

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY / A

29 MARCH 2026

THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. We see ourselves in the crowds who cried 'Hosanna to the Son of David' one day and 'Crucify him' just a few days later. Like Peter and the other disciples we can be fickle followers of Jesus. We should not, however, imitate Judas and despair at our infidelity. Rather, we should look to Jesus who allowed his blood to be poured out for many 'for the forgiveness of sins'. Let us praise him with grateful hearts.

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

THE PROCESSION

The faithful, carrying palm branches, assemble either in front of the church or inside the church.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Jn 12:1; Ps 23:9-10

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

The Gloria is omitted.

COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. 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 50:4-7

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I did not cover my face against insult and
I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied, he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R. v. 2

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. / They curl their lips, they toss their heads. / 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him: / let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

2. Many dogs have surrounded me, / a band of the wicked beset me. / They tear holes in my hands and my feet, / I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

3. They divide my clothing among them. / They cast lots for my robe. / O Lord, do not leave me alone, / my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren / and praise you where they are assembled. / 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; / all sons of Jacob, give him glory. / Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! / Christ became obedient for us even to death, / dying on the cross. / Therefore God raised him on high / and gave him a name above all other names. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



GOSPEL

Mt 27:11-54

N. The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

(N. Narrator J. Jesus O. Other single speaker C. Crowd, or more than one other speaker)

N. Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question:

O. Are you the king of the Jews?

N. Jesus replied:

J. It is you who say it.

N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:

O. Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

N. But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

O. Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?

N. For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,

O. Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

N. The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:

O. Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

N. They said:

C. Barabbas.

N. Pilate said to them:

O. What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?

N. They all said:

C. Let him be crucified!

N. Pilate asked:

O. Why? What harm has he done?

N. But they shouted all the louder,

C. Let him be crucified!

N. Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said:

O. I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.

N. And the people, to a man, shouted back:

C. His blood be on us and on our children!

N. Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying:

C. Hail, king of the Jews!

N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed

the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:

C. So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!

N. The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:

C. He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God'.

N. Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

J. Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

N. That is: 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:

C. The man is calling on Elijah,

N. and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:

C. Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.

N. But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

All kneel and pause a moment.

N. At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people.

Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:

C. In truth this was a son of God.

Longer form, Mt 26:14-27:66

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

P. Pray, brethren . . .

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. Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

PREFACE OF THE LORD'S PASSION

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God . . .

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 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, just as through the death of your Son you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call. 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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Palm Sunday (A) 28/29 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:

Easter Sunday (A)

Acts 10:34, 37-43, Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Col 3:1-4, Jn 20:1-9

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

and for those who died recently Teresita Castro, Antonina Bennardo

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Manuepillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Aiko Okae, Annie & Don McLoughlin, Michele Bains, Tanya Balnaves, Jane Balnaves, Serge Staneshewski, Pietro Tomasello

Words from the desk of the PP:

Holy Week:

A busy week coming up – a glorious week – please join us for all of the services from the Last Supper / Washing of the Feet through to the Resurrection.

It has taken a lot of work for a lot of people to prepare – please, keep all the volunteers in our parish in your prayers.

Baptism/Confirmation – of 'The Elect'

With links to both parishes, we have James and Sok who will be received, baptised, confirmed during the Easter Vigil at St Greg's.

We also now have about six people who have expressed an interest for the next journey into faith leading to baptism at Easter in 2027.

Please – keep all these people in your prayers.

Joint Parishes Assembly:

At the instigation of both Parish Pastoral Councils, a small group of myself with John, Gerard, Peter and Sauro has now met four times to discuss how we might help bring 'The Synodal Way' into a clearer light. We are particularly thinking of a Parishes Assembly – both parishes meeting for a few hours to develop some meaningful ways forwards for our parishes and to do so using a 'synodal' way of discussing and praying.

We're not sure of the details yet but are progressing on the way – we don't want a 'talk fest' but a useful gathering that begins us on the first steps of understanding what it means to live and work in a synodal way.

Tentative date: The evening of May 21st with dinner included – at a nice venue.

Please put aside the date and time. We'll help with transport if needed.

The Holy Spirit is Moving:

It was obvious on Wednesday evening as the team leading Alpha discussed the end of the current experience and the plans for the next one (August to October) we think.

We had a dozen people we think would be interested in joining to help lead Alpha in future. Not sure yet. But if that pans out we begin to have extra people to help lead other things.

Along side Alpha I've had two suggestions of ways to engage further with our faith.

A Day with the Holy Spirit – tentatively set for 23rd May – a day to hear about the Holy Spirit, to pray with the Holy Spirit, to be filled with the Holy Spirit – open to everyone St Greg's and St Kevin's at least and probably more parishes..

A 'mini-Alpha' with the parents and children of the Children's Liturgy participants – that's the St Greg's side but .

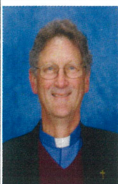
And we've already had the 5 pm Mass at St Greg's once a month taken up by the youth and young adults from across both parishes providing all the music, singing, readers, and so forth for the mass (with attendance up at over 200 each time so far). And new musicians at St Kevin's bringing an additional dimension to our liturgies with their voices, flute and guitar.

The Holy Spirit is busy! Jesus is alive! Be ready to be surprised.

New Ministers Assisting with Holy Communion:

Thank you to the wonderful numbers of you who offered to become ministers assisting with Holy Communion – time did not work to be available before Easter to get set up to give training for the overall ministry and specifically for distribution of the Blood of Christ. I am hopeful we can arrange training after Easter and introduce this practice before Pentecost.

God Bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For those who have just completed the Alpha Experience: that their experience will fire them from within to grow more and more deeply in love with Jesus and willing to accept the Holy Spirit.

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

THIS WEEK

LECTORS

Sat 6.00pm Joseph & Lorna Philip
Sun 9.00am Tony Nimmo, Paola Villanueva
Sun 10.30am Anthony Tran, Gril Job
Sun 5.00pm Nat de Silva, Benedicta Wong

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Phil Handang

MONEY COUNTERS: Philip Dunlop

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Margaret O'Donnell, Frances Cannizzo
Margaret Wallace
Dai Sim, Lucy Giardino, Mary Stocco
Seleana Ng, Viviana Pereira

MORNING TEA: N/A

HOLY WEEK

LECTOR

Thurs 6.00pm Holy Thursday Aditya Hendarto, Gril Job
Fri 3.00pm Good Friday **1st Reading:** Liam Taylor
2nd Reading: Erin Djukiadmodjo
Passion: Chris Perera, Frances Cannizzo, Paola Villanueva
Veneration of the Cross: Sauro & Lilian Antonelli, Margaret & Gerald O'Donnell, Fred & Agnes Fulia

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Sauro Antonelli, Behnaz Behmadi, Margaret O'Donnell
Behnaz Behmadi, Adi Hendarto, Iris O'Farrell, David Perrin, Tony Ting

Sat 6.30pm Easter Vigil Adi Hendarto, Karen Chay
Aidan Leung, Nat Da Silva

Collectors: Iris O'Farrell, Jane Ma, Alfred Lee, Doreen Lim, Stephanie Ong
Frances Cannizzo, Cathy & Noel McClelland
Dianne & Robert McHugh, Margaret O'Donnell
Collectors: Adi Hendarto, Dianne & Robert McHugh

Sun 9.00am Easter Sunday Margaret Wallace, Tony Nimmo
10.30am Easter Sunday Amanda Stefanovski, Sauro Antonelli

Lilian Antonelli, Sharron Wilkinson
Maggie Yong, Seleana Ng

5.00pm Easter Sunday Jocey Pranata, Noel Anthony

Collectors: Jane Ma, Alfred Lee

MORNING TEA: N/A

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Agnes Chee

MONEY COUNTERS: Lina & Don Pavone

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, 5th May and Thurs, 29th Oct at 9.30-11.30am

School Tours: contact 9848 4483 sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

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



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

Easter Triduum Timetable

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

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.

EASTER VIGIL MASS
We will serve Hot Cross Bun and Sherry after the 8.30 pm Easter Vigil Mass on the 4th of April, Saturday.
Parents and guardians are asked to supervise their children at all times and remain mindful of any food allergies.

Holy Land Collection—Good Friday 3 April 2026
The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 3rd. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages, and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the Covid pandemic, the war in Gaza and now the war with Iran, recent years have been and continue to be extremely difficult for the Church and people of the Holy Land with much reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and visitors. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.7 million through the Good Friday Collection, a wonderful effort that went a long way to assist the Church of the Holy Land. But this year, the Holy Land continues facing an income shortfall in funds due to the ongoing effects of the Pandemic, the war in Gaza and now the war with Iran, all of which discourage or totally prevent pilgrims coming to the Holy Land. And so, we again urge Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION **Palm Sunday 28/29 March 2026** **UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent**

As Project Compassion 2026 comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion.

Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate! Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice.

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.*