

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / A

28 DECEMBER 2025

FLEE TO EGYPT. The Gospel of Matthew highlights the many difficulties faced by Mary and Joseph before and after the birth of Jesus. But Matthew highlights also the abiding presence of God, who is with them on every step of their journey. We see in these early episodes what Jesus will make explicit at the end of the Gospel: 'And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

#### ENTRANCE ANTIphon

Lk 2:16

**The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the  
Infant lying in a manger.**

#### GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our  
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**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 came to gather the nations  
into the peace of God's kingdom: Lord have  
mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You come in word and in sacrament to  
strengthen us and make us holy: Christ have  
mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You will come again in glory with salvation  
for your people: 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  
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 were pleased to give us  
the shining example of the Holy Family,  
graciously grant that we may imitate them in  
practising the virtues of family life and in the  
bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your  
house, delight one day in eternal rewards.  
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

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Sirach

*Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children,  
and upholds the rights of a mother over her  
sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for  
his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone  
amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy  
with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.  
Long life comes to him who honours his

father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing  
obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,  
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him  
sympathy.

do not despise him in your health and  
strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be  
forgotten

but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

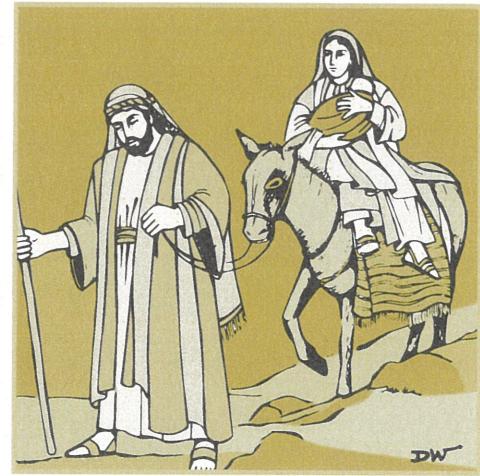
Ps 127:1-5. R. cf. v.1

**R. Happy are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways.**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. **R.**



3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! **R.**

#### SECOND READING

Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Colossians

*Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints;  
he loves you and you should be clothed  
in sincere compassion, in kindness and  
humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with  
one another; forgive each other as soon as a  
quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you;  
now you must do the same. Over all these  
clothes, to keep them together and complete  
them, put on love. And may the peace of  
Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for  
this that you were called together as parts of  
one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its  
richness, find a home with you. Teach each  
other, and advise each other, in all wisdom.  
With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and  
hymns and inspired songs to God; and never  
say or do anything except in the name of the  
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father  
through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you  
should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives  
and treat them with gentleness. Children, be  
obedient to your parents always, because that  
is what will please the Lord. Parents, never  
drive your children to resentment or you will  
make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Col 3:15,16

**Alleluia, alleluia! / May the peace of  
Christ rule in your hearts, / and the  
fullness of his message live within you. /  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mt 2:13–25, 19–23

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.**

*Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.*

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

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

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.

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, II OR III OF THE NATIVITY

*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

Bar 3:38

**Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly

Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world,

we may share their company for ever. 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

### LIVING OUT ISRAEL'S HISTORY

With today's feast we return to one of Matthew's special heroes, Joseph. As we have already seen, Matthew's Joseph is like the Old Testament patriarchal figure—he is a 'dreamer' who leads God's family. In this Gospel Joseph has a dream, a privileged religious experience of divine communication. In this dream, an angel, the Gospel's representation of the presence of God, appears and again directs Joseph. This time it is to escape into Egypt; Herod is out to execute the child Jesus. Like ancient Israel through the Old Testament story of the other Joseph who goes to Egypt, Matthew's Joseph leads Mary and the child into Egypt and safety, paralleling the story of Israel.

For Matthew, Jesus is the symbolic representation of Israel's story and sums up in his being the desire of God to free the people from disaster. After Herod dies, Joseph—perhaps now an insomniac!—gets another dream to go back to Israel. Instead of returning to his hometown, which in Matthew is Bethlehem, he takes the family 'into exile' to Nazareth because of the murderous intent of Herod's son, Archelaus. In this last movement, Jesus completes the cycle of Israel's story—being called, to Egypt, to the exodus and finally, into exile. It is from this perspective that the rest of Matthew's Gospel unfolds. The evangelist, writing to Jewish followers of Jesus, is keen to show how Jesus is a true Israelite, living out Israel's history.

Two things might be reflectively helpful for the contemporary family: God always accompanies the family of Jesus in its journey, no matter where it leads; trust one's dream. God can communicate in different and, sometimes, unpredictable ways.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (A)

### 27/28 December 2025

#### 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)

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:

Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Isa 60:1-6, Ps 71:1-2, 7-13, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

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](mailto:principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au)

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

**Please pray for:** Those who are **sick** at this time including Elmo Silvapulle, Anna M, Anna Ng, Monia Iaconi, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Phaisan Luethamphakdee, Priscilla Cheng, Marleen Liu, Amy Liu, Chantal Wong, Christopher Wong, Ximena Simian, Nik & Somaratna, Michael Mullens, Bob Uehlha, Carmel Aloi, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Manuelpillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Carmelinda Spina, Sergio Basile, Ignatius See, Tricia Celestial, Yap Huat Goon, Lee Kim Heok, Kristanto Winoto



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

More words—it seems as though I just finished the Christmas words—oh, of course, I did, now, I am casting my mind, my thoughts, my heart to the future—the time after Jesus' birth.

As with Christmas Day, I don't have a lot of parish news—the doings of the year have wound down and will pick up again in late January or in February. Parish life is slowing. Perhaps time for a few breaths. Maybe a few moments for reflection will be given.

A couple of thoughts / reflections:

Untitled Poem 2, by Joyce Balnaves (yes, my mother).

There sprung from day to night  
A lightling star which, shining bright  
Drew from some shepherds gasps of fear  
For something unknown called them near  
A stable, poor but warm with love—  
A babe lit by that star above.  
What grace was this that made them kneel  
In wonder at the power to feel  
This moment fixed for all of time  
No matter where or what the clime?  
Now is the hour for joy to reign  
For hope can conquer all our pain.  
New life to come and others spared  
Are part of fifty years we shared.  
We're blessed because we have each other,  
Kith and kin, sister and brother.  
And therefore let the bells bright mirth  
Proclaim to all our saviour's birth.

Every so often I go back to a slim blue volume of poems penned by my mother. In part, to remember her. In part to seek, and often find, inspiration. As is the wont of poets she was able to create a image beautifully and sometimes found words, such as 'lightling' that don't exist except that they do exist for this particular scansion that is needed, and works. And to weave personal life into the story of salvation (50 years shared is my parents lives together, to choose just one weaving).

I read this poem and marvel at the way my mother had the reality of the birth of Christ and the truth of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph intertwined into the fabric of her existence. And I am reminded of how much this influenced my growing up and my life ever since.

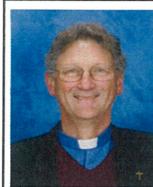
It is this 'making personal' of our life with Christ that will lead us to deeper and deeper intimacy with God. St John of the Cross says that only love can make the soul pleasing to God:

My soul is occupied,  
And all my substance is at his service;  
Now I guard no flock,  
Nor have I any other employment:  
My sole occupation is love.

Each of us is called to embark upon the journey my mother speaks of in poetry. Each of us is called to seek that our sole occupation is love. This is a journey for each of us. Similar to everyone else in that we follow Christ so that we can enter into the Father's love. But at the same time utterly unique because your journey is ... YOUR journey, and mine is mine.

Let us join the shepherd in praise and join Mary in pondering in our hearts.

*God bless, Fr Charles.*



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For all who are travelling and holidaying: that they will journey safely and relax into the arms of a loving God and family.

**THIS WEEK**

Sat 6.00pm Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh  
 Sun 9.00am Philip Dunlop,  
 Sun 10.30am Ivonne Gunawan, Amanda Stefanovski  
 Sun 5.00pm Mary Toni Filippini, Enza Scaffidi  
**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Agnes Chee  
**MONEY COUNTERS:** Marian See, Christopher Lim

**LECTORS**

Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh  
 Philip Dunlop,  
 Ivonne Gunawan, Amanda Stefanovski  
 Mary Toni Filippini, Enza Scaffidi

**NEXT WEEK 3/4 Jan**  
**MONEY COUNTERS:** Marian See, Christopher Lim

**LECTORS**

Noel & Cathy McClelland  
 Jacqueline Rogers, Philip Dunlop  
 Erin Djukadiromo, Sauro Antonelli  
 Jane Ma, Gerard O'Donnell  
**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Mary Wilson  
**MONEY COUNTERS:** Philip Dunlop, Greg Lesmana

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Noel & Cathy McClelland  
 Katica Puhaj  
 Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina  
 Dot Haynes, Seleana Ng  
**MORNING TEA:** N/A

**FLOWERS:** Irene Dharmawan

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Sharron Wilkinson, Iris O'Farrell  
 Margaret Wallace  
 Nuccia La Rocca, Behnaz Mahdi, Lilian Antonelli  
 Alfred Lee, Margaret O'Donnell

**MORNING TEA:** N/A

**FLOWERS:** Geraldina Donato

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

We invite all parishioners to take note of the holiday Mass timetable below as we gather to celebrate and welcome the New Year.

**New Year's Eve Mass** – 31 December at 6:00 PM

**New Year's Day Mass** – 1 January at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

**Lourdes Day Mass**

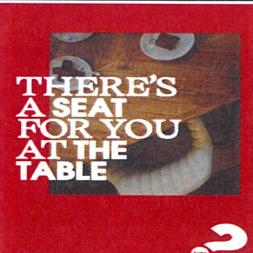
Parishioners are invited to attend the annual Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Saturday, 14th February 2026 at 10.30am. This is a special occasion to pray for our sick, infirm and elderly and those who care for them. The principal celebrant at the Mass will be His Grace, Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

Tell your friends about the Mass, especially those who aren't well. In fact, bring them along. A poster about the Mass is on display in the narthex of the Church.

**Alpha will begin on the 28th January at 6.30PM.**

For more info or to register please contact:

Doncaster@cam.org.au or Templestowe@cam.org.au

**St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School**

For School Tours and Open Days visit [sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au](http://sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au)

**Parish Facilities:** The Tennis Club Room and Courts and the Hall and the Parish Room are available. Room bookings can be made:

[St.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com](mailto:St.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com)

(03) 9848 4483 [principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@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. 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.

**Children's Liturgy**

Please note that Children's Liturgy will be on break from Sunday, 28th of December. We will resume on Sunday, 2nd of February. We thank our children, parents, and volunteers for their continued support and look forward to welcoming everyone back in February.

**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](mailto: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, Connie A

**Care of Church:** Stephen M, Mary W, Agnes C, Carole T, Boris K, Mike Y, Phil H

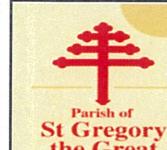
**Sacramental Preparation Classes**

Catholic children who do not attend our parish school are invited to participate in programs to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation.

For further information parents may contact the parish office on 9412 8425 or by email on [margaretodonnel@gmail.com](mailto:margaretodonnel@gmail.com)

There will be an information session on Tuesday, 17th February at 4.30pm in St Gregory's Parish Church. Specific details for celebrating each sacrament will be made available at that meeting.

Please bring this information to the attention of any families you know who may wish to avail of this opportunity.

**Monthly****YOUTH MASS**

*Youth and Young Adults led Mass*

**EVERY SECOND  
SUNDAY OF EACH  
MONTH AT 5PM**

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026  
8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026  
8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026  
12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**All are Welcome**

**More information:**

St Gregory the Great Parish  
 71 Williamson's Rd, Doncaster  
 03 9412 8425 [Doncaster@cam.org.au](mailto:Doncaster@cam.org.au)  
[stgregs.org.au](http://stgregs.org.au)

