

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS / C

14 SEPTEMBER 2025

HEALING FROM THE CROSS. The bronze serpent on a standard is a well known symbol of the medical profession. Its origins go back to the time when God healed the repentant Israelites in the wilderness through a bronze serpent that Moses fashioned and placed on a standard. In today's Gospel, Jesus applies this image to his own crucifixion. By being lifted up on the cross he will bring healing and eternal life to all who believe in him.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 65: 4

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, / in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, / through whom we are saved and delivered.

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. 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.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven. 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

Num 21: 4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here: we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

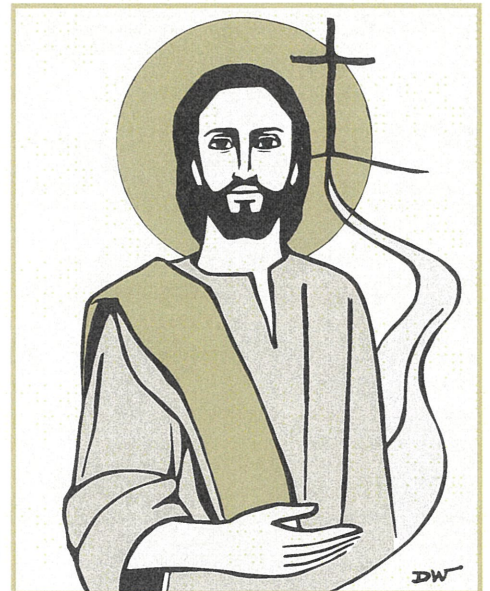
Ps 77: 1-2, 34-38. R. v. 7

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; / turn your ear to the words of my mouth / I will open my mouth in a parable / and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **R.**

2. When he slew them then they would seek him, / return and seek him in earnest. / They would remember that God was their rock, / God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**

3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery; / they lied to him with their lips. / For their hearts were not truly with him; / they were not faithful to his covenant. **R.**



4. Yet he who is full of compassion / forgave their sin and spared them. / So often he held back his anger / when he might have stirred up his rage. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 2: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.

The state of Jesus Christ was divine, yet he 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

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 3: 13-17

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 Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven; the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

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. May this oblation, O Lord, which on the altar of the Cross cancelled the offence of the whole world, cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins. 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 THE VICTORY OF THE GLORIOUS CROSS

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

Jn 12: 32

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having been nourished by your holy banquet, we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bring those you have redeemed by the wood of your life-giving Cross to the glory of the resurrection. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

LIFTED UP

Today's Feast moves us away from our usual journey through Luke's Gospel. Instead, our focus is with John's Gospel. We are in a different world. John 3 concerns the engagement which Jesus has with Nicodemus, a Jewish leader and, as we learn at the Gospel's end, a potential disciple. In this chapter, the evangelist seeks to reflect upon Jesus' origins. John affirms that Jesus, God's Word and source of Wisdom, is from God. He 'came down from Heaven'. Jesus is God's exalted heavenly and human presence. He will be 'lifted up', that is, in John's story of Jesus' passion and death, he will be 'lifted up' on the cross and will be 'lifted up' in exaltation by the Father in resurrection. Jesus' death is also his exaltation.

In today's Gospel, the evangelist draws on the imagery of the fashioned bronze serpent that Moses 'lifts up', that we hear today in the first reading from the *Book of Numbers*. The serpent figure rescues the suffering Israelites. For John, this, too, is Jesus' quest: to rescue and bring eternal life to suffering humanity. John's passage exudes hope and divine communion with humanity and creation. God loves the 'cosmos' so much that God's very being and expression in the Word, Jesus, suffers for it. This word, 'cosmos', comprises the whole of creation, including humanity.

Palpable optimism permeates this Gospel passage. For John, God wants nothing or anyone to be 'lost'. All are found in the Word enfleshed in Jesus. God's community with creation and humanity is sealed and eternal. This is such a rich Gospel for today's Feast. Every line deserves meditation.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited
Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAUL:
PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135
Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scriptur
readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder &
Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms
A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New
translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation
All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout
commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025
No 732. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross / C

13/14 September 2025

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

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:

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time / C

Amos 8:4-7, Ps 112:1-2, 4-8, 1 Tim 2:1-8, Lk 16:10-13

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 Nik & Somaratna, Rita Sabarudji, Peter Ryan, Katrina Zaragoza, Valda Moore, Michael Mullens, Monia Iaconi, Martin Stanbury, Shirley Loo, Bob Uehla, Carmel Aloj, Anthony Tang, Bishop Terry Curtin, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Alan Benn, Helen Ong, Joseph Yeo, Michael Angelo Yambao, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently

John Condon, Ximena Simian, Alfredo Correia, Antonio Do Esprito Santo

and for those whose anniversaries occur

about now Srma Perera, Rose Marie Silvapulle, Gino De Melis, Giovanni Bucciacchio, Wah Sing Patrick Wong, Joaõ Fernando Ku, Maria Madeira

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Words from the desk of the PP:

Toilet Sign Change:

As I signalled last week: the toilet signage for the toilet for 'Women' has been moved. Be aware please.

St Kevin's Sunday Mass Time Change:

As of this Sunday 14th September, St Kevin's will have ONE morning Mass starting at 9:15 am.

Parish Accountant:

The parish accountant for St Kevin's has decided to step aside from his role at the end of the year. SO!! We need a replacement. Do you know someone who might help? If so please call or email Fr Charles (0417319556 or Charles.balnaves@cam.org.au).

Australian Catholic Youth Festival. 30th Nov – 2nd Dec. acyf.org.au

Our numbers are growing slowly: another three young people have indicated wanting to attend: that makes 12 across our parishes. KEEP INVITING !!!

Safeguarding Audit:

Up to date? I hope so! 90% of volunteers are – YIPPEE!! Which means some still need to finalise some part of Working with Children Check, Police Check, Code of Conduct, role description. Call the office if you are uncertain.

Things we do:

Continuing my thoughts on what we do during Mass. Arising from the Liturgy Workshop that we had a week ago with Fr Frank O'Loughlin: Bread and Wine.

Bread! Why bread? Because in Jesus' day bread was a staple food – an essential part of staying alive, something consumed all the time. Bread (or some equivalent like Rice in Asia) is essential for survival. To consume bread is to acknowledge that at a radical, basic level we are not in control, we need something to keep us alive. In the Eucharist we remember the Bread of the Passover/Exodus; the Bread from God, the Manna in the desert; the bread of freedom when the people entered the promised land. And now, in the Eucharist Jesus takes the bread and it becomes the bread of eternal life.

Wine! Wine is different from bread: it is not a staple but to celebration. Wine cheers the human heart; changes us, loosens us, raises our spirit. Wine was drunk three times during the Passover meal for the Israelites: Jesus added a fourth cup. The cup of wine we consume in the Eucharist a cup that changes us from beings bounded by earthly things into beings who are opened out to the fullness of God's Spirit through his Son.

The depth and breadth of the symbolism in the bread and wine is amazing! We plan to bring some workshops over the coming year that will help all of us understand the depth and breadth of the Eucharist a little more.

God bless, Fr Charles.

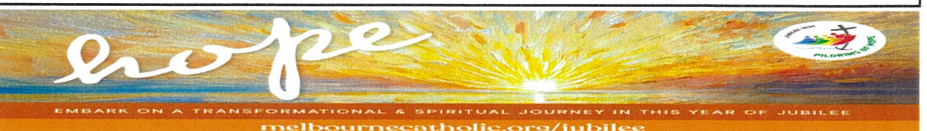


Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our upcoming Parish Assembly on Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30 PM. More details will be shared soon!



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For our Alpha participants as they undertook their weekend retreat: that they were in their own way filled with the Holy Spirit.



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

THIS WEEK

Sat 6.00pm
Sun 9.00am
Sun 10.30am
Sun 5.00pm

LECTORS

Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh
Philip Dunlop, Luisa Yambao
Aidan Leung, Karen Chay
Gerard O'Donnell, Dot Haynes

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson

MONEY COUNTERS: Surin Fernando, Josie Masters

NEXT WEEK 20/21 Sep

Sat 6.00pm
Sun 9.00am
Sun 10.30am
Sun 5.00pm

LECTORS

Peter Whiting, Gerard O'Donnell
Greg Lesmana
Jenny & Brian Tyedin
Nat De Silva, Jane Ma

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Phil Handang

MONEY COUNTERS: Iris O'Farrell, Sharron Wilkinson

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Margaret O'Donnell, Frances Cannizzo
Katica Puhaj, Mike Yambao
Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina
Margaret O'Donnell, Viviana Pereira
MORNING TEA: Seleana

Offertory

FLOWERS: Connie Amalfi

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Robert & Dianne McHugh
Tony Nimmo
Tony Ting, Dai Sim, Lucy Giardino
Catherina Gioffre, Seleana Ng
MORNING TEA: Brian & Jenny Tyedin

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.

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.

You are cordially invited to celebrate with joy and thanksgiving the Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. Tuong Nguyen by Most Reverend Peter A. Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne on Saturday, the 20th of September 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne Commencing at 10:00 AM. Following the Mass, you are warmly invited to join us for refreshments at Corpus Christi College Seminary 180 Drummond Street, Carlton VIC 3053.

Eucharistic Adoration & Healing Service

Come and join us for Eucharistic Adoration with intention of healing and healing prayer ministry

SUNDAY, 28 SEPT 2025
5.45-7.00 PM
(after 5PM Sunday Mass)

St Gregory the Great Church
71 Williamsons Rd,
Doncaster VIC

Service will be led by Priest and Sisters of the CSE and Daughters of Carmel Congregation from Indonesia



Fr Joseph Kristodinus, CSE



Sr M Petra, PKarm



Sr Theofilia, PKarm

Info: Vera
doncaster@cam.org.au

HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY



holyltrinitycarmel.com #Sharethejoy

The Parish of St Kevin's Templestowe would like to formally announce that, commencing this Sunday, 14th September, Sunday morning Mass will now be celebrated at 9:15 AM only. This new time combines the previous 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM Sunday morning Masses, which will no longer be held. Please note, the Saturday evening Vigil Mass will continue at 5:30 PM as usual.

Direct Debit and Credit Card Contributors

If you notice anything unusual on your bank statement related to your pledge to our parish, please contact the parish office promptly. We will investigate the matter the matter for you. Thank you for your continued support.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

For School Tours and Open Days visit 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



FOR YEAR 6-10

19 September 2025,
Friday
7pm-9pm

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP

Come grow in faith and walk with God alongside an amazing and fun community! You can experience exciting activities, meaningful conversations and the chance to build lasting friendships!

Don't miss out – come along and be part of this incredible journey!

CONTACT DETAILS:

✉ DONCASTER@CAM.ORG.AU 📞 9412 8425



Young Adult Group (18-35 Years of Age)

Join us for Fellowship and Prayers!

We extend a warm invitation to all individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 to come together for an inspiring and uplifting gathering.

- Connect with others
- Deepen your faith
- Share in meaningful prayer
- Build lasting friendships



Friday, 26th September 2025, 7.15PM
St Gregory the Great Parish Room
Dinner is provided
Info: doncaster@cam.org.au

Funeral Notice

The Funeral Mass for John Condon will be held at St Gregory the Great Church, Doncaster, on Tuesday, 16th September at 11:00am. Following the Mass, the burial will take place at Eltham Cemetery at 12:45pm. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.