

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

LUKE

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

7 SEPTEMBER 2025

PUT JESUS FIRST. It is somewhat shocking to hear Jesus say, 'Whoever comes to me without hating (family members) cannot be my disciple'. Jesus is using hyperbole to stress that we must give first place to following him. If that puts us in conflict with our family, we must choose Jesus. Thankfully, most of us don't face such a conflict. We can rejoice in God and in family, as Paul does in today's Second Reading.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 118: 137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

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, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who

believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom
Who can comprehend the will of the Lord?

'What man can know the intentions of God?

Who can divine the will of the Lord?

The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;

for a perishable body presses down the soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the
teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what
is on earth,

laborious to know what lies within our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt

it, had you not granted Wisdom

and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been
straightened

and men been taught what pleases you,
and saved, by Wisdom.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust / and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' / To your eyes a thousand years / are like yesterday, come and gone, / no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

2. You sweep men away like a dream, / like grass which springs up in the morning. / In the morning it springs up and flowers: / by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

3. Make us know the shortness of our life / that we may gain wisdom of heart. / Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? / Show pity to your servants. **R.**

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; / we shall exult and rejoice all our days. / Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: / give success to the work of our hands. **R.**



SECOND READING

Philem 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Lk 14:25-33

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, 'Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.' Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

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. O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. 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-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

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

 cf. Ps 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns 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

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

What is the 'cost' of being a disciple? What will it require? These questions are addressed in today's Gospel. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem where suffering and death await. He is accompanied by a crowd of people. They, too, are on the 'way'—the earliest expression used of Jesus' followers who, according to Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, are named people of 'The Way' (Acts 9.2f).

It is clear from Jesus' teaching that discipleship will not be easy. We have met this theme already back in August, on the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, when Jesus spoke of the tensions that would arise within households where committed disciples lived. In today's passage, this household division is even more dramatically described. Disciples' relationship to Jesus must trump every other. The word which Luke uses is 'hate'. Disciples must 'hate' parents and siblings. The language of Luke's day employed superlatives and exaggerated speech to make a point. So, the disciple is not to literally 'hate' family members, but the 'hate' expression is a reminder that following Jesus will come at a cost. This cost requires commitment and needs calculation.

This is the point of the two examples which conclude the Gospel: calculation is needed in building materials or the chances of victory in battle. The final note the passage ends on is one of Luke's favourite themes: Disciples must not be possessed by possessions. The disciple must be free, of wealth and even relationships that hinder communion with Jesus.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time/ C

6/7 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 8.30am, 10.00am; Tue & Thurs 9.15am

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross / C

Num 21: 4-9, Ps 77: 1-2, 34-38, Phil 2: 6-11,

Jn 3: 13-17

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 Rita Sabarudji, Peter Ryan, Katrina Zaragoza, Valda Moore, John Condon, Michael Mullens, Monia Iaconi, Martin Stanbury, Shirley Loo, Bob Ulehla, Carmel Aloï, Anthony Tang, Bishop Terry Curtin, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Don Pavone, John Reid, Alan Benn, Michael Angelo Yambao, Meredith Barnes, Siv Cuasay

and for those who died recently Nevio Del Papa, JC Inocian

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Frank Linh, Frank Uy, Frank Nghia



Words from the desk of the PP:

Toilet Sign Change:

By popular demand the toilet designated for “Women” is being changed.

The toilet designated specifically for use by women will be changed to be at the far end / the west end of the bank of toilets. That cubicle is slightly wider/more spacious, giving a little more room to move.

Overall there will still be four toilet cubicles with the women's cubicle and three 'unisex' cubicles with two being ambulant cubicles.

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: Some volunteers are still not up to date: Please, check your emails and junk mail and your memories: are you up to date? Call the office if you are uncertain.

Things we do:

Continuing my thoughts on what we do during Mass that we perhaps never take notice of. This week: the quiet prayers while offering the gifts of bread and wine.

There are the obvious prayers you hear “Blessed are you Lord God of all creation for through your goodness we this ... bread / wine ... we offer ...” but there are three other prayers that you might not notice.

After the bread is blessed and before the wine there is a moment where I mix a little water with the wine – “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.” This is a prayer to remind us of the unity of Christ's humanity and divinity; the union of Christ and the Church and the flowing of blood and water from Christ's side after his death on the cross.

After blessing the wine, I quietly say two more prayers: “With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you Lord God.” And then while I wash my hands “Wash me, O Lord from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” These prayers are my requests that you, the congregation, and I, the presider, are as open to Jesus' presence as we possibly can be, admitting our sinfulness and need for forgiveness. They also serve to remind me, the presider, that I am not Christ but am standing as Christ in the consecration. Small moments, but important.

God bless, Fr Charles.

Monday, 8th September – Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(Also marking the 4th anniversary of Fr Charles' arrival at our parishes)

All are welcome in celebrating this special feast day and giving thanks for Fr Charles' ministry among us.

Mass Times:

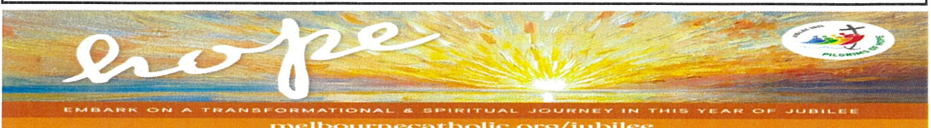
11:15 AM – St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe

7:00 PM – St Gregory the Great Parish, Doncaster



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For all those who have died and are otherwise affected by the earthquake in Afghanistan and by other natural disasters.



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

Noel & Cathy McClelland
 Jacqueline Rogers, Chris Perera
 Ivonne Gunawan, Tony Ting
 Thomas Ong, Stephanie Ong

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mike Yambao**MONEY COUNTERS:** Philip Dunlop, Marian See**NEXT WEEK 13/14 Sep****LECTORS**

Sat 6.00pm Frances Cannizzo, Robert McHugh
 Sun 9.00am Philip Dunlop, Luisa Yambao
 Sun 10.30am Aidan Leung, Karen Chay
 Sun 5.00pm Gerard O'Donnell, Dot Haynes

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Mary Wilson**MONEY COUNTERS:** Surin Fernando, Josie Masters**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Sharron Wilkinson
 Margaret Wallace
 Nuccia La Rocca, Behnaz Behmadi, Erin Djukiadmodjo
 Alfred Lee, Dot Haynes

MORNING TEA: N/A**Offertory****FLOWERS:** Irene Dhamarwan**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Margaret O'Donnell, Frances Cannizzo
 Katica Puhali, Mike Yambao
 Agnes & Fred Fulia, Rob Rukavina
 Margaret O'Donnell, Viviana Pereira

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

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.

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.

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2025 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are still available in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign. I encourage you to please give generously to the Campaign.



THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN
2025

EVANGELISATION LEADER

The parishes of St Gregory the Great and St Kevin's are seeking a faith-filled, dynamic leader to serve as Evangelisation Leader. This role is pivotal in helping our communities grow a deeper culture of intentional discipleship, mission and outreach. This intentional missionary disciple of Christ Jesus will be enthusiastic and will report to Fr Charles, Parish Councils and staff to grow the Evangelisation culture and practice of both parishes.

For more info please visit parish website where you will also find a Position Description. Applications close Sunday, 7th September.

We are kindly seeking someone who can assist with transport for an elderly parishioner who wishes to attend the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. She lives in Doncaster, just 5 minutes from St. Greg's Church. If you are able to help, even occasionally, your kindness and support would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the parish office 9412 8425 for more details.

**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**

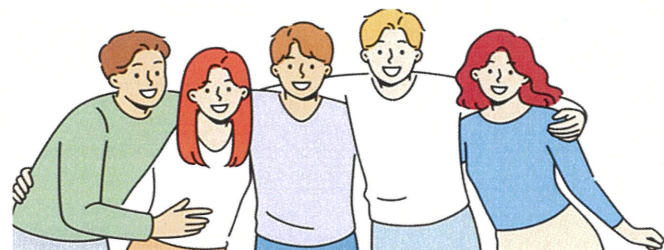
19 September 2025,
Friday
7pm-9pm

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

**Father's Day Prayers**

God our Father, you made the family a community of love. Bless our fathers and father figures as they follow your Son, Jesus. Let their faith, hope and love shine in our families, and show us the way to you.

Strengthen our fathers as they serve our families and communities. May their example reflect your protective care for all of us. We also pray for father who have died, that you may bring them into your fullness of your love.

May we always honour them with gratitude and hold them in prayer. Amen.

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.



Welcome to the family of Nora & Noah Zheng who will be baptised at St Gregory The Great Church this Sunday.