

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

2 AUGUST 2026

‘GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT YOURSELVES.’ With the five loaves and two fish that Jesus had blessed, the disciples fed a vast crowd. Our acts of service and love towards others may often seem small but, blessed by Jesus, they too can have a great impact. We need Jesus to bless our work, and Jesus needs us to feed the hungry and comfort the lonely of our world. Together, we can do great things.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 69:2, 6

**O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.**

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 God. / 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. Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing
kindness, that, for those who glory in you

as their Creator and guide, you may restore
what you have created and keep safe what
you have restored. Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are
thirsty;

though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good
things to eat

and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting
covenant

out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us,
he answers all our needs.**

1. The Lord is kind and full of
compassion, / slow to anger, abounding
in love. / How good is the Lord to all, /
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you /
and you give them their food in due time. /
You open wide your hand, / grant the desires
of all who live. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and
loving in all his deeds. / He is close to all who
call him, / call on him from their hearts. **R.**

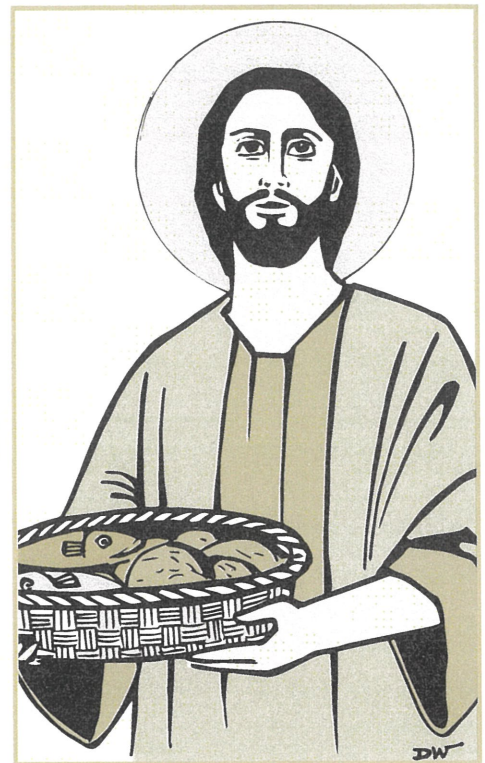
SECOND READING

Rom 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of
God, which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of
Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or



being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes,
or being threatened or even attacked. These
are the trials through which we triumph, by
the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor
life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists,
nothing still to come, not any power, or
height or depth, nor any created thing, can
ever come between us and the love of God
made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

**Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread
alone, / but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God. / Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mt 14:13-21

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.

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John
the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat
to a lonely place where they could be by
themselves. But the people heard of this and,
leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So
as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd;
and he took pity on them and healed their
sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

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. Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. 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 Wis 16:20

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption.

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

JESUS NURTURES US

Have you ever experienced a time when you needed to rest, restore yourself and, perhaps, even reflect on the direction in which your life is moving? Today's Gospel can speak to this experience. Jesus, accompanied by his disciples, steps ashore from a boat and discovers a troubled crowd in need of healing. It is evening, a *lonely* (literally, 'a desert') place and the crowd needs to eat. Figuratively, this crowd represents how we might feel at times, in need of care, comfort, healing and sustenance.

The disciples have the solution. They want *him* to send the people off to purchase food from the local villages. But Jesus surprises the disciples with another solution: *they* are to find the food that is necessary. The Greek text can also be interpreted, 'You give them *yourselves* to eat!' This gets to the heart of the issue. The disciples retort that they don't have what is needed (either physically or personally?) to satisfy the hungry crowd, only five loaves and two fish, representative of the average food allowance for one household in the ancient world.

Jesus gets the crowd to sit down (literally, 'recline'—the dining posture in the Greco-Roman world) on the 'grass' (but isn't this a desert?) takes the meagre offering of the disciples, prays a eucharistic blessing over the loaves and fish, then gets the disciples to distribute to the crowd. They eat, are satisfied, and there remains enough leftovers, twelve baskets full, for the future. Our deepest need for spiritual restoration and nurture is met in today's celebration of Word and Eucharist. Jesus nurtures us.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1/2 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: 9 August, 13 September

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 at home and at church.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time / A

I Kings 19:9, 11-13, Ps 84:9-14,

Rom 9:1-5, Mt 14:22-33

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 Ziginis, 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 Carmelo Di Benedetto, Yukiko Okae



Words from PP

Gathering of three Parish Pastoral Councils:

Your Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC's) met on Wednesday evening to discuss ways forwards for the parishes as partnered parishes.

The first significant outcome is ... we got to know each other and hear a bit about each other's parishes and parish cultures. You might think "so what"? But actually getting to know each other is crucial in building trust and learning to communicate effectively.

The second significant outcome is ... there are a lot of areas where we can work together and we want to discern how to ensure that the possibilities for working together come to fruition.

As a public thank you, I say "Thank you!!!" to all the parish council members and others who came along: it is important work and you have taken a risk to be part of discerning our ways forward. Please say a prayer for all your parish council members.

Archdiocesan Synod

I included some notes a couple of weeks ago. In the time available, is impractical to organise a parish wide or three parishes wide gathering to discuss the three themes set for the Archdiocesan Synod. You can look at the themes by going to [Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](#)

I lieu of a formal gathering of the parishes there are two ways you could give input.

There is a regional gathering to discuss the three theme areas: it is on 8th August (Saturday). We can send two people along: would you like to go? Please let me know: Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au - that meeting is just a week away so please act quickly.

You can go to the online site [Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](#) and read material there and make your own individual or family or small group comments.

This Archdiocesan Synod is important so I encourage participation: please make an effort to look at the themes and make some comment.

Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults

I have half a dozen people interested in joining the Catholic Faith. I will start a program in late September with this group – leading to Baptism and Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil 2027. Currently I am planning this to happen on Saturday afternoons on a weekly basis (excluding school holidays).

Do you know anyone who might like to join this journey? Find out what it means to be Catholic and join the community?

Please: be willing to invite people to join.

Clergy Conference August 10th to 14th and after

Fr Anton and I will be away for the week of 10th to 14th August (though I will return early on the 14th) so there will be no weekday Masses that week. That doesn't change weekend Masses at all.

Then Fr Anton goes on holiday for a month – so you'll be having some different faces in the priests celebrating the Masses from mid-August to mid-September.

Regular Mass Wednesday 6:30 pm

We are getting reasonable attendance by wonderful people for the newly initiated Wednesday evening Mass at 6:30 pm.

Please – tell people about it – invite people to come – I can speak about it and no one hears but if you invite people specifically then maybe soon the Mass will have a much larger base.

Parish Pastoral Council Membership

We've had some changes to membership of our Parish Pastoral Council recently.

People who have served ably and faithfully but have found their call to participate elsewhere: Marcello Diamante, Yvonne Tan and Vera Arief. Thank you for your contribution, your enthusiasm, your ideas and work.

People who have recently agreed to join the Parish Pastoral Council: Brianna Chow, Abraham Prawira, Stephanie Ong. Thank you for agreeing to step forwards and become part of this important body that helps guide the parish forwards in faith.

I am looking for one or two more members so ... if you have an inkling that you'd like to help me guide the parish: let me know: Charles.Balnaves@cam.org.au

God bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention:

For the parents and children and staff and principal and Parish Priest at schools of Ss Peter and Paul East Doncaster and St Pius X West Heidelberg: that the Holy Spirit will guide you as your schools journey towards closure at the end of 2026.

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

THIS WEEK

Sat 6.30pm
Sun 10.30am
Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Agnes Chee, Sharron Wilkinson

MONEY COUNTERS: Lina & Don Pavone

NEXT WEEK

Sat 6.30pm
Sun 10.30am
Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Stephen Ma

MONEY COUNTERS: Marian See, Josie Masters

LECTORS

Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh
Jonathan Gunawan, Gril Job
Jane Ma, Margaret O'Connell

LECTORS

Joseph & Lorna Philip
Sauro Antonelli, Erin Djukiadmodjo
Jane Gunawan, Stephanie Ong

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Sharron Wilkson, Peter Whiting
Nuccia La Roca, Lucy Giardino, Behnaz Behmadi
Judy Ablaza, Alfred Lee
MORNING TEA: Lina & Don
FLOWERS: Le Nguyen

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Frances Cannizzo, Margaret O'Donnell
Lilian Antonelli, Rob Rukavina, Mary Stocco
Mary Tonti-Filippini, Seleana Ong
MORNING TEA: N/A
FLOWERS: Tessa Leung

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

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 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

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:



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

Multicultural DAY



Come in your cultural costumes or colours
Celebrate the vibrant diversity of our community
Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food & fun!

SUNDAY, 9TH AUGUST 2026
FOLLOWING THE 10.30AM MASS

ST GREGORY THE GREAT
PARISH HALL
71 WILLIAMSON'S ROAD
DONCASTER

Event Highlights

ENJOY MULTICULTURAL FOOD AND BEVERAGES
BID ON EXCITING ITEMS IN OUR SILENT AUCTION
PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

RSVP: USE SIGN UP SHEETS AT CHURCH, SCAN QR CODE
OR GO TO [HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DNFAI](https://www.trybooking.com/DNFAI)



Memorial Wall Plaques

As in previous years, we will place a parish order for new plaques to be mounted on the wall of the Memorial Garden. Please note that the cost per plaque is \$300.00.

If you wish to place an order, kindly contact the parish office via email at Doncaster@cam.org.au to receive an order form. To ensure timely preparation, we kindly request all orders to be placed by 14th August 2026.



National Vocations Awareness Week – 2 August
Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.



We extend a warm welcome to the families of Danielle Kate Parker, Amanda and Enzo Prasad who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday.

CENSUS 2026



CATHOLIC

Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

The Archbishop's Campaign will commence next weekend. We invite you to reflect on what a vibrant faith community means for you and your family, and to consider making a personal, recurring monthly gift in support of the vital ministries that serve our Archdiocese. From next week, you will notice campaign materials throughout the parish, including posters, envelopes with tear-off pledge cards, a banner on our website, and content across our social media channels. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks; in the meantime, we encourage you to begin prayerfully discerning your support.