

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 JANUARY 2026

THE LAMB OF GOD. Jesus is the servant of God who brings salvation to the ends of the earth. He is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He reveals the compassion of God who stoops down to hear the cries of those in distress.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you,  
O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing  
to your name, O Most High!

### 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

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. Almighty ever-living God, who govern  
all things, both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.  
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 49: 3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*I will make you the light of the nations so that  
my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel,

in whom I shall be glorified';

I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,  
my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken,  
he who formed me in the womb to be his  
servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,

to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant,  
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring  
back the survivors of Israel;

I will make you the light of the nations  
so that my salvation may reach to the ends  
of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### RESP PSALM

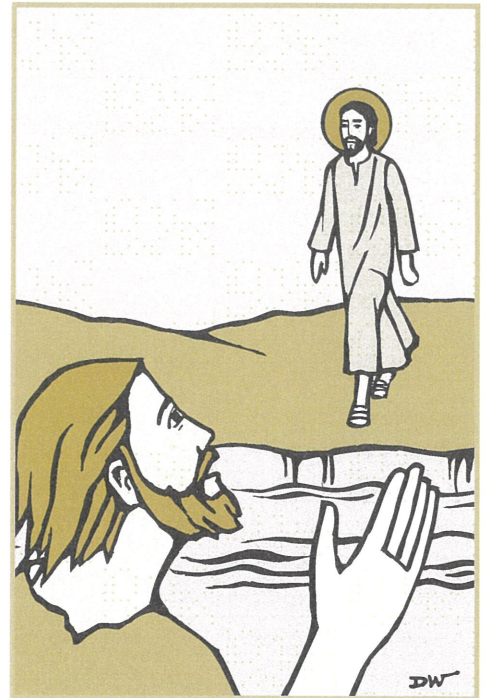
Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8, 9

**R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he  
stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. / He  
put a new song into my mouth, / praise of  
our God. **R.**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and  
offerings, / but an open ear. / You do not  
ask for holocaust and victim. / Instead, here  
am I. **R.**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands  
written / that I should do your will. / My  
God, I delight in your law / in the depth of  
my heart. **R.**



4. Your justice I have proclaimed / in the  
great assembly. / My lips I have not sealed; /  
you know it, O Lord. **R.**

### SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 1-3

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

*The grace and peace of God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle,  
together with brother Sosthenes, send  
greetings to the church of God in Corinth,  
to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are  
called to take their place among all the saints  
everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus  
Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours.  
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ send you grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 1: 14, 12

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Word of God became flesh and dwelt  
among us.**

**He enabled those who accepted him  
to become the children of God.**

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Jn 1: 29-34

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.**

*This is the Lamb of God who takes away the  
sins of the world.*



Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

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. Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. 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 22:5

**You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### THE LAMB OF GOD

The historical memory between John the Baptist and Jesus identified in last Sunday's Gospel from Matthew continues in today's Gospel from John. Themes from last week continue: John the Baptist declares Jesus' pre-existence (1:30), a central theological motif in the Gospel, as God's chosen one, and as the bearer of God's Spirit (1:33). The Baptist also publicly attests to Jesus' holiness using Jewish expressions drawn out of the Passover and Exodus story. Jesus is called 'the lamb of God' (1:29). This evokes the memory of the Passover lamb. This was the lamb sacrificed in the Exodus event (Exodus 12:1-13) whose blood daubed the lintels of the doors identifying its Jewish residents as God's protected ones as the Angel of Death passed over them.

In John's Gospel, Jesus' blood will also become the life-giving and liberating agent that creates the new community formed around the Mother of Jesus and the Beloved Disciple at Jesus' death (19:26-35). At the beginning of this Gospel and in today's reading, John the Baptist becomes the Gospel's witness to the holy and elevated status of Jesus as God's representative who can 'take away the sin of the world' (1:29). In other words and again drawing on a Jewish atonement ritual performed on one of the holiest days in the Jewish Calendar, *Yom Kippur* (literally, 'the Day of Atonement'), Jesus becomes the scapegoat for people's sins to release them from the burdens they carry and bring them to life and freedom—another theme of John's Gospel. All these insights associated with today's Gospel are key for us: we look to one who can represent us before God, release us of sins that weigh us down, and offer us life and spiritual agency.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

## Second Sunday in the Ordinary Time (A)

### 17/18 January 2026

#### Parish Office:

Hours: Mon—Fri 9.00am to 3.30pm

Tel: 9412 8425

Email: [doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:doncaster@cam.org.au)

Website: <https://www.stgregs.org.au/>

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Assistant Priest: Anton Aseervathampillai

Business Manager: David Hii

Parish Secretary: Mon & Wed: Vera Arief

Tue, Thurs & Fri: Luisa Yambao

Mon: Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

Sacristan: Mary Stocco - Mob: 0412 742 657

#### MASS TIMES:

St Greg's: Sat Vigil 6.00pm; Sun 9.00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Wed & Fri 9.00am followed by Holy Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am  
(Resumes 2nd Feb 2026)

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

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9.30-11.00am (or by appointment or before/after any Mass but allow time)

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

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

**"Wash your hands" says my son to his daughter: sensible hygiene is essential at home and at church.**

#### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34

BAPTISMS: Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

#### PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Email Margaret O'Donnell at [margaretodonnell@gmail.com](mailto: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 (Resumes Feb 2026)

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 4th Fridays 7.15pm—9.30pm (Resumes Feb 2026)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: 3rd Mondays 7.00pm in the School Parish Room

ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB: Membership enquiries: Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

**Please pray for:** Those who are **sick** at this time including Margaret Gillespie, Michael Armenio, Elmo Silvapulle, Anna M, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Phaisan Luethamphakdee, Priscilla Cheng, Marleen Liu, Amy Liu, Chantal Wong, Michael Mullens, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay



**and for those who died recently** Danny Kelly **and for those whose anniversaries occur about now** Manuelpillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Joe Sant, Gerald Sant, Annie & Dan McLoughlin, Johnny Tencic, Shao Jioa Chen

#### Words from the desk of the PP:

**Beauty in Unexpected Places:** Hazard? The Beauty of God?



In a world where we need to remain alert for danger, my instant thought when I saw all the dead bark was "fire hazard." Then I looked again and saw: beauty – the colours of the bark with such subtle variations; the 'almost patterns' that please the eye like the shapes in a cloud; new growth that is happening around it at the same time as the bark dies; the near infinite variety



of shapes of the bark with no two pieces the same yet it is all knowable as 'bark.' And what about the beauty of the setting of the sun refracted through a glass of wine – the rich subtlety and variation of the colours. I am sure you stop and see God's hand at work around you, but this past week provided some lovely reminder: God lifts the heart, enlivens the spirit within. Praise the Lord!

**Receiving Communion:** In order to ensure respectful receiving of Holy Communion with minimal chances of mistakes (e.g.: fumbling/dropping the Host, your tongue putting saliva on the minister's fingers, tripping up others) let me clarify the actions we make during communion:

The gesture of respect as you approach Holy Communion is recommended to be made as the person ahead of you is receiving communion. The means you are not bowing as the minister distributes Christ to you.

When receiving on the hand: please makes sure you come close enough that the minister can easily place the host on your hands; come to a complete stop and hold your hands still; cross your hands clearly so the minister knows where to place the host to ensure it isn't dropped. Don't bow as the host is placed on your hand as that means your hands move and the host can be dropped.

When receiving on the tongue: walk up, stop, put your tongue out enough (about 1-2cm) to receive the host: remain still, allow the minister to place the host on your tongue – don't move your head/mouth to try to take the host yourself: allow the minister to place the host – allow the minister to take their hand away, then move and take the host into your mouth and consume it.

When kneeling and receiving on the tongue: make it clear you are going to kneel by taking a large step forward to be clear of those behind, kneel, receive communion as above, and stand without stepping to the rear. One option is to come to Communion last or near last so that there is plenty of space around you.

Always consume Communion immediately, don't walk off, stop a moment in silence after receiving and consume – then walk to your place.

**Leaves and Dead Wood:** Do you have a rake, and some energy? I need some able bodies to do some clearing up. There is a large amount of leaves on the car park and quite a lot of light dead wood in the treed area uphill from the car park. Can you please be available next Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, in the morning from 8:00 am onwards till midday (any time you have in that period and help collecting leaves / gathering & breaking up the light dead wood and getting it into the skip? Let the office know if possible or just turn up.

*God bless, Fr Charles.*



**Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:**

For those who live with chronic and acute illness and disability: that amidst their struggle they can find Jesus' presence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit and that people around them will support them generously.

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



**THIS WEEK**

Sat 6.00pm Joseph & Lorna Philip  
 Sun 9.00am Margaret Wallace  
 Sun 10.30am Jane Gunawan, Jonathan Gunawan  
 Sun 5.00pm Dot Haynes, Benedicta Wong

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Phil Handang**MONEY COUNTERS:** Lina & Don Pavone**LECTORS****NEXT WEEK 24/25 Jan****LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Frank Ryan, Alvin Priyana  
 Sun 9.00am Chris Perera  
 Sun 10.30am Anthony Tran, Ivonne Gunawan  
 Sun 5.00pm Nat de Silva, Enza Scaffidi

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Agnes Chee, Sharron Wilkinson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Margaret O'Donnell, Frances Cannizzo  
 Katika Puhali  
 Mary Stocco, Erin Djukiadmodjo, Tony Ting  
 Judy Ablaza, Dot Haynes

**MORNING TEA:** N/A**FLOWERS:** Irene Dharmawan**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Noel & Cathy McClelland  
 Mary Stocco  
 Edith Ma, Nuccia La Rocca, Dai Sim  
 Mary Tonti- Filippini, Seleana Ng

**MORNING TEA:** N/A**FLOWERS:** Le Nguyen

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

**St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School**

(03) 9848 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

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**Alpha**

Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm

28 January to 25 March,

Plus a day retreat on Sat 14 March

**Meals included—Free  
donation welcome**

St Kevin's Parish  
 30 Herlihy Road  
 Lower Templestowe

**To register email:**

templestowe@cam.org.au

phone 03 9850 5983

or

doncaster@cam.org.au

phone 03 9412 8425

Find out more at

alpha.org.au

**THERE'S  
A SEAT  
FOR YOU  
AT THE  
TABLE**

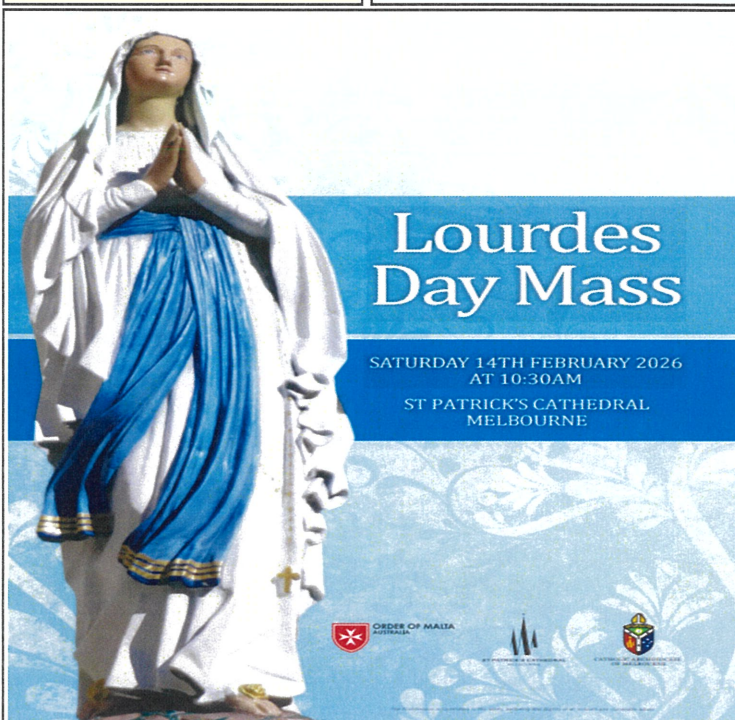
**FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL (5th - 20th May 2026)**

Fr. Sebastian A.M invites you to a journey in the footsteps of St. Paul, reliving the Acts of the Apostles and exploring the letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece and Turkey with a 3-night Greek Islands cruise in this 14-day pilgrimage for an all-inclusive price of \$9790+ tips (25+ pilgrims). The early bird price expires on January 30th.

**SAINTS OF ITALY (8th - 21st June 2026)**

Fr. Franco Filippetto invites you to a 14-day journey to Italy, visiting Milan, Padua, Siena, Assisi, Rotondo, Sorrento, and Rome, with an all-inclusive price of \$ 9,290 + tips (for 30+ pilgrims). The early bird price expires on January 30th.

The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in 4-star Premium Hotels, Meals + English speaking professional guides + Entrances as per itinerary and more. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or email us [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)

**Lourdes Day Mass**

Parishioners are invited to attend the annual Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday, 14th February 2026 at 10.30am. This is a special occasion to pray for our sick, infirm and elderly and those who care for them.

The principal celebrant at the Mass will be His Grace, Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

Tell your friends about the Mass, especially those who are not well. In fact, bring them along. A poster about the Mass is on display in the narthex of the Church.

A Lubitz piano is available and seeking a new home.

If you are interested or would like more details, please contact **Mary Stocco** 0412742657.