

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2026

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? Jesus asks his disciples this question in today's Gospel. He asks us the same question. He is not seeking a textbook response or for us to repeat what others have said about him. He wants to hear our personal response. May we answer his question as truthfully as possible, and then listen as he speaks to us.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Ps 85:1-3

**Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.**

**Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to
you all the day long.**

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 have revealed yourself as
the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You have poured out on your people the
Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to
eternal 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.

GLORIA

**Glorify 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. O God, who cause the minds of the
faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant
your people to love what you command and
to desire what you promise, that, amid the
uncertainties of this world, our hearts may
be fixed on that place where true gladness is
found. 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 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I place the key of the House of David upon his
shoulder:*

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the
master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

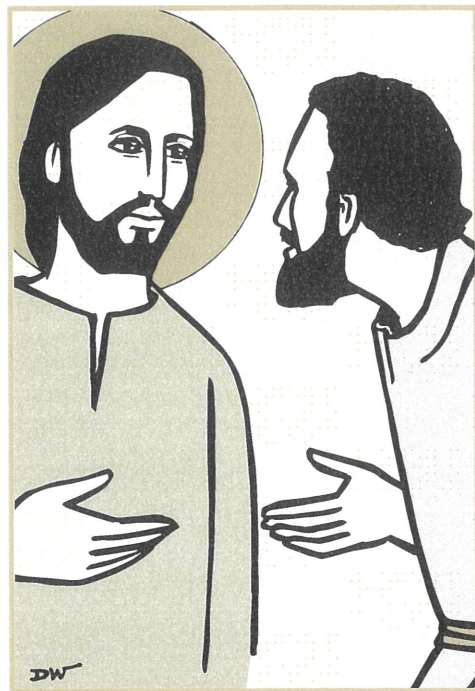
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

**R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, /
you have heard the words of my mouth. /
Before the angels I will bless you. / I will
adore before your holy temple. **R.**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and
love / which excel all we ever knew of you. /
On the day I called, you answered; / you
increased the strength of my soul. **R.**



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the
lowly / and the haughty he knows from
afar. / Your love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard
not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

*From him, through him, and in him are all
things.*

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his
wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible
to penetrate his motives or understand his
methods! Who could ever know the mind of
the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?
Who could ever give him anything or lend
him anything? All that exists comes from
him; all is by him and for him. To him be
glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16:18

**Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock
on which I will build my Church / the
gates of hell will not hold out against it. /
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20

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.

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the
kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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. O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. 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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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. Ps 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please 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 in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Who is Jesus? What would I want to say to him? Today's Gospel brings us to one of the most important questions posed by the evangelist to the Gospel's audience – and to us: Who is Jesus for us?

Jesus first asks the disciples about the gossip circulating concerning him and who they believe him to be. Their response reflects how the disciples understand Jesus and how they will follow him as they draw closer to Jerusalem, the city where Jesus' ministry will conclude in his death and resurrection. The disciples respond to Jesus' question as to what others say about him: He is John the Baptist, or Elijah who will return at the end of time, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asks them, 'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter, speaking for the group, acknowledges Jesus as 'the Christ', the Greek for the Hebrew word 'Messiah', literally 'the anointed one'. Jesus is God's emissary anointed with the Spirit. Jesus affirms Peter's response as divinely inspired and declares that Peter – *Petros*, 'rock' – will be the foundation or 'rock-base' for the growth of the Jesus movement.

For Matthew's audience, this is an affirmation of the movement's authority through time and history. It is within this graced community that we gather today. As contemporary followers of Jesus, we are invited to give our response personally and communally as to Jesus' identity: Who do you, who do we say Jesus is? Our response will shape how we act, with whom we engage and the kind of community of Jesus' followers we will be.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

22/23 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: 13 September, 11 October

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time / A

Jer 20:7-9, Ps 62:2-6, 8-9, Rom 12:1-2, Mt 16:21-27

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

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Terry Morton 0402 307 384

Please pray for: Those who are **sick** at this time including Jasbir Sheridan, Elmo Silvapulle, Michael Mullens, Meredith Barnes, Mike Yambao, Caroline Tang, John Green, Sunny Boy Pereira, Anna Ziglinis, 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 Carmela Giordano, Giovanni Li Rosi, Elias

Pereira, Tony Aloï, Biagio Doddato



In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers

Words from PP

Archbishop's Collection

Thank you for your generosity. It is not too late to give. Envelopes / brochures / QR -code are in the gathering space for you. Please be generous if you haven't already done so.

This is an important collection – helping our archdiocese flourish.

Adults: Coming to Faith

Who do you know who is seeking to journey in faith. Maybe they can join the RCIA program heading for Easter 2027. Ask them, let them know the office email (doncaster@cam.org.au) or give me their contact number.

Our Schools

Please keep our Catholic Schools in your prayers. There is a large upheaval going. Our teachers will gain a well-deserved pay rise flowing from the results for government school teachers. This rise results in a major funding shortfall for independent schools including Catholic schools. In light of this particularly, but also other budget impacts, all school and the MACS corporate structure are being required to significantly reduce their budgets with significant consequences. As a rule in future, minimum class sizes will be 25 students, resulting in changes to staffing levels and, in some cases, joining of grades. Funds for Catholic schools come from the Federal Government. The next scheduled funding adjustment is not until 2029. While there is a lot of advocacy being done to seek additional government assistance, it is essential to move now to manage the shortfall so that our teachers and principals can receive a fair wage. As I said: keep our schools in your prayers.

Safeguarding

We are very well advanced in our Safeguarding culture and compliance – kudos to all of you for helping us get to such an excellent situation.

But ... !!!

Time can get away from us – there are renewals needed for WWCCs and training and such: have a look at your status and make sure you stay up to date. Often we will remind you of needs as well, but your vigilance is important too.

Based on recent advice I need to let you know: if we've gone longer than six months seeking for you to get a WWCC or other compliance needs and you aren't up to date, I will have to ask you to step aside from your ministry until you are compliant. This reflects the requirements of Victorian Law and Archdiocesan requirements. I do not want to take such a step but please be aware that it will come if you are not compliant soon.

Alpha

August 26th – for Adults 18 and up.

August 28th – for children (13-17) and parents as needed.

Both sessions have critical mass and are proceeding (Praise the Lord – Alleluia!!!)

But we have plenty of spare space for more people.

Look around you with fresh eyes and see the people you know who may benefit from coming to a closer friendship with Jesus the Christ.

New Audio System

I am very happy with the new Audio system – primarily because of all the positive comments I received last weekends – but also because after the full 'tuning' of the system to the room, it sounds even better – and it has come in about 5% under budget. Thank you to Hanson Associates and Mozaix, the companies who did the work. It is simple to use: turn on an iPad, press the icon named "Mass" and 23 seconds later the system is on and awesome.

God bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention:

Our school system is going through significant funding challenges – we pray the Holy Spirit will guide all leaders in this difficult time.

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: Mike Yambao

MONEY COUNTERS: Don & Lina Pavone

LECTORS

Frank Ryan, Benedicta Wong
Franklin Shepherdson, Ivonne Gunawan
Isabelle Hii, Alvin Priyana

NEXT WEEK

Sat 6.30pm
Sun 10.30am
Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Phil Handang

MONEY COUNTERS: Philip Dunlop

LECTORS

Joseph & Lorna Philip
Tony Ting, Gril Job
Nat de Silva, Dot Haynes

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Sharron Wilkinson
Dai Sim, Luci Giardino, Nuccia La Rocca
Viviana Pereira, Margaret O'Donnell
MORNING TEA: Lisa and Karen
FLOWERS: Mary Piccoli

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Margaret O'Donnell, Frances Cannizzo
Behnaz Behmadi, Mary Stocco, Erin Djukiadmodjo
Seleana Ng, Mary Tonti Filippini
MORNING TEA: N/A
FLOWERS: Irene Dharmawan

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

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

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 YOUTH

13- 17 YEARS OF AGE

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 6.30PM
FROM 28TH AUGUST TO 16TH OCTOBER
AT ST GREGORY THE GREAT
71 WILLIAMSONS RD, DONCASTER

REGISTER VIA QR CODE:



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

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends.

Volunteers Needed

Church Flowers Ministry

We are seeking volunteers to help with arranging and preparing flowers for our church. This is a beautiful way to serve the parish and contribute to the prayerful atmosphere of our liturgies.

Care of the Church

We are seeking volunteers to assist with the care of our church. This may include light cleaning, tidying, and helping to keep our sacred space welcoming and prayerful for all who enter.

No experience is required—just a willing heart and a little time. If you are interested on any of the roles or would like more information, please contact the parish office 03 94128425 or doncaster@cam.org.au.

We are grateful for our volunteers who have dedicated their time and support throughout these years:

Church Flowers Ministry: Geraldina D, Mary P, Tessa L, Irene D, Le N.

Care of Church: Mary W, Stephen M, Agnes C, Sharron W, Phil H and Mike Y.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Come and encounter Jesus through the Blessed Sacrament

Friday,
4th September
7PM Start

WORSHIP
TESTIMONY
ADORATION
FELLOWSHIP

All Are
Welcome

St Gregory the Great Church
71 Williamsons Road, Doncaster
Info: doncaster@cam.org.au

Volunteer Walking Companion Needed

We are seeking a kind volunteer to accompany an elderly woman for a weekly walk. This would provide companionship, support and the opportunity to enjoy some fresh air together.

If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Office.

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, 28 August 2026, 7:15PM
St Gregory the Great Parish Room
Dinner is provided
Info: doncaster@cam.org.au