

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 FEBRUARY 2026

A TIME OF PREPARATION. The forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness can be likened to the season of Lent. Jesus' time in the wilderness was a time of preparation for his ministry, a time in which he confronted the temptation to choose self and not the Father. For us Lent is a time of preparation for the feast of Easter. It is a time in which we are invited to examine whether the will of God is central to our lives.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

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.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis
Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

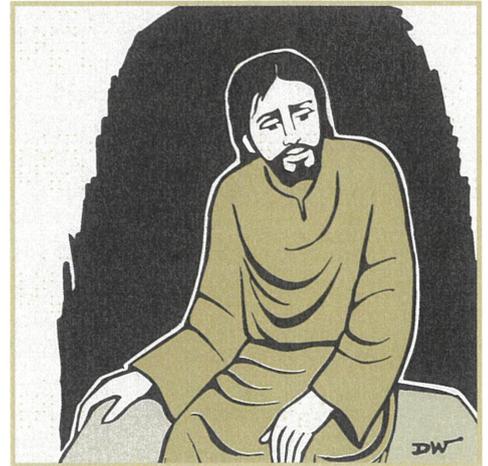
RESP PSALM Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

2. My offences truly I know them; / my sin is always before me. / Against you, you alone have I sinned; / what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**



4. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me. / O Lord, open my lips / and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 5:12, 17-19.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Longer form 5:12-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL Mt 4:1-11

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.

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the
test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

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. Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we
pray, to make these offerings, for with them
we celebrate the beginning of this venerable
and sacred time. 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 1ST 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: 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 4:4

**One does not live by bread alone, but
by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Renewed now with heavenly bread, by
which faith is nourished, hope increased, and
charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that
we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true
and living Bread, and strive to live by every
word which proceeds from your mouth.

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

SELF-CENTRED SEDUCTIONS

As is traditional on the First Sunday of
Lent, the Gospel passage is about Jesus' temptation, an appropriate theme as we
begin our own journey in Lent and begin
to explore our own seductive temptations.
We are all prone to these, and Matthew
presents us with a Jesus similarly tested:
an egoism exclusive of others especially
God, the attraction to power and the
seduction of wealth. These temptations
are crafted in Old Testament terminology
and imagery, particularly present in the
Book of Deuteronomy, and ones that
Israel experienced in the wilderness.

In today's story, Satan enters the scene,
originally a member of the heavenly court
(see Job) but, by the time of Matthew,
God's adversary who tests the intention
and fidelity of those who belong to God.
Jesus is his target in three temptations.
The first is about food and the temptation
to break covenantal fidelity to God due
to hunger. The second seeks to question
Jesus' conviction of God's care of him.
From the parapet of the temple, Jesus is
told to throw himself from it, and test
God's protection of him. In the third, with
a vision of all the earth's kingdoms and
seduction of wealth, Jesus is tempted to
change his allegiance from God to Satan.

Matthew's point is quite clear writing
to a Jewish audience most familiar
with Israel's desert failures: Jesus is an
authentic Jew who belongs to the Israelite
people, knows and experiences their
temptations, but resists the seduction of
egoism, power and wealth in fidelity to
God and his covenantal relationship. In
this first week of Lent, today's Gospel
invites us to reflect on those self-centred
seductions that may compromise our true
relationship to God.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

First Sunday of Lent (A)

21 / 22 February 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 5PM: 8 MARCH, 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:

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Gen 12:1-4, Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22, 2 Tim 1:8-10, Mt 17:1-9

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 Mary S.N Wong, Yuet Sim Chow, Jason Shum, Camilla Banon, Michael Armenio, Elmo Silvapulle, Anna Ziglinis, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Meredith Barnes, Priscilla Cheng, Michael Mullens, Siv Cuasay



and for those who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Manuepillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Gabriele Chiodo, Bruna Nisi, Melana Herawati, Anne & Don McLoughlin

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Words from the desk of the PP:

Masses: My apologies to any who were misled by our mistake on a website advertising a 7 pm Mass time for St Greg's for Ash Wednesday (about 30 people turned up expecting the Mass and I referred them to St Clements).

Such errors are easily made, but we recognise the need to seek to prevent any recurrence.

You will have noticed that we advertised a Mass or two at St Clement of Rome, Bulleen. We are not taking over, Fr Mark, the parish priest, is unexpectedly away for some time and we offered to help out for some Masses. As a result, Fr Anton presided for two Ash Wednesday Masses at St Clements and will provide for a number of parish/school Masses over coming weeks.

I am very glad that we have been able to provide some assistance to St Clements. The fact that such assistance is needed reflects a number of things:

1. The availability of priests to provide help in parishes is on the decline as the retired priests grow older and older (most are retired parish priests so start providing supply in their late seventies; some continue into their nineties). So, we need to be willing to share our time and talents around with nearby parishes.
2. Parish life is getting more complex and pastoral work is becoming more challenging. It is becoming increasingly difficult for a parish priest to manage the needs and still take necessary time off to rebalance and restore physically and spiritually. A difficulty which is causing some parish priests to suffer burnout.
3. There is an on-going need for faithful, available, contagious and teachable lay people to step forwards and where necessary start training and forming as leaders who can take over significant portions of the Parish Priests non-sacramental duties.

Matter to ponder.

Lent:

We have begun yet another Lent: we had a marvellous Ash Wednesday.

Full Lenten regulations are posted on the Notice board – please have a read. Briefly:

- Older than 14 (no upper age): abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- From 18 to 60: fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Everyone prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (in a sensible way) throughout Lent is encouraged.

This year our Sundays of Lent take us on a journey through Jesus' temptation in the wilderness; the transfiguration; the Samaritan woman at the well; the man born blind; and the raising of Lazarus. The reality of temptation in our lives; the glory of Christ present in our lives; the need for conversion at a deep level that changes our lives radically; the reality that we can blind ourselves to Gods' love in our daily lives; possibility for new life amidst the tragedies of life. Wonderful evidence of God's work that bring us along an intentional path into the resurrection of Christ Jesus or Lord. Please come with me on this journey.

God Bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:
For the safety of all who are travelling.

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

THIS WEEK
 Sat 6.00pm Peter Whiting, Frances Cannizzo
 Sun 9.00am Greg Lesmana, Luisa Yambao
 Sun 10.30am Jenny & Brian Tyedin
 Sun 5.00pm Isabelle Hii, Viviana Pereira
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mike Yambao
MONEY COUNTERS: Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson

NEXT WEEK 28 Feb/1 Mar **LECTORS**
 Sat 6.00pm Frank Ryan, Alvin Priyana
 Sun 9.00am Chris Perera, Jacqueline Rogers
 Sun 10.30am Jonathan Gunawan, Gril Job
 Sun 5.00pm Benedicta Wong, Enza Scaffidi
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Agnes Chee, Sharron Wilkinson
MONEY COUNTERS: Don & Lina Pavone

COMMUNION MINISTERS
 Lorna & Joseph Philip
 Tony Nimmo, Mike Yambao
 Tony Ting, Dai Sim, Lucy Giardino
 Seleana Ng, Dot Haynes
MORNING TEA: Brian & Jenny **FLOWERS:** N/A

COMMUNION MINISTERS
 Sharron Wilkinson, Iris O'Farrell
 Margaret Wallace
 Nuccia La Rocca, Rob Rukavina, Maggie Yong
 Mary Tonti-Filippini, Alfred Lee
MORNING TEA: Lunar NY Celebration **FLOWERS:** N/A

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:
 Tue 3rd March, Tue, 5th May,
 Thurs, 29th Oct at 9.30-11.30am

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

School Tours: contact 9848 4483
 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

Lunar New Year Celebrations and Welcoming School Families!
 Parishioners and school families are invited to join us for a BBQ following Mass.
 Sunday, 1st March 10.30am Mass followed by celebrations in the oval
 St Gregory the Great Church, 71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster
Enjoy a special Lion Dance performance!
 We encourage everyone to dress in red or wear their Lunar New Year outfits.
 RSVP: Please use the trybooking link:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DJEJT> or QR Code or via the Sign Up sheet in the Church foyer
Food and Drinks will be provided and outdoor activities for families (weather permitting)
 Please be mindful of food intolerances or allergies as food may contain allergens. Parents and Carers are requested to supervise children at all times

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.

The Young Adults Group extend a warm invitation to all between 18 and 30 to join our gathering in the parish room at 7:30pm on Friday 27th February.
 Dinner will be provided.
 Looking forward to seeing you there!
 Info: doncater@cam.org.au

The Melbourne Octet presents
VIA DOLOROSA
 SACRED MUSIC, PRAYERS AND READINGS
 with the Stations of the Cross
 ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, DONCASTER
 FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026 @7PM

www.melbourneoctet.com

Caritas AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION **First Sunday of Lent 21-22 February 2026** **UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent**

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza. Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.
 Please donate today. 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.*

Enhancing our journey through Lent
Fridays in Lent: Stations of the Cross -7.00pm
Mondays in Lent: Lenten Reflection Group - 7.00pm
Saturday, February 21: Exploring the Fundamentals of the Mass - 10.00am
Thursday, March 5: The Mass - A richer understanding and participation - 7.00pm
Friday, March 13: Melbourne Octet- Via Dolorosa -7.00pm