

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

15 MARCH 2026

'NOW I CAN SEE!' In today's Gospel it is the man born blind who gradually comes to see that Jesus is Lord. Meanwhile the Pharisees, the custodians of the traditional faith, fall steadily into blindness. Self-confident in their own knowledge, the Pharisees refuse to see the workings of God in Jesus. Let us humbly ask Christ to open our eyes that we may see his presence in our Eucharistic community and in our world.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

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.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

*A reading from the first book of Samuel
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he

caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**

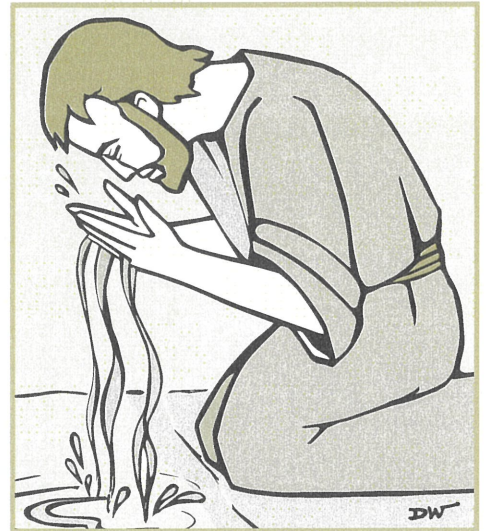
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try



to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man

who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him’. The man himself said, ‘I am the man’.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see’. Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man.

‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you’. The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Longer form, 9:1-41

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. We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. 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 4TH 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 cf. Jn 9:11, 38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy

and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. 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

‘WE ARE NOT BLIND!’

The rich theological symbolism evident from last Sunday’s Gospel of John continues in today’s drama between light and darkness. Jesus meets a man born blind and tells him to wash in the sanctified pool of Siloam south of the temple. The blind man returns able to see. Over several scenes in one of the most dramatic and engaging stories in all the Gospels, the man who now has vision is consistently interrogated by the religious authorities who, though they are supposed ‘to see’, move into spiritual blindness.

The dynamic evident in the story is that each time the man is interrogated, he goes back to his experience of being healed by Jesus. Each reflection moves him to a deeper realisation of what has happened and who Jesus is: at first he calls Jesus simply ‘a man’, then later, that Jesus is ‘from God’, until finally, the man worships him. This movement of faith into light is accompanied by a similar movement into darkness by the religious leaders. They fail to see that they have become blind to Jesus and his deeds of healing (which John calls ‘signs’). ‘We are not blind, surely?’ they retort.

This drama is acted out in our day. Jesus’ final words to his antagonists and John’s audience are forever relevant. ‘Blind?’ questions Jesus, ‘If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, “We see”, your guilt remains.’ This clarity of understanding and insight is important in a world where truth is camouflaged as falsehood and lies proclaimed as truth. We need to journey with the man born blind, to reflect on our experiences, to be with Jesus and ‘see’.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

14/15 March 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 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:

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Ezek 37:12-14, Ps 129, Rom 8:8-11,

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

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 Amy Liu, Ann & Stephen Kennett, Camilla Bannon, Mary S.N Wong, Yuet Sim Chow, Jason Shum, Camilla Banon, Elmo Silvapulle, Anna Ziglinis, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Meredith Barnes, Michael Mullens, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently

and for those whose anniversaries occur

about now Manuelpillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Suzie Khalil, Diana Dalpra, Frank Salvatore, Rosa Salvatore, Anna Salvatore, Pasquale Salvatore

In Our Thoughts and Prayers



Words from the desk of the PP:

Three Days but One Celebration:

Holy Week is nearly upon us: Easter is early this year. Please book the time in your calendar to come along to all of the Holy Week Services.

Palm Sunday begins the journey: remembering the contradiction of triumphal entry into Jerusalem crowned by passion and death.

And our single celebration spread over three days starts on Thursday night with the last supper and washing of the feet, journeys through the Passion and Death of Friday afternoon and finishes on Saturday evening/Sunday morning with the resurrection. One event, three elements.

I encourage you now to put the times in your calendars: block out Thursday evening; Friday afternoon 3 pm; and Saturday Evening or Sunday Morning. Come along and journey with Jesus through the whole of his last hours.

Penitential Service:

March 26th! 7:30 pm. At St Greg's (we alternate between parishes). Prayer and Reflection, Examination of Conscience and Contrition. With individual absolution available at the end.

Please come along to spend a few moments with Jesus as Holy Week approaches – opening our hearts to receive his forgiveness. Sitting with Jesus; offering our lives as a sharing in his suffering.

Prayer Intention:

Every week I put a prayer intention in the bulletin. My thought with this is to have the whole parish praying for particular things for the week. I already emailed to a couple of prayer groups. If you have a prayer group of some sort: let me know and I can email the intention directly.

There is power in prayer and I know many people are not able to participate in parish events/life – praying for my prayer intention is a way of helping the whole parish from wherever you are.

Holy Week:

There are sign up sheets in the gathering space for all the Holy Week services. If you are available to help: please put your names down to assist. There are a lot of ministers/ ministries needed. Some roles have already been filled/allocated and so are not listed. The rest: up for first come first served. Thank you in advance.

Ministers to Assist at Holy Communion:

Thank you for your response at the 9 am, 10:30 am and 5 pm Sunday Masses. I am very thankful for everyone who has signed up. But ... we could still do with more, please.

For 6 pm Mass: I got sidetracked and didn't speak to this need at the Mass last Saturday. For those of you at this Mass, **please** if you feel in the least called to assist with distribution of Holy Communion – put your name on the list and test the call. This is one of the urgent-need Masses.

Thank you to all who have put yourselves forward. We will organise a formation session soon. We will need you to meet safeguarding requirements of course so please get that underway if you don't already have a current Working with Children Check..

Oh! And ... there are lots of ministries: perhaps another one is what God is calling you to: Lector/Reader; Sacristan; Morning Tea; Social Group ... please let us know.

God Bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

We pray in thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit transforming lives in our parishes.

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

Noel & Cathy McClelland
Luisa Yambao, Philip Dunlop
Aditya Hendarto, Ryan Teo
Gerard O'Donnell, Dot Haynes

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson

MONEY COUNTERS: Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson

NEXT WEEK 21/22 Mar

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

LECTORS

Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh
Margaret Wallace, Chris Perera
Jane Gunawan, Ivonne Gunawan
Isabelle Hii, Stephanie Ong

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mike Yambao

MONEY COUNTERS: Christopher Lim, Josie Masters

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Robert & Dianne McHugh
Mike Yambao
Nuccia La Rocca, Behnaz Behmadi, Erin Djukiadmodjo
Caterina Gioffre, Dot Haynes

MORNING TEA: N/A

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Noel & Cathy McClelland
Mary Stocco
Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina
Mary Tonti- Filippini, Margaret O'Donnell

MORNING TEA: N/A

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

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

Open Days:

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

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

(03) 9848 4483 principal@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



If you would like to assist with the Easter Liturgies, please include your name on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Thank you for your support and efforts!



Holy Week & Easter Triduum Mass Times

You are invited to experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Liturgy.

71 Williamsons Rd
Doncaster
stgregs.org.au

RECONCILIATION SERVICE, 26th March

Combined parishes service at St Gregory's
Thursday, 26th March at 7.30pm

Palm Sunday, 28th & 29th March

Saturday (Vigil): 6PM
Sunday: 9AM, 10.30AM & 5PM

Wednesday, 1st April

Weekday Mass: 9AM
Followed by Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration

Holy Thursday, 2nd April

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30PM

Good Friday, 3rd April

Stations of the Cross: 10AM
Passion of Christ: 3PM

Holy Saturday, 4th April

Saturday, Easter Vigil: 8.30PM

Easter Sunday, 5th April

Sunday: 9AM, 10.30AM & 5PM

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.

Young Adult Group (18-35 Years of Age)

Join us for Fellowship and Prayers! We extend a warm invitation to all individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 to come together for an inspiring and uplifting gathering.

- Connect with others
- Deepen your faith
- Share in meaningful prayer
- Build lasting friendships



Friday, 27th March 2026, 730PM
St Gregory the Great Parish Room
Dinner is provided
Info: doncaster@cam.org.au

Come Away Day

The Come Away Day program is a long - time retreat and reflection ministry at Holy Cross. The first Come Away Day for 2026 will be held at Holy Cross on WEDNESDAY MARCH 25th. The theme of the day is 'CALL TO LIFE ...'.

As we celebrate the Annunciation, reflecting on Mary's YES to the Mystery yet to become known, we have an opportunity to rest, reflect and focus on the deeper meaning and call of our own life journey and how we respond. The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, silent reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around 3pm. The suggested cost is \$30.00 or a donation according to your means. Registration is helpful for planning purposes.

For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com. Please put this Date in your Diary and consider inviting a friend along to share the Come Away Day experience this year. Everyone is welcome.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Fourth Sunday of Lent 14/15 March 2026

UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent



Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

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
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

