

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

30 NOVEMBER 2025

WALK IN GOD'S LIGHT. We do not know when Christ will come again in glory. Nor do we know the day of our death. This should not worry us. What is important is to live this day well by being respectful and loving towards each other and seeking to walk in God's light. If we do this, we will be ready whenever God calls us to eternal life.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Cf. Ps 24:1-3

**To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.**

## 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, through my fault, through my fault, (striking the breast) 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.**

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

## COLLECT

P. Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. 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 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,

their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v. 1

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / Let us go to God's house. / And now our feet are standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**
2. It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes of the Lord. / For Israel's law it is, / there to praise the Lord's name. / There were set the thrones of judgement / of the house of David. **R.**
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: / Peace be to your homes! / May peace reign in your walls, / in your palaces, peace! **R.**
4. For love of my brethren and friends / I say: 'Peace upon you!' / For love of the house of the Lord / I will ask for your good. **R.**



### SECOND READING

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The time has come, our salvation is near.*

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

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.**

*Stay awake, you must be ready.*



Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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. Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. 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 OF ADVENT

*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 Ps 84: 13

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. 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

### STAY AWAKE!

Happy New Year! Today we listen to the Gospel according to Matthew for the first time on this first day of the new liturgical year, Year A. Matthew writes for Jewish followers of Jesus living in the mid-80s of the first century. We shall listen to this Gospel aware that Israelite-Jewish concepts permeate its presentation of the Jewish Jesus, so different from Mark or Luke.

The language of today's Gospel is very Jewish. It is drawn from imagery of the Old Testament—typical, as we shall see, of Matthew—and from a particular style of biblical writing called 'apocalyptic'. Tempted to take our selection literally, it is better and to think of it as 'theological-poetry'. The evangelist uses a familiar Jewish literary style of writing. Its basic theme is that, despite the evil and tragedies that surround people, God will save and protect those who are faithful, especially at that definitive moment of divine judgement at the end of time.

Jesus' injunction is to 'stay awake' to this moment—not to fall asleep or become disheartened by its delay. God will definitively act against evil and vindicate the faithful. Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder. We, too, must 'stay awake' and 'stand ready' to what will unfold in the year ahead and not be dispirited by all that seems negative, fruitless and disheartening. God's presence, the God who 'will be with us' will be revealed in the figure of the 'Son of Man'. This is a recurring theme in the Gospel and throughout this new liturgical year.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

## First Sunday of Advent / A

29/30 November 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

Holy Rosary: Every Wednesday after the 9.00AM Mass

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Wednesday and Friday following the 9.00AM Mass

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

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

**Hygiene: An essential part of our everyday lives — always, forever, please be careful and caring.**

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

#### Second Sunday of Advent / A

Isa 11:1-10, Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17,

Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12

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

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 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 Ulehla, Carmel Aloï, Bishop Terry Curtin, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay

**and for those who died recently**

**and for those whose anniversaries occur about now** Manuepillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Louis Micheal Scalzo, Norman Tsung, Lim Sot Bee



### Words from the desk of the PP:

**Advent 2025: Year A:** This week we begin our journey towards Christmas, towards once again celebrating the wonderful truth that God has come among us. Jesus Christ comes to be with us so that we can know God's love and be welcomed into the Father's loving embrace.

With the start of Advent we finish our journey with the Gospel of Luke and enter a journey with the Gospel of Matthew. We move back to the beginning of our three-year cycle (Yr A Matthew, Yr B Mark, Yr C Luke, with John presented largely during the Easter season).

We go through this cycle of the Gospels so that we can intentionally approach our understanding of Jesus Christ from different perspectives. This coming year, with the Gospel of Matthew speaking to a mixed community of Jews and Gentiles, we see Jesus through the lens of God being in control of salvation. Matthew shows us that the trajectory of history leads inevitably from our separation from God (the Fall told of in Genesis) to our access to God's love through Jesus Christ himself. Stay tuned, listen closely as the year progresses.

**ACYF!!! Australian Catholic Youth Festival:** The festival starts this Sunday and this Sunday at the St Greg's 10:30 am Mass, we will bless and commission our pilgrims and leaders from both St Kevin's and St Greg's. These three days are an opportunity for the pilgrims to grow in faith, in developing their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and in understanding the call of the Holy Spirit. Let us stand with them in our prayers.

**Budget 2026:** We are in the process of developing our budget for 2026. If you have ideas about things that we should be or could be doing but that might cost a few dollars, please let me know, or send us an email and we can consider what budget allowance can be made. Our budget is healthy but needs careful management. Which means we can't do everything at once but can make room for things that can grow our capacity as disciples who are faithful and welcoming and seek to go and make disciples.

**Repair of Leaks:** Just about done ... finishing works this coming week, if weather permits. During recent rains, I have observed both areas where leaks have been present and both seem to be fixed: no sign of water in the places I would expect. Time will tell but I think the leaks have been resolved.

**Toilets: use of paper towels:** I am sensitive to the different needs of people and so am hesitant to raise this matter but every Sunday morning, there would appear to be a single individual who feels compelled to make excessive use of paper hand towels. This person empties one or more toilets of all towels leaving a mess and meaning subsequent users are deprived of the option to use towels rather than the air-dryer.

I can think of three reasons for this behaviour: some sort of compulsion / mental illness, thinking it's fun or being deliberately nasty to others.

Please, whoever is causing this issue: if it's 'fun' or being nasty: stop! If it's some compulsion: seek help. Come and see me and maybe I can point you to where to seek advice/assistance.

*God bless, Fr Charles.*

Catholic Mission sincerely thanks the parish community of St Gregory the Great for your generous and faith-filled support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal.

Your kind gift of \$1,353.80 is more than a donation - it is a lifeline of hope. Through your compassion, mothers in Zambia will walk safer roads to give birth with dignity, and children in remote villages will take steps towards a brighter future through access to healthcare and education.

Your generosity not only strengthens local missionaries in Zambia, but also sustains the Church's vital work across more than 1,000 mission dioceses worldwide.

In a world where many feel forgotten, your parish has reminded them they are seen, loved, and never alone. Thank you for walking with us - hand in hand, heart to heart, and mission to mission.

We look forward with joy to continuing this journey together, bringing life, faith, and hope to those on the margins.

With deepest gratitude,

The Catholic Mission team



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For our 23 young people and leaders going to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival: that they will respond to the call of the Holy Spirit with strength and faith.

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



**THIS WEEK**

Sat 6.00pm Joseph & Lorna Philip  
 Sun 9.00am Philip Dunlop  
 Sun 10.30am Jenny & Brian Tyedin  
 Sun 5.00pm Gerard O'Donnell, Jane Ma

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Agnes Chee**MONEY COUNTERS:** Philip Dunlop, Greg Lesmana**LECTORS****NEXT WEEK 6/7 Dec****LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Frank Ryan, Alvin Priyana  
 Sun 9.00am Jacqueline Rogers, Margaret Wallace  
 Sun 10.30am Jane Gunawan, Jessica Stanley  
 Sun 5.00pm Isabelle Hii, Benedicta Wong

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Stephen Ma**MONEY COUNTERS:** Surin Fernando, Josie Masters**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Noel & Cathy McClelland  
 Tony Nimmo  
 Dai Sim, Lucy Giardino, Behnaz Behmadi  
 Caterina Gioffre, Viviana Pereira

**MORNING TEA:** Brian & Jenny**FLOWERS:** Irene Dharmawan**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Sharron Wilkinson  
 Katica Puhaj  
 Nuccia La Rocca, Rob Rukavina, Erin Djukiadmodjo  
 Alfred Lee, Judy Ablaza

**MORNING TEA:** N/A**FLOWERS:** Connie Amalfi

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**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

(03) 9848 4483

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.

**2025 Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

Each year at about this time we ask you, the parishioners of St Gregory the Great Parish, to donate to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. As we enter the Advent season, we focus our thoughts prayers and actions on preparing for the coming of Jesus and the joy of Christmas. Inspired by the joy of the Gospels and our Catholic social teachings, donating to the Vinnies Christmas appeal is something we can do that will really make a difference to people in need.

Your commitment to helping people who are experiencing disadvantage, poverty and homelessness is very much needed and appreciated. If you are able to contribute to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, you may do so in one of the following ways:

- donate online by visiting [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) - Donors can allocate donations to St Gregory the Great, Doncaster, by putting the conference name in the comments field. Receipts will be automatically emailed out to donors, and all donations are tax deductible.
- donate over the phone using a credit card by calling 13 18 12 - Donors can allocate donations to St Gregory the Great, Doncaster, by giving the name of the conference over the phone.
- make a cash donation using one of the Vinnies envelopes or placing cash in the Vinnies Appeal Donation Box at the back of the church.
- donate a toy or gift card for a needy family by taking a request label from the Christmas tree and buying a gift relevant to that label. Please do not wrap gifts.

This year the appeal will take place on the weekend of December 13th and 14th

Members of our Conference will be available after each of the Masses to collect donations or answer any questions about the Vinnies and their work.

**You are warmly invited to join us in celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8th, Monday.**

**Mass Times:**

**9:00 AM & 6:00PM – St Gregory the Great Church**  
**12:45 PM – St Kevin's Church**



ST GREGORY THE GREAT  
DONCASTER AND  
ST KEVIN'S TEMPLESTOWE  
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

# Christmas Party

DECEMBER  
SUNDAY 7 6.00PM

**AT ST GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH HALL  
71 WILLIAMSONS ROAD DONCASTER**

**Program for the night includes**  
 Christmas Raffle, Children's Performances,  
 Sing-Along Carols and Fun Activities!  
 Food and drinks will be provided.

Raffle tickets will be sold before the event and drawn on the night.

Santa will make a special visit with goodies and treats for kids.

**RSVP** Please use sign up sheets at church, scan QR code, or use TryBooking link <https://www.trybooking.com/DHFQQ>

Parents and carers are requested to please supervise your children at all times.

Are you interested in becoming a Permanent Deacon?  
 Walking in the footsteps of the Lord  
 'The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.'

MT 20:28, MK 10:45, JN 13:1-17

The permanent diaconate is a God-given calling to ordained ministry, open to married and single men, in the service of the Liturgy, the Word and Charity.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Catholic Vocations Archdiocese of Melbourne website:

[melbournecatholic.org/permanentdiaconate](http://melbournecatholic.org/permanentdiaconate)Australian Catholic Deacons' website: [www.ausdeacons.asn.au](http://www.ausdeacons.asn.au)

Speak with your parish priest or contact the Office of the Permanent Diaconate: Phone: 03 9412 3357

Email: [diaconate@cam.org.au](mailto:diaconate@cam.org.au)

Applicants should be between 30–55 years of age.

