

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

WOMAN, YOU HAVE GREAT FAITH! The Canaanite woman in today's Gospel enjoyed no status in the eyes of the Jewish people of her time. She was someone to be scorned and ignored. Yet, in her deep love for her daughter and her great faith, she is a model of the true disciple of Jesus. She reminds us that what identifies us as Christians most fundamentally is our faith, our hope and our love.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 83:10-11

**Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

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.

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.

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

P. O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

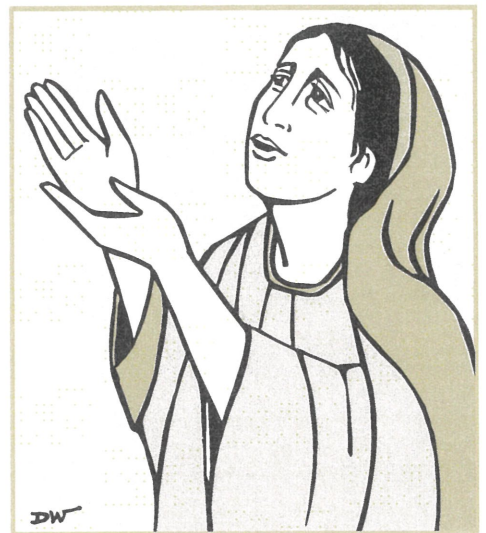
RESP PSALM Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**



SECOND READING Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 15:21-28

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.

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take

pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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. Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. 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: 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 ANTIPHON

Ps 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments,

we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today's Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today's southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won't be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew's Jewish audience, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel', and, later, 'It is not fair to take children's food and throw it to house-dogs'. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the 'children', rather than on gentiles ('house-dogs!'). Jesus' derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, 'Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'.

Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman's great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew's Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman's request being granted. Her daughter is healed.

From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

15/16 August 2026

Parish Office:

Hours: **Mon—Fri 8.30am to 3.20pm**

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 Gregory's: Sat Vigil 6.30pm, 10.30am & 5.00pm

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

Weekdays: Wed: 6.30pm & Fri 9.00am followed by

Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration

YOUTH MASS 2ND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 5PM

UPCOMING DATES: 13 September, 11 October

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

Weekdays: Tue & Thurs 9.15am

St Clement's: Sat Vigil: 5pm; Sun 9am, 11am (Italian)

Weekdays: Tue (Italian) & Wed 9.15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St Gregory's: Saturdays 9.30am-11.00am (or by appointment or before/after any Mass but allow time)

St Kevin's: By appointment

St Clement's: Saturdays 4.30-4.50pm or by appointment

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

Please practice sensible hygiene at home & at church.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time / A

Isa 22:19-23, Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8,

Rom 11:33-36, Mt 16:13-20

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:

Fridays 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 Elmo Silvapulle, Michael Mullens, Meredith Barnes, Mike Yambao, Caroline Tang, Teresa Macciocca, John Green, Sunny Boy Pereira, Anna Ziglinis, Emmly L, Roma Rouvray, Mrs Margaret Woof, Teresa Wong, Margaret Hanson **and for those who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about now** Maria Casamento, Simon Dedrick, Carmela Gazzo, Maria Lecce, Ettore Conigliaro, Enzo Conigliaro, Francesco D'Angelo



Words from PP

Archbishop's Collection

This weekend: the formal GIVING weekend for the Archbishop's Collection. Please be generous – your gift helps meet the costs of many of the charitable and faith words of the Archdiocese. What more can I say: St Paul was reminded to remember the universal church in his collections for those in need – we are reminded that the body of Christ that is the church is more than just us – we are called to support the Archbishop in helping those in need across the diocese of Melbourne, and help those following a vocation to diaconal, priestly or consecrated life.

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults

Do you know anyone who might like to join this journey? Find out what it means to be Catholic and join the community? Please let me know their details or get them to talk to me or email the office doncaster@cam.org.au

Clergy Conference

"Becoming a Catechumenal Church" – Bishop Etienne presented four talks on this topic during the Clergy Conference during the past week. A marvellously gifted and intentional disciple. Lots of messages. An hour and a half to begin to delve into the meanings of the story of the "Samaritan woman at the well." An hour on the amazing influx of young people (15-40) into the church in France (alongside a decline in traditional participants in faith).

He provides a strong call towards / affirmation of what we are seeking to become: parishes who work together; parishes who are welcoming and willing to invite people to come to being to know Jesus; parishes whose worship strives for excellence; parishes who reach out to the poor and marginalised. All those things at the same time.

His most surprising, though also most wonderful words were (and I paraphrase a little): "I can't explain it – we did all sorts of things reaching out, inviting, praying and nothing seemed to work: this big influx of catechumens (of people seeking to grow into the faith Jesus calls them to) this influx is "the word of God"

His words suggest strongly to me that what our evangelising, charitable and worship efforts do is open US to the work of the Holy Spirit so that we can see and respond to the people around us whom the Holy Spirit is leading into our hands. If we aren't looking we won't see. Much more to do – but we are on the journey.

Safeguarding

Real change: about a week ago, I provided input about our Safeguarding efforts as part of a panel of parish priests talking to the whole current group of seminarians. This is a big change from the past: safeguarding is being taught and discussed and worked on from early on – so new priests will already know a lot before entering parish life, even during their years of formation. This is how we build a culture of safety for our children and for all: talk about it; share our knowledge; take responsibility; be willing to speak up when things don't seem as they should be.

Multicultural Festival

Thank you to the Social Group and Safeguarding and Music and Children's Liturgy and so many others: you made this marvellous event possible with the work you've done over the past two months. The 300 or so people who came to eat the wonderful food and chat and talk and mingle made it happen. An amazing day through which are able to gather and share and talk and get to know each other. Thank you to all those from St Clement's and St Kevin's who came along as well as St Greg's – it made a difference having your new faces present. We raised \$5040. Raffle prize winners were: 1st Jenny T; 2nd Rob R; 3rd Lucy; ; 4th Mei Tin C; 5th Florence Noonan.

3 Parishes

Initial follow up from our gathering of the three parish pastoral councils recently suggests our top priorities are: to develop a plan for how we communicate (so it's not just ad-hoc/accidental); to have a common calendar (a way forwards here is already in test mode); to have the youth / young adults across all three parishes meet / talk about things they want / need. There is more to do to put flesh to these ideas but ... things are moving steadily.

Alpha August 26th – for Adults 18 and up; August 28th – for children (13-17) and parents as needed.

SIGN UP NOW – PLEASE, if you haven't already done so or participated before.

Be willing to ask the people around you – people how are perhaps struggling in their lives but have no faith or have drifted away. Alpha is one of the ways through which we can become 'a catechumenal church' – a church that thrives on bringing people to know Jesus and become his disciples.

Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

I was recently asked to give a talk on the practice of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. There are many facets to this beautiful practice, but at its core it is about silence – silence from physical action; silence from words or songs of prayer; silence from thinking about our needs. The action elements are designed to lead us into silence and, in the silence ... as Elijah found in last week's first reading ... we hear God's words and call; we feel and are comforted by his presence. Hard to do? Yes! Does it work if my prayer and silence is imperfect? Yes! Please make space for adoration, even if it can't be before the Blessed Sacrament itself. Make space for silence. Make space for God's presence.

New Audio System

The new system is up and working! A little more tuning to do but ... this weekend you get to experience what Mary said is "a big improvement."

God bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention:

For the grace to be intentional disciples who invite others to know Jesus, who worship faithfully and who joyfully help those in need.

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

THIS WEEK

Sat 6.30pm
Sun 10.30am
Sun 5.00pm
Valentinus Reza, Mary Tonti Filippini

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson

MONEY COUNTERS: Christopher Lim

NEXT WEEK

Sat 6.30pm
Sun 10.30am
Sun 5.00pm
Frank Ryan, Benedicta Wong
Franklin Shepherdson, Ivonne Gunawan
Isabelle Hii, Alvin Priyana

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mike Yambao

MONEY COUNTERS: Don & Lina Pavone

LECTORS

Noel & Cathy McClelland
Chris Perera, Justin Green
Valentinus Reza, Mary Tonti Filippini

LECTORS

Frank Ryan, Benedicta Wong
Franklin Shepherdson, Ivonne Gunawan
Isabelle Hii, Alvin Priyana

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Robert & Dianne McHugh
Behnaz Behmadi, Erin Djukiadmodjo, Lilian Antonelli
Caterina Gioffre, Dot Haynes

MORNING TEA: N/A

FLOWERS: Geraldina Donato

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Sharron Wilkinson
Dai Sim, Luci Giardino, Nuccia La Rocca
Viviana Pereira, Margaret O'Donnell

MORNING TEA: N/A

FLOWERS: Mary Piccoli

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

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

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



Open Days:

29th Oct at 9.30-11.30am

School Tours: contact 9848 4483

sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

Parish Facilities: The Parish Hall and Parish Room are available for use. Bookings can be made: office@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

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.



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.

ALPHA

18YO AND ABOVE

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 26TH AUGUST TO 4TH NOVEMBER
AT ST KEVIN'S CHURCH
30 HERLIHYS ROAD LOWER TEMPLESTOWE

Registration is now open!



Alpha

ALPHA YOUTH

13- 17 YEARS OF AGE

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 28TH AUGUST TO 16TH OCTOBER
AT ST GREGORY THE GREAT
71 WILLIAMSON'S RD, DONCASTER

REGISTER VIA QR CODE



Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

Free- Meals included
Donation welcome

Enquiries:
templestowe@cam.org.au, doncaster@cam.org.au, bulleen@cam.org.au
phone 03 9850 5983, 03 9412 8425, 03 9850 3262

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Priests Retirement Foundation, the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, CatholicCare Victoria Chaplaincy Program, Melbourne Overseas Mission, John Pierce Centre, University of Divinity for the Catholic Theological College as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026

Cornerstone Youth Group



Friday, 21 August
7-9PM

Youth from 12 to 17 years old

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

Care of the Church

Help us keep our church clean, tidy and welcoming! By working together, we care for our sacred space while building community and fellowship.

We warmly invite parishioners to join this ministry and help care for the place where we gather to worship and grow together. Every helping hand makes a difference!

If you would like to become a "Heavenly Duster", we would love to have you join us! It is only a small commitment of 1-2 hours once a month to help keep our church clean, tidy and welcoming. If you cannot make those days please let the Office know and we can open the Church on different days.

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers— Mary Wilson, Stephen Ma, Agnes Chee, Sharron Wilkinson, Phil Handang and Mike Yambao who have dedicated their time & efforts throughout the years to ensure our church is well cared for. Your selflessness and commitment have been a great blessing to our parish, and we truly appreciate each and every one of you!



Eucharistic Adoration 4th September at 7pm

You are warmly invited to spend an evening of prayer through the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The evening will include praise and worship, small talk and group discussions.