

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

17 MAY 2026

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS. When Christ ascended into heaven he did not abandon his disciples. Matthew's Gospel begins with the angel's words that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us, and it ends with Jesus' promise: 'Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.' In a special way Emmanuel is with us in this Eucharist for 'where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them.'

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

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 are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: 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. Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. 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 Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.



RESP PSALM Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (or Alleluia!)

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

SECOND READING Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 28:16-20

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.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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. We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. 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 OR II OF THE ASCENSION 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 ANTIPHON Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. 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

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

When reflecting on Jesus' Ascension, our liturgical focus has been heavily influenced by Luke's double version of the Ascension; one set on Easter Day in the concluding scene in Luke's Gospel (24:50-52) as Jesus' blesses his disciples at Bethany and departs from them; the other in the opening chapter of Acts (Acts 1:6-11) as Jesus leaves the disciples and is carried into heaven.

Our Gospel today is quite different. It is the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel. The Risen Jesus gathers with the Eleven on 'the' mountain, the place of divine encounter, already familiar from earlier in the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus is with the *Eleven*—not the Twelve, a reminder of the failure of one of the key members of the apostolic leadership group (Judas). It is to this group of failed leaders that Jesus, God's authoritative agent, entrusts his final teaching and missionary endorsement. They are to make disciples of all nations. This is an important injunction, given that Matthew's audience which is predominantly Jewish is now encouraged to move into the gentile world.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus offers a universal vision. Baptism and Gospel ethical teaching will become key notes for incorporating members into this renewed community of Jesus. The Gospel concludes on a promise of divine companionship. Jesus, called 'Emmanuel' ('God with us') in the birth narrative (Matthew 1:23), reminds his audience that 'I am with you always ... to the end of time.' This affirmation of Jesus' eternal presence is comforting to Matthew's audience, and us, dealing with life's struggles and cultural challenges.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 768. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

The Ascension of Lord (A)

16/ 17 May 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 2ND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

UPCOMING DATES: 14 JUNE, 12 JULY

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:

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11, Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34,
1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13, Jn 20:19-23

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 Maria Benic, Raymond Au, Helen, Robert, Tilly, Mary Navaratne, Ivan Peterson, Amy Liu, Ann & Stephen Kennett, Chris Bannon, Mary S.N Wong, Yuet Sim Chow, Jason Shum, Elmo Silvapulle, Anna Ziginis, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Meredith Barnes, Michael Mullens, Siv Cuasay, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethampakdee

and for those who died recently Donovan Berjeeraz, Mary S.N. Poon, Lucia Devinentis/De Iulio, Roderick Berjeeraz, Fr Gino Henriques

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now

Noe Petracca, Concezio Mosca, Verina Mosca, Francis Moh

Words from PP,

Planning Partnering of Parishes

St Clement's, St Kevin's, St Gregory's: will have a joint meeting of parish pastoral councils and finance groups on Tuesday 19th May. We will discuss plans about how we can move forwards, together. Please pray for the group. We will keep you informed as we progress.

AI mistakes

A person came to me upset, fearful? When having heard of three days of darkness and that Pope Leo is speaking about that. There is no basis to this claim. It is true that there was a prediction of three days of darkness many years ago – a personal revelation – not Church teaching. It is true that Pope Leo has spoken about light and darkness: in the context of Easter and the light of Christ Jesus. There is no link between the two. Joining the two matters would appear to result from AI making a false association.

Remember: anything from God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, is always grounded in Jesus' self-giving love which he calls us to share. Please, be thoughtful as you use the internet / social media / AI / etc. They cannot think! You can!

Thank you

It is my great honour that you grace Fr Anton and I with your Easter Offerings – in addition to all the anonymous offerings there was Joan, Anna, Sebin, Anna, Molly, K & M, Boris, Rocco, Sheela, Henrieta, Celia, Carmel, Montillees, Jersy, Anthony, Pina, Abhi, Mariam, Chanh, Connie, Angelo, Angeline, J, Freddie, Agnes, Nielia, Dai, Joseph, Amy, Christopher, Alice, M, A, E, Adams', Agnes, Charles, James, Pauline, Joe, D, L, Frank, Maria, Mary, Max, Carmen, Cecilia, Shirley, Nahia. I am sure there were many more – I list all the names I receive but I thank everyone. I probably am unaware of a lot of names from St Clement's and maybe St Kevin's: you are not forgotten.

Alpha – Pentecost Retreat – sign up details in the church entry space

It's not too late to invite someone to come and/or come yourself to the Alphas Come and See night – find out a little more; scratch the itch of the Holy Spirit guiding you. Come along.

And you can still book in for the Pentecost Retreat – we've got 80 participants so far which is wonderful but still space left. Come and find how the Holy Spirit enlivens you.

Volunteers Lunch

Don't forget – this Sunday after the 10:30 am Mass we have a gathering for all those who help in the many ministries which make our parish vibrant and vital.

Please come to the Mass or come back after the Mass so that I can say thank you, along with the whole parish community saying thank you.

God Bless, Fr Charles.

Volunteer Appreciation Mass followed by Lunch – Sunday, 17 May

Reminder to all attendees:

- Anyone experiencing flu symptoms is kindly asked not to attend.
- Food served may contain allergens.
- Parents are required to supervise their children at all times.

Stewardship Contributions– New Set of Envelopes

The new set of stewardship envelopes is ready to be collected from the Narthex. Please start using the new envelopes for the weekend of 16th/ 17th May 2026.

If you are unable to find your envelopes or unable to collect your new set of envelopes, please contact doncaster@cam.org.au.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention:

For the success of our discernment for partnering of our three 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, Jay de Graaf
Justin Green, Sauro Antonelli
Stephanie Ong Dot Haynes

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Phil Handang

MONEY COUNTERS: Lina & Don Pavone

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Frances Cannizzo, Margaret O'Donnell
Iris O'Farrell, Mike Yambao
Nuccia La Rocca, Behnaz Behmadi, Lilian Antonelli
Mary Tonti-Filippini, Nita Pereira

MORNING TEA:

FLOWERS: Irene Dharmawan

NEXT WEEK

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

LECTORS

Gerald O'Donnell, Benedicta Wong
Philip Dunlop, Margaret Wallace
Brian & Jenny Tyedin
Nat de Silva, Alfred Ablaza

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Agnes Chee, Sharron Wilkinson

MONEY COUNTERS: Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Noel & Cathy McClelland
Mary Stocco
Agnes & Fred Fulia, Edith Ma
Caterina Gioffre, Judy Ablaza

MORNING TEA: TBA

FLOWERS: Le Nguyen

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:

29th Oct at 9.30-11.30am

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

(03) 9848 4483 | principal@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. 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.

June Parish Seminars 2026

Celebration of the Mass is our central action of worship wherein we seek a close communion with God and our community. The previously planned and eagerly anticipated seminars on the Mass were postponed and have now been rescheduled.

All are welcome to attend!

Fr. Frank O'Loughlin, retired priest, author and theologian, will 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.
Saturday June 6, 10.00am to 1.00pm.**

Session 2:

**Gaining a richer understanding of the Mass.
Thursday June 18, 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.

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 and liturgy in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the last 50 years. In recent years he has published several books.

Pray for Persecuted Christians in Nigeria

Christians in Nigeria continue to suffer greatly for their faith, yet many persevere with deep trust in Christ and devotion to Our Lady. Aid to the Church in Need invites you to join with John, a Catholic farmer in Nigeria, in praying a decade of the Rosary this week for persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their faith.

Watch John's moving testimony and download a free Red Rosary Prayer Card to unite your prayers with the suffering Church throughout the world.

Scan the QR code or visit www.rebrand.ly/RedRosary26



We extend a warm welcome to the families of Aurora Shirley Ziegler and David Robert Whitelock who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday at St Gregory the Great Church.

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

**ALPHA CELEBRATION
DINNER
COME & SEE NIGHT**



**WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY
6.30-8.30PM
AT ST KEVIN'S CHURCH, TEMPLESTOWE
IN THE GATHERING SPACE
DINNER PROVIDED**

Join us for a celebration of Alpha with fun, food and conversation.
Open to all our Alpha participants and to anyone interested in Alpha
RSVP: 13th May
templestowe@cam.org.au; 03 9850 5983
doncaster@cam.org.au; 03 9412 8425



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

**Young Adult
Group
(18-35 Years of Age)**



Friday, 22 May 2026, 7.15PM
St Gregory the Great Parish Room
Dinner is provided
Info: doncaster@cam.org.au



We warmly congratulate Stephanie Byrne on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. May this sacred journey deepen your faith and bring abundant blessings as you grow in the love and grace of Christ.