoral Councils have invited **Fr. Frank O'Loughlin, retired priest, author and theologian**, to lead us in better understanding the structure and purpose of the Mass as the central act of faith in our Catholic tradition.

Session 1:
Exploring the fundamental shape of the Mass.
Sat Feb 21 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Session 2:
Gaining a richer understanding of the Mass.
Thu March 5, 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Both sessions will be held in St Gregory the Great Church gathering space to ensure we have a relaxed space that is large enough for all of you to come. Please sign up using sheets in the narthex.

Father Frank will provide a rich encounter with the Mass and put into context your important role within it. He is an engaging presenter, willing to discuss any questions you may have. His presentations and his answers arise from his experience as a priest, a renowned theologian, and an adult educator. He has researched and taught in the areas of fundamental theology, sacramental theology & liturgy in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the last 50 years. In recent years he has published several books.