

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 MARCH 2026

THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. The raising of Lazarus from the dead was a wonderful event. His sisters were overjoyed and many people came to believe in Jesus. But something more wonderful happened in Jesus' own death and resurrection. While Lazarus was restored to his former life, the death of Jesus produces a life that will last forever, a life that we receive in baptism. Let us pray for all who are to be baptised this Easter.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

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. Lord Jesus, you were lifted up to draw all people to yourself: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You shouldered the cross, to bear our suffering and sinfulness: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You open for your people the way from death into life: 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.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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 Ezek 37:12-14

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the

soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 129. R. v. 7

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, / Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be attentive / to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord, who would survive? / But with you is found forgiveness: / for this we revere you. **R.**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord / more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will redeem / from all its iniquity. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 8:8-11

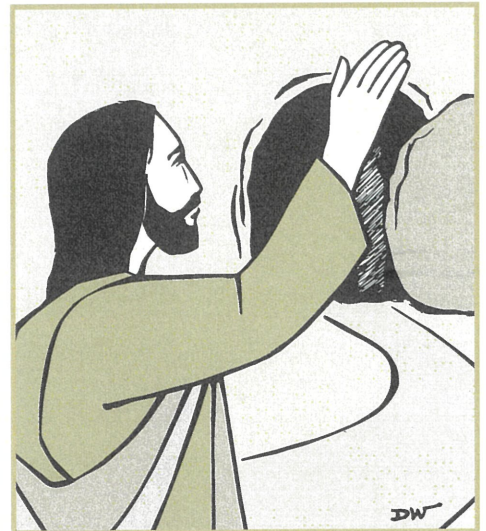
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

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.

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,

and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me. But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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. Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. 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 5TH 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 *cf. Jn 11:26*

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion. 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

OUR SOURCE OF LIFE

As we come to the last Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the central meaning of Jesus' life—his gift of life. The story involves Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary. These are Jesus' friends who are from the village of Bethany. When Jesus gets the message about Lazarus' dire illness, strangely, he does not go immediately to be with them but only after two days have passed.

The evangelist's words at this point link to the story from last Sunday: One 'can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by.' It is this Light, Jesus, that then goes to Bethany, to bring the dead Lazarus to life. The interchange that Jesus has with Martha before he comes to Lazarus' tomb summarises a theology which John wants readers to transcend. Rather than wait for the general resurrection at the end time, Jesus is 'the resurrection and the life' now. Faith in him will bring people to life.

Space prevents a detailed examination of the narrative dynamic at play and the depths of the Gospel's symbolism behind the dialogues, Jesus' weeping, the various reactions to Jesus, Jesus' command to Lazarus to come from the tomb and the order to unbind Lazarus. On this final Sunday in Lent our gaze is squarely on Jesus. He is our source of life, now and into eternity. Today's Gospel invites us into a deeper communion with Jesus, who is 'the resurrection and the life'.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

21/22 March 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 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:

Palm Sunday (A)

Isa 50:4-7, Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Phil 2:6-11, Mt 27:11-54

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 Ivan Peterson, Amy Liu, Ann & Stephen Kennett, Camilla Bannon, Mary S.N Wong, Yuet Sim Chow, Jason Shum, Camilla Banon, Elmo Silvapulle, Anna Ziglinis, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Meredith Barnes, Michael Mullens, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently

Belinda Maniscalco

and for those whose anniversaries occur

about now Manuepillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Maria Ferraro, Giuseppe Cannizzo, Nikola Rukavina, Grazia Gatti, Vera Price, Annie & Dan McLoughlin

Words from the desk of the PP:

Penitential Service:

March 26th at 7:30 pm. At St Greg's.

Communal Prayer and Reflection, Examination of Conscience and Sorrow. With individual absolution available at the end.

Please! Come along and spend a few moments with Jesus as Holy Week approaches. Take this moment to sit with Jesus; with an open heart, offering ourselves to share in his suffering.

Holy Week:

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – and begins our celebration of Holy Week. The calendar of services is up on the notice board and on our website and has been in our bulletin. Please ... clear your Thursday night; Friday afternoon; and Saturday evening or Sunday morning to be part of the full three-day span of our celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

St Charles Borromeo and related matters:

It is now a year since the sad moment of closure of St Charles Borromeo School, so it seems opportune to provide an update.

A process is currently nearing completion whereby the St Charles Borromeo School site will be handed back from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools management into the control of St Kevin's Parish. Current estimates place the handover at around Easter.

Alongside the handover process is preparation of a marketing campaign to identify the best possible use of the site for the future. That process will start in earnest after the handover happens. While we have had some enquiries about different uses for the property, there have been no decisions made about lease or sale or type of future use for the site.

I have been made aware of concerns that the closure of St Charles Borromeo School might raise concerns about other schools and even about the parishes of the area. The reality is that both St Kevin's and St Greg's parishes and their associated schools are robust. There are no concerns about the viability of St Kevin's Templestowe Lower Parish or School, and there are no concerns about the viability of St Gregory the Great Doncaster Parish or school.

Bulleen:

You may have heard that last weekend Fr Mark Reynolds announced his retirement as Parish Priest from St Clement of Rome, Bulleen. He is in our prayers as he enters a new phase of his priestly life. There will now be a process undertaken by the archdiocese to seek a new parish priest.

Holy Week Rosters

Thank you to everyone who has put their names down to assist with the various Holy Week services. There are still some blank spaces for lectors and especially for altar servers so please have a glance and offer your service (or ask you altar server child to serve).

God Bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For each of us who constitute the Parishes of St Greg's and St Kevin's: that we with our communities will become ever more a people who invites others to come to know Jesus.

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

Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh
Margaret Wallace, Chris Perera
Jane Gunawan, Ivonne Gunawan
Isabelle Hii, Stephanie Ong

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mike Yambao

MONEY COUNTERS: Christopher Lim, Josie Masters

NEXT WEEK 28/29 Mar

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

LECTORS

Joseph & Lorna Philip
Tony Nimmo, Paola Villanueva
Anthony Tran, Gril Job
Nat de Silva, Benedicta Wong

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Phil Handang

MONEY COUNTERS: Philip Dunlop

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Noel & Cathy McClelland
Mary Stocco
Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina
Mary Tonti- Filippini, Margaret O'Donnell
MORNING TEA: N/A

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Margaret O'Donnell, Frances Cannizzo
Margaret Wallace
Dai Sim, Lucy Giardino, Mary Stocco
Seleana Ng, Viviana Pereira
MORNING TEA: N/A

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

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

Open Days:

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 Parish Hall and Parish Room are available.
Room bookings can be made: St.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com

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.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE, 26th March

Combined parishes service at St Gregory's
Thursday, 26th March at 7.30pm

Palm Sunday, 28th & 29th March

Saturday (Vigil): 6PM
Sunday: 9AM, 10.30AM & 5PM

Wednesday, 1st April

Weekday Mass: 9AM
Followed by Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration

Holy Thursday, 2nd April

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30PM

Good Friday, 3rd April

Stations of the Cross: 10AM
Passion of Christ: 3PM

Holy Saturday, 4th April

Saturday, Easter Vigil: 8.30PM

Easter Sunday, 5th April

Sunday: 9AM, 10.30AM & 5PM



Parish of
**St Gregory
the Great**

**Holy Week
& Easter
Triduum
Mass Times**

You are invited to experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Liturgy.

71 Williamsons Rd
Doncaster
stgregs.org.au

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

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



Friday, 27th March 2026, 730PM
St Gregory the Great Parish Room
Dinner is provided
Info: doncaster@cam.org.au

Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

You are warmly invited to join us for the annual Chrism Mass, which will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday 31 March, 10AM-12NN. In this ancient and beautiful liturgy, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, together with all of Melbourne's priests, will bless the oils being used in the sacraments for the year ahead.

Our parish community warmly congratulates the students of St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This important step in their faith journey is a beautiful reminder of God's mercy, forgiveness, and love. We pray that these young members of our parish continue to grow in faith, guided by the grace they received in this sacrament. We thank the families and teachers who supported and prepared the students for this special moment. May God bless them as they continue their journey in faith.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent
21/22 March 2026**

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent



Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

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.*

