

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

8 MARCH 2026

THE WATER OF LIFE. Jesus is the saviour of the world. In today's Gospel he offers the water of life to a Samaritan woman who, in turn, becomes the first missionary of Jesus. She hurries to tell the people of her town about him. We, who have received the life of God in baptism, are also called to be missionaries by inviting others to come and see Jesus.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

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.

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. For we have sinned against you.

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

R. And grant us your salvation.

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 Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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 Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus
Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Jn 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; / give me living water, that I may never thirst again. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Jn 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again;
but anyone who drinks the water that I
shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling
up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

‘Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.’

The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.’ ‘I who am speaking to you,’ said Jesus ‘I am he.’

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman’s testimony when she said, ‘He told me all I have ever done,’ so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, ‘Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Longer form 4:5-42

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 these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. 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 OF 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

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

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

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

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

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

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

R. And with your spirit.

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

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

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

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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. 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

FOR WHAT DO WE THIRST?

The first two Sundays of Lent are from Matthew’s Gospel, the Gospel of this liturgical year. They recall Jesus’ temptation (*Mt 4: 1-11*) and his experience of being transfigured (*Mt 17: 1-9*). For the remaining Sundays of Lent, we listen to John’s Gospel. These Sundays will explore the central religious and theological questions especially relevant for contemporary disciples in their Lenten journey: For what do we truly thirst (today’s Gospel)? How might our eyes be opened to Jesus (next Sunday)? What is the life for which we deeply desire (the final Sunday of Lent)?

In today’s Gospel a Samaritan woman comes to a well at noon—the brightest moment of the day—and encounters the source of Light, Jesus. She comes to draw water and only later realises that she has met the one who can quench her deepest spiritual thirst. The whole scene is replete with theological symbolism, a characteristic of John, as Jesus invites the woman to explore the depths of her thirst that only he can address. We learn that she has had several ‘husbands’. This is not an admission of the woman’s adventurous liaisons, as many commentators have interpreted, but an acknowledgement of her attraction to the ‘husbands’ (the ‘Baal’) of religions that are ‘not her own’. She is looking for the true one from God, not these other counterfeits.

Jesus reveals himself to her: He is the ‘I AM’, the Old Testament name for God. Through him the woman comes to encounter the Sacred and sets her on a journey back to her townspeople. Like the woman, we, too, thirst, for God and for a deeper religious life as we journey through Lent.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

7/8 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 5PM: 8 MARCH, 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:

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ps 22, Eph 5:8-14,

Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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 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, Chee Mee Lian, Emmly Luethamphakdee, Meredith Barnes, Michael Mullens, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently Joseph Puhaj, John Sheldon, Maria Power

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Manuepillai Wilfred Rajanayagam, Joseph Briffa, Cheng Men Kong, Maria Emilia Effendi, Srma Perera



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Words from the desk of the PP:

Holy Week Preparations:

Preparations are underway for Holy Week. Your Lenten journey of course but also our planning for the various liturgies held leading up to ... Resurrection.

You will see requests for assistance with all lots of aspects of the various services. Please be willing to **offer help** so that our Holy Week is as prayerful and wondrous and meaningful and joyful as possible. There will be sign up sheets of Google-Docs – put your name down, please.

Remember: when you help, assist, minister during Mass or in other places – your ministry is rooted in being Christ's presence in the world – it is rooted in Christ's love for us and our being that love for others.

We have the Melbourne Octet accompanying the Stations of the Cross at St Greg's on this coming Friday evening 13th March at 7 pm. Please sign up so we have an idea of crowd size and how to set up at St Greg's. Plenty of parking available.

We have our Penitential Service on 26th March 7:30 pm at St Greg's (plenty of parking available). This service provides us all with an opportunity to align our Lenten journey more closely to Jesus' journey and to deepen our relationship with him. There will be absolution available at the end of the service.

Safety:

Please think safety all the time. We speak about Safeguarding Children but in addition please think about safety more generally. We've had a nasty fall on a steep bit of path. We've had a car entering the church grounds at 40kph. We've had wet leaves / papers across the ground outside the church doors. We've had toilets left messy with water on the floor. We've had people arrive still infectious with some bug or other.

I care about you and your spiritual and physical and mental health and safety. Please be careful as you arrive and move around and interact. Please be conscious of others and be willing to offer and if needed lend assistance.

Lion Dance – Lunar New Year

We recognised the Lunar New Year last weekend at St Greg's with a group of youth and young adults singing praise and worship music and a BBQ and fortune cookies and a Lion Dance. We had well over 300 people come with many families from the school. I had never experienced a Lion Dance before: it was a wonderful performance of joy and happiness. Although not Christian, the roots of the Lion Dance lie in seeking good fortune and warding off evil, roots in which we can I think see an echo of God's call to repent and believe the Good News.

Thank you to the Social Group and the Safeguarding Team and the School and everyone else who helped make the day such a success (and to God for holding off on the rain till later) ☺

Ministers to Assist at Holy Communion:

Yes, this was in last weeks Bulletin. We need more ministers to assist with distribution of Holy Communion at all Masses.

The roster tells me we don't have enough ministers to assist at Holy Communion at any of our Sunday Masses.

6:00 pm: we need **6 more** ministers and ideally 10.

9:00 am: we need **12** more ministers and ideally 16.

10:30 am: we need **6 more** ministers and ideally 11.

5:00 pm: we need **8 more** ministers and ideally 12.

I look forward to seeing a long list of new names seeking to join this vital ministry. None of us is 'worthy' to undertake this or any ministry: but God calls us to be active in our participation in Mass. Please look into your heart: do you feel a tug of the Holy Spirit saying 'find out more, try it and see'? Sign up, let me know.

If not ministry assisting with Holy Communion, perhaps another ministry: Lector/Reader; Sacristan; Morning Tea; ... dozens of choices.

God Bless, Fr Charles.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For our Alpha guests as the Alpha retreat approaches: that they will be discover or rediscover the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

THIS WEEK
 Sat 6.00pm **LECTORS**
 Joseph & Lorna Philip
 Sun 9.00am Tony Nimmo, Paola Villanueva
 Sun 10.30am Sauro Antonelli, Erin Djukiadmodjo
 Sun 5.00pm Youth Mass
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Stephen Ma
MONEY COUNTERS: Marian See

NEXT WEEK 14/15 Mar **LECTORS**
 Sat 6.00pm Noel & Cathy McClelland
 Sun 9.00am Luisa Yambao, Philip Dunlop
 Sun 10.30am Aditya Hendarto, Ryan Teo
 Sun 5.00pm Gerard O'Donnell, Dot Haynes
CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson
MONEY COUNTERS: Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson

COMMUNION MINISTERS
 Frances Cannizzo, Margaret O'Donnell
 Mary Stocco
 Maggie Yong, Lilian Antonelli, Nuccia La Rocca
 Youth Mass
MORNING TEA: Maggie and Andrew

COMMUNION MINISTERS
 Robert & Dianne McHugh
 Mike Yambao
 Nuccia La Rocca, Behnaz Behmadi, Erin Djukiadmodjo
 Caterina Gioffre, Dot Haynes
MORNING TEA: N/A

Funeral of Joseph Puhali
 11 March 2026
 Viewing 10.30AM & Rosary 11.00AM
 Mass: 11.30AM at St Nikola Tavelić, 69 Hodgkinson St, Clifton Hill
 Burial: 1.30pm followed by wake at Northern Memorial Park, Glenroy

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

Open Days:
 Tue, 5th May, Thurs, 29th Oct
 at 9.30-11.30am
 School Tours: contact 9848 4483
sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au



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

 **If you would like to assist with the Easter Liturgies, please include your name on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.**
Thank you for your support and efforts!

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.

Lent Timetable

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Fridays during Lent	ST GREGORY THE GREAT 7PM
MELBOURNE OCTET 13 th MAR	VIA DOLOROSA - SACRED MUSIC WITH STATIONS OF THE CROSS ST GREGORY THE GREAT 7PM
RECONCILIATION SERVICE 26 th MAR	ST GREGORY THE GREAT 7.30PM

The Melbourne Octet presents

VIA DOLOROSA

SACRED MUSIC, PRAYERS AND READINGS
with the Stations of the Cross

ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, DONCASTER
FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026
@7PM




www.melbourneoctet.com

Cornerstone Youth Group

Friday, 13th March 7-9PM

Youth from 12 to 17 years old
 Build your faith and connect more deeply with God while hanging out, having real conversations, and making lasting friends. Come be part of an amazing journey!

St Gregory the Great Parish Room.
 71 Williamsons Rd, Doncaster
 info: doncaster@cam.org.au or 03 9412 8425



Caritas AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION **Third Sunday of Lent 7/8 March 2026** **UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent**



Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

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.*



 We extend a warm welcome to the family of Ave-Maria Obiaku Ogini who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday at St Gregory the Great Church.