

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JANUARY 2026

JESUS, OUR LIGHT. At times we can find ourselves 'walking in darkness.' We get caught up in difficulties and cannot see a way out. Today's liturgy reminds us that Jesus is our light and our salvation. As with the first disciples, he calls us to follow him. In the Gospels we have the Good News that brings light into the dark moments of our lives.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *cf. Ps 95:1, 6*

**O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.**

## 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, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. 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 8:23–9:3*

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.*

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

**The word of the Lord.**

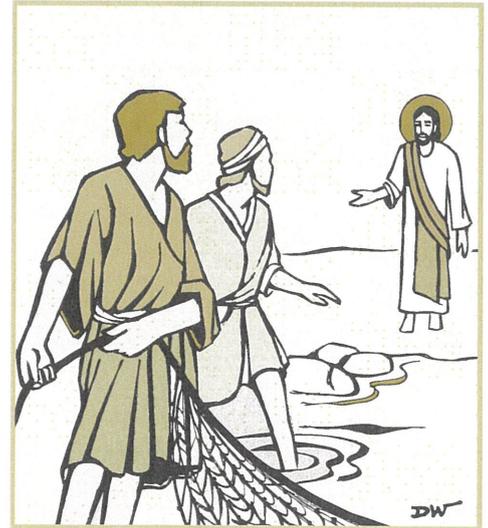
**R. Thanks be to God.**

RESP PSALM *Ps 26:1, 4, 13–14. R.v.1*

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; / whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, / for this I long, / to live in the house of the Lord, / all the days of my life, / to savour the sweetness of the Lord, / to behold his temple. **R.**



3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness / in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! **R.**

SECOND READING *1 Cor 1:10–13, 17*

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

*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Mt 4:23*

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!**

GOSPEL *Mt 4:12–23*

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.**

*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! /  
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, /  
Galilee of the nations! / The people that  
lived in darkness / has seen a great light; /  
on those who dwell in the land and shadow  
of death / a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Shorter form: 4: 12-17*

## 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. Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and  
in sanctifying them grant that they may profit  
us for salvation. 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: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by  
your Cross and Resurrection you have set  
us free.**

### 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 33:6

**Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that,  
receiving the grace by which you bring us to  
new life, we may always glory in your gift.

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 the Holy  
Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your  
life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

#### REPENT

Last Sunday's Gospel from John, though  
critically important for our spiritual  
reflection, seemed unusual in this year of  
Matthew. So, today, we return to Matthew.  
In the past two Sundays, John the Baptist  
has been central in the Gospel selections.  
Today he is no longer with us, having  
been arrested. Our focus is squarely now  
on Jesus. He moves from his hometown of  
Nazareth to Capernaum. Both towns are  
on the fringe. The first, Nazareth, is the  
symbolic place of exile in Matthew. When  
Mary, Joseph and Jesus returned from  
Egypt they could not go back to their  
hometown of Bethlehem because of the  
vengeful ruling presence of Herod's son  
Archelaus. They go to live in Galilee, to  
Nazareth. They, like the Israelites several  
centuries earlier, are in exile. It is from  
here that the rest of Matthew unfolds.

Jesus next moves to Capernaum located  
geographically close to pagan and Gentile  
territories. It is a fishing village and a  
taxation collection centre at the crossroads  
of two major E-W and N-S highways. It is  
here that Jesus proclaims the great clarion  
cry in the Gospel: 'Repent, for the kingdom  
of heaven is close at hand' (4:17). This cry  
'to repent' (Greek *metanoia*) is an urge to  
have an openness of heart. It comes with  
a conviction that God is already present  
and active in the world ('the kingdom of  
heaven is close at hand').

Finally, after Jesus calls four fishermen  
to be his first disciples, our Gospel  
proclamation ends with a note about  
Jesus' teaching and healing ministry.  
The first-called disciples will model for  
Matthew's audience how to be repentant  
and live out the conviction of God's  
presence in their lives and world.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

## Third Sunday in the Ordinary Time (A)

### 24/25 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: 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:

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13, Ps 145: 7-1, 1 Cor 1: 26-31,

Mt 5:1-12

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

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

**Being Welcoming:** I love that we have people at the start of each Mass saying hello to people as they arrive and provide them with a Bulletin. Thank you and keep it up! And I love the morning teas that we have and the various social functions we organise to build community. Thank you, and thank you.

Two recent interactions tell me we have more to do and I'd like your help to progress further.

Last weekend – there was a new couple I met: just arrived from overseas and settling in Australia – I was the only one to greet them.

A little while ago over dinner with a family here since before Covid they said no-one had ever tried to greet them and welcome them beyond a hello.

We get new people at Mass every week. Please look around and see who you don't know and politely go to them and say hello. Sometimes people are visitors – they need welcoming with a smile and a thank. Sometimes people have moved into the area. A hello is a good start. Maybe, without being intrusive, ask a little more, share something of yourself – listen for things they may need; talk about the parish – be sociable, be willing to refer them to me or the office for help or be willing to commit to help them get settled in the parish - if they wish.

Your welcome makes a difference! Is it always easy? I don't find so, I am not a natural. I know personally though that being present when someone arrives, saying hello, chatting a little changes people's experience of Jesus. They remember the welcome, even decades later.

We have new people arriving because they move into the area. As Alpha grows (we will have over 40 guests for the Alpha starting on 28<sup>th</sup> January), we will have people coming new to our faith. Alpha is a start; new members will then need to grow to become part of our community and know deeply that they belong to our community. Your welcome plays a part helping them belong.

Please, look around you each week. Identify someone you don't know – and go up and say hi, and see where it takes you. To be welcoming in this broad way is to be Christ for others.

**Thank you:** To those who helped with clearing leaves/branches on Saturday morning we achieved a good result.

**Finance:** The parish Finance Group met this past week discussing: the budget for 2026 (the parish is in a healthy position though the loss of income through the cancellation of the Columbarium changes the balance sheet somewhat); the upgrade of the sound system (this has been in preparation for quite some time and we now have a solid quote); the Thanksgiving results (we now have a full year's data since the campaign in late 2024 and we seem to have only about a 10% uplift compared to the 36% we anticipated, we are investigating why this surprising drop.)

*God bless, Fr Charles.*

**Please pray for:** Those who are **sick** at this time including Katica Puhaj, Camilla Banon, Margaret Gillespie, Michael Armenio, Elmo Silvapulle, Anna M, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethampakdee, Phaisan Luethampakdee, Priscilla Cheng, Michael Mullens, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay

**and for those who died recently** Margaret Gillespie, Michael Lui, Jocelyn Tarabay, Chong Yam Tay, Christine Scatena **and for those whose anniversaries occur about now** Manuelpillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Frank Mân, Brother Gunn, Giuseppe Verrocchi, Benito Pegorin, Nikola Rukavina



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For a 'Damascus Road' conversion for all leaders of countries around the world: that they will find their way to accepting the guidance of the Holy Spirit towards peace.

*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**

Frank Ryan, Alvin Priyana  
 Chris Perera  
 Anthony Tran, Ivonne Gunawan  
 Nat de Silva, Enza Scaffidi

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Agnes Chee, Sharron Wilkinson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson**NEXT WEEK 31/1 Feb**

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

**LECTORS**

Peter Whiting, Gerard O'Donnell  
 Tony Nimmo, Paola Villanueva  
 Gril Job, Sauro Antonelli  
 Thomas Ong, Jane Ma

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Stephen Ma**MONEY COUNTERS:** Philip Dunlop, Christopher Lim**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**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Sharron Wilkinson, Iris O'Farrell  
 Margaret Wallace  
 Maggie Yong, Mary Stocco, Erin Djukiadmodjo  
 Margaret O'Donnell, Alfred Lee

**MORNING TEA:** N/A**FLOWERS:** Julie Barlow

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**

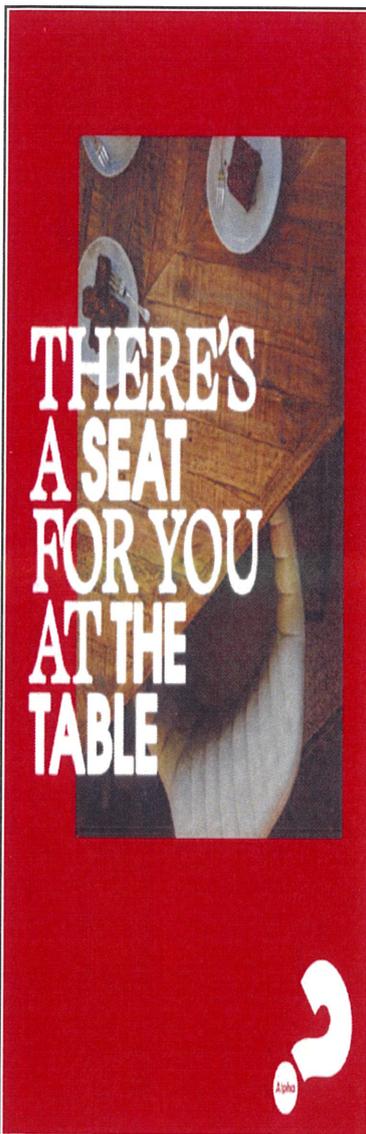
(03) 9848 4483 principal@sgdconcaster.catholic.edu.au

For School Tours and Open Days visit

sgdconcaster.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

**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 Herlihs 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

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Scan this code with your phone camera and donate directly to our church. Choose Payment for Church Donations. It's simple and secure.

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Use our Eftpos Machine located in the church Narthex. You can donate with: a debit/credit card. It's simple and secure.

We are all different and God relates to each of us differently. Spiritual direction/companionship helps us to explore how God is speaking to us.

Terry Morton is a certified spiritual director and would be pleased to accompany parishioners on this journey - either in person or on-line.

Contact: 0402 307 384



**Morning Tea Roster:** In February 2026, we resume morning tea after the Sunday 10.30am Mass and we warmly invite volunteers to host after Mass. Hosting is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and deepen your involvement in our vibrant parish community. We would love you to be one of our small team of hosts. Please sign up on the roster on the noticeboard in the foyer.

Any questions, please call Karen on 0412 402 426.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

**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)

**Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 1 February at the 10:30am Mass.**

**The next Youth Mass will be held on Sunday 8 February. Youth and Young Adults are warmly invited to volunteer and assist at the 5:00pm Mass.**

A Lubitz piano is available and seeking a new home. If you are interested or would like more details, please contact **Mary Stocco** 0412742657.