

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

7 DECEMBER 2025

GOD'S KINGDOM IS NEAR. John the Baptist urged the people to prepare for the coming of the kingdom by repenting of their sins. Their baptism by John in the Jordan River was an important ritual act of sorrow. But they also had to express their sorrow by reforming their lives. The sacrament of reconciliation, and right living, are excellent means through which we can prepare for the feast of Christmas.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Isa 30: 19, 30

**O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

## 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. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: 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.

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

## COLLECT

P. Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,  
a scion thrusts from his roots:  
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,  
a spirit of wisdom and insight,  
a spirit of counsel and power,  
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.  
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)  
He does not judge by appearances,

he gives no verdict on hearsay,  
but judges the wretched with integrity,  
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor  
of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;  
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,  
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,  
the panther lies down with the kid,  
calf and lion cub feed together  
with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends,  
their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;  
into the viper's lair

the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm,  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the country is filled with the knowledge  
of the Lord

as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse  
shall stand as signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations  
and its home will be glorious.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PS** Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7

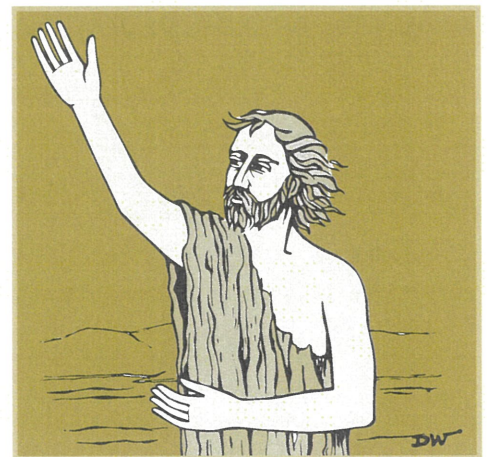
**R. Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, / to a king's son your justice, / that he may judge your people in justice / and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

2. In his days justice shall flourish / and peace till the moon fails. / He shall rule from sea to sea, / from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry / and the needy who are helpless. / He will have pity on the weak / and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

4. May his name be blessed for ever / and endure like the sun. / Every tribe shall be blessed in him, / all nations bless his name. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mt 3:1-12

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.**

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*  
In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:



A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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. Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no

merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. 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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

## COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.*

### LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

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

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### CHANGE ONE'S THINKING

Today, John the Baptist arrives to assist us in our Advent preparation. Matthew presents him as a figure from Israel's wilderness. From this setting John invites Matthew's audience, and us, to repentance. There are three things about the Gospel's opening verses that are important to note. First, the 'wilderness' was a place of nothingness. Israel encountered God in its forty year's desert wanderings. Often our own lives are filled with desert wanderings and nothingness. We sometimes feel the loneliness of our lives and perhaps, at times, directionless. Contemplating our personal wilderness can be a fruitful place to begin our Advent preparation.

Second, from the wilderness comes the call to repentance. John says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This is a powerful message. The word, 'repent' comes from the Greek, 'metanoia', a combination of two Greek words, 'meta' + 'noia'. 'Meta' is the basic root word in English linked to 'change' (metamorphosis, metabolism). 'Noia' is the root for the English 'knowledge'. In other words, John's first call to 'repent' literally means (from the Greek) to 'change one's thinking', to be open minded and not hard hearted. It is a challenging call to us as we enter into this new time of the year.

Third, John reminds us to be aware that 'the kingdom of heaven has come near'. It is not distant but close and present; it is among us, a repetitive theme throughout the Gospel, flagged in two Sunday's time, in the birth of the child called 'Emmanuel', 'God with us'. We need today, more than ever, this God to be with us.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

## Second Sunday of Advent / A

6/7 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

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:

Third Sunday of Advent / A

Isa 35:1-6, 10, Ps 145:6-10, James 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11

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** Manuelpillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Leong Duen Ling



### Words from the desk of the PP:

**Joint Christmas Party:** 6 pm this Sunday, in the St Greg's Hall: come along. Hopefully you've booked but even if not yet: email / text me and please, come along. St Greg's and St Kevin's have a wonderful fun evening planned for all of you.

**ACYF!!! Australian Catholic Youth Festival:** All went well. Plenty of rain on Sunday got everyone drenched but not deflated. Missing our first choice workshops – a bit of a downer but ... the alternatives were good as well. Surprisingly little time for reflecting on the days during the days. I am in awe of the amount of work and care and love that Jane and Alfred, and Stephanie and Michael, and Alston put in to prepare (and not forgetting the risk assessment which David and Margaret spearheaded and which worked very well.)

If I needed a testament to faith in Jesus Christ, it lies in the trust of those five that amidst all the worry and uncertainty and paperwork: this was worth doing. And their efforts meant that the ACYF was an astounding success.

My own experience became dominated by two things. One the absolute enthusiasm of the young and young in heart to praise God and his Holy Name – loudly and frequently and passionately. Two the deep care for their relationship with God which I observed close at hand during the 3 ½ hours of Confessions I was privileged to hear. Such deep awareness of Jesus and his love and their love for him. I had expected the first; I am deeply humbled by the second.

In addition to my reflection, I have asked for a 20-100 word reflection from each of our pilgrims. Here is the first.

“Hi Father Charles, Here is my reflection of ACYF. ACYF was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to encounter God in a new way. It helped to put into perspective how there are so many moments in every-day life in which God is present, that I would usually miss or never realise. I particularly enjoyed the plenaries and talks that we went to, though my favourite was Sister Mary Grace's talk on 'How to hear God's voice' which offered advice that I can use. Finally, I found that I have learnt so much about my faith and the sacraments (especially the Eucharist & Reconciliation) that I will hold for the rest of my life, and I even experienced worship music for the first time! Thank you for taking us to ACYF and for paying for dinner- I had such a good time. Kind Regards, ...”

**2026 Assembly:** After discussions in the most recent St Kevin's and St Greg's Parish Council Meetings we have decided to hold a joint-parishes assembly in May 2026. The primary intent will be to discuss how we follow Pope Francis and now Pope Leo in being a synodal church. More information in early February.

**Repair of Leaks:** Going well, minor works still going on to ensure long life of the repairs. No sign of water into the church during any of the recent (sometimes heavy, like Sunday afternoon) rains.

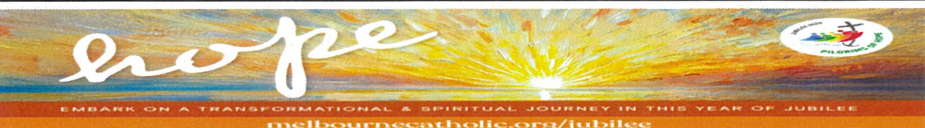
**Enhancing our Advent Liturgy:** Thank you to all those who helped set up all the decorations of the church – the Nativity Set; the Christmas Tree; The Banner; the enhanced Advent Wreath Prayers. Each item takes time to prepare and put in place. We have begun well. We will journey enthusiastically towards Christmas and learning to know Christ just a little bit better this year.

*God bless, Fr Charles.*



### Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

We give thanks for the successful completion of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival for our 24 Pilgrims and we pray that the wonderful experience they had will continue to nourish their faith in days and years to come.



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



**THIS WEEK****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**NEXT WEEK 13/14 Dec****LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Peter Whiting, Gerard O'Donnell  
 Sun 9.00am Greg Lesmana, Tony Nimmo  
 Sun 10.30am Aditya Hendarto, Gril Job  
 Sun 5.00pm Nat De Silva, Jane Ma

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Mary Wilson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Lina & Don Pavone**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

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

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

Robert & Dianne McHugh  
 Mary Stocco  
 Agnes & Fred Fulia, Edith Ma  
 Seleana Ng, Margaret O'Donnell

**MORNING TEA:** N/A**FLOWERS:** Geraldina Donato  
Mary Piccoli

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.

**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.

**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**



*Joy To The World*

Reconciliation Service  
 18 December, Thurs 7.30PM  
 at St Kevin's

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Christmas Eve  
 24<sup>th</sup> December  
 7PM (Carols at 6.40PM) 10PM

Christmas Day  
 25<sup>th</sup> December  
 9AM & 10.30AM

Feast of St Stephen  
 26<sup>th</sup> December 9AM

Feast of the Holy Family  
 27<sup>th</sup> December 6PM  
 28<sup>th</sup> December 9AM & 10.30AM & 5PM

New Year's Eve Mass  
 31<sup>st</sup> December 6PM

New Year's Day Mass  
 1st January 9AM & 10.30AM

**HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'**

Händel's perennially popular oratorio, 'Messiah', describes the Nativity, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and contains some of the most moving and uplifting music ever written. The performance will be directed by musicologist and organist, John O'Donnell, with Australia's foremost baroque violinist, Lucinda Moon, leading Accademia Arcadia - some of Melbourne's most distinguished early-music instrumentalists. Soloists will be drawn from the professional vocal ensemble, The Melbourne Octet. All are welcome to join in the Hallelujah Chorus!

Sunday, December 14th 2:00PM

St Dominic's Catholic Church 816 Riverside Rd, Camberwell

[Trybooking.com/DAZNT](http://Trybooking.com/DAZNT)

We extend a warm welcome to the family of Joseph Dharmawan who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday at St Gregory the Great Church.