

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

29 JUNE 2025

THE LORD HAS SAVED ME! The first Christian community endured great persecution. Like Peter in prison, fastened with double chains and watched over by four sets of guards, it seemed the Church had no chance to escape from its predicaments. But time and again, the Lord delivered it. The Church still faces immense difficulties as it battles with evil in various forms. But if, like Paul, the Christian community keeps the faith and fights the good fight, the forces of evil will never prevail.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.**

### GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The Lord be with you.

**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. Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself as the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You have poured out on your people the Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to eternal life: 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 on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul / give us the noble and holy joy of this day, / grant, we pray,

that your Church / may in all things follow the teaching / of those through whom she received / the beginnings of right religion. / 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

Acts 12: 1-11

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**

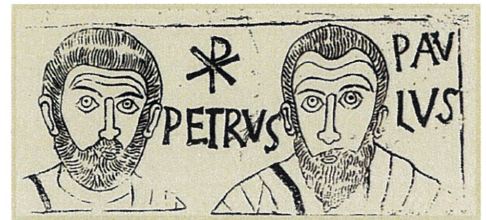
*Now I know it is indeed true: the Lord has saved me from the power of Herod.*

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**



### RESP PSALM

Ps 33: 2-9. R. v. 5

**R. The Lord set me free from all my fears.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

4. The angel of the Lord is encamped / around those who revere him, to rescue them. / Taste and see that the Lord is good. / He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **R.**

### SECOND READING

2 Tim 4: 6-8, 17-18

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy.**

*All that remains now is the crown of righteousness.*

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16: 18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!**



## GOSPEL

Mt 16: 13-19

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

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

*You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples. 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

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

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrificial gift that we present to your name for consecration, and may their intercession make us devoted to you in celebration of the sacrifice. 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 SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

*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 cf. Mt 16: 16, 18

**Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

**And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant us, O Lord, who have been renewed by this Sacrament, so to live in the Church, that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread and in the teaching of the Apostles, we may be one heart and one soul, made steadfast in your love. 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

### THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Feast celebrates the universality of our catholic world. We know from the *Book of Acts* and Paul's letters that Peter and Paul struggled to come to an agreement as to their respective missionary focus. For Peter it was to the Jews; for Paul, to the non-Jewish, Gentile world. While both retained their Jewish identity, they saw that God's commitment of love was to all and not restrictive to one cultural or religious grouping.

Matthew's Gospel affirms the role of Peter as the foundational disciple, the 'rock' (in Greek, 'Petros'), for the fledgling Jesus movement. But this is preceded by the most important and essential characteristic of discipleship and leadership within this movement: a firm witness of Jesus as God's anointed one, the 'Son of the living God.' Peter's affirmation of Jesus' identity comes from God. It is a statement of faith upon which the Jesus movement is built.

Faith lies at the heart of discipleship; witnessing to Jesus' relationship to God precedes any form of leadership. Peter is portrayed in Matthew's Gospel as a flawed, even failed disciple (and leader). We are only too aware today of the failings in ecclesial leadership. However, relationship with Jesus, the one from God, is what sustains and enables the 'rock', that firm foundation, to carry the Church through into a future that is uncertain.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles / C

28/29 June 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.melbatholic.org/s/doncaster>

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:

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Isa 66:10-14, Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20, Gal 6:14-18,

Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

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 Shirley Loo, Bob Ulehla, Carmel Aloï, Anthony Tang, Bishop Terry Curtin, Madelaine Fitzpatrick, Malia Sekeme, Thelma Peacock, Don Pavone, John Reid, Alan Benn, Helen Ong, Joseph Yeo, Michael Angelo Yambao, Meredith Barnes, Yuet-Sim Chow, Jason Shum, Siv Cuasay, Gemma, Anne & Leone Madafferri, Michael Mullens



and for those who died recently  
Helen Peppard

and for those whose anniversaries occur  
about now Francesco Carfi, Judith Morton,  
Reg White

## Words from the desk of the PP:

### Thank You!!

So many people have given me their blessings and their wishes for my birthday but even more for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my ordination. It humbles me. Thank you and thank you again and again. Your wishes and blessings show me God the Father's love, Christ's presence, the gentle support of the Holy Spirit.

Your care will help me to continue to grow to be the best shepherd of the Doncaster and Templestowe Parishes that I can be, the shepherd that the Holy Spirit calls me to be.

## Carlos Acutis & Evangelisation:

Keep a look out for the date and time: this will be a marvellous evening of immersing ourselves in seeing / understanding this wonderful young man who fell in love with Christ Jesus (in the Eucharist) and burned to share this love. Please: find the date; the time; the place (just read the notice). I hope that this evening with Carols Acutis will be an evening which helps each of us grow a little further as intentional, missionary disciples.

## Damascus / Lebanon:

I was talking to a parishioner recently – he is a native of Lebanon and knows the peoples of Lebanon and Syria and more importantly the received languages / history of the area as understood by those peoples.

A Google / or Wikipedia search gives other meanings of the names Damascus and Lebanon than the ones that Parishioner told me.

Damascus: two syllables in its origins – the oldest settled town as we know towns that is known of (though some places in Australia were settled in a somewhat different form many thousands of years earlier). In this man's understanding – the name Damascus means Blood Spilt or Blood Split: this was the site where Cain killed Able and spilt his blood but in spilling blood split the family.

Lebanon: with a meaning of "heart of God"

I am surprised by language all the time. I use words to convey meaning. I know the words well. And suddenly I find something new about them by understanding a little of the origins of the words. To find that decimated doesn't mean wiped out, as is the common usage today, but rather means to have one tenth killed: a punishment for a corps of soldiers in the Roman Army when they failed in their duty as soldiers.

What words do people speak that I misunderstand? What words to I speak that I don't understand? What room for confusion.

As we celebrate the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, who had to learn and change and grow in so many ways to understand the Jesus Christ with whom they fell in love, let us be open to spending time to hear the words we use and others speak: and making time to understand the depth and breadth of the words used and why they are used. Then perhaps we will understand each other more clearly and move towards peace, mercy, and love in a complicated, divided, and far too often violent world. Let us be open to the Holy Spirit empowering us to be Christ's presence.

*God bless, Fr Charles.*



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention for this week:

For all who are learning to live and grow past dysregulated behaviours, and for those who care for them: we pray that the Holy Spirit will comfort them and help them see Christ Jesus in others.

*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**

Peter Whiting, Frank Ryan  
Chris Perera  
Gril Job, Aditya Hendarto  
Stephanie & Michael Ong

**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Stephen Ma**MONEY COUNTERS:** Philip Dunlop**NEXT WEEK 5/6 July**

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

**LECTORS**

Alvin Priyana, Patrick Soosay  
Philip Dunlop, Greg Lesmana  
Erin Djukiadmojo, Jonathan Gunawan  
Enza Scaffid, Gerard O'Donnell

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

Noel & Cathy McClelland  
Tony Nimmo  
Agnes & Fred Fulia  
Seleana Ng, Alfred Lee

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

Robert & Dianne McHugh  
Margaret Wallace  
Rob Rukavina, Dai Sim  
Mary Tonti Filippini, Dot Haynes

**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.

**New 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. Follow the instructions — it's simple and secure.

**Give by Contactless**

Use our Eftpos Machine located in the church Narthex. You can donate with: a debit or credit card. Follow the instructions — it's simple and secure.

**FOR YEAR 6-10**

11 July 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](mailto:DONCASTER@CAM.ORG.AU) ☎ 9412 8425



We warmly invite you to deepen your faith through our weekly devotions.

**Holy Rosary: Every Wednesday after the 9.00AM Mass**

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

All are welcome to join in this communal expression of faith.

**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)



To all of you, brothers and sisters ... throughout the world: we want to be a synodal Church, a Church that moves forward, a Church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close above all to those who are suffering.

*Leo P.P. XIV*



**Peter's Pence** is an offering that may be small, but has a profound symbolic value: it expresses love and trust for the Holy Father, Peter's successor. It is a tangible gesture of closeness to the Pope's mission of bringing the Gospel and spreading charity and love all over the world.

**The aims of your donation:**

- to support the Holy Father's mission
- to support the Pope's charitable initiatives
- to provide aid in humanitarian emergencies

Thanks to donations to Peter's Pence, it has been possible to fund 236 projects in 76 countries. (source: annual report 2024)

Visit [www.obolodisanpietro.va](http://www.obolodisanpietro.va) or scan the QR code



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Beneficiary: "Obolo di San Pietro" (Peter's Pence)  
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(Multi-currency bank account - EUR, USD, CHF, GBP)  
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BIC/SWIFT code

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(for acknowledgement, please state your full name and address in the reason for payment)

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Scan the following QR codes

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Secretariat for the Economy  
00120 Vatican City  
[obolo@spe.va](mailto:obolo@spe.va)



*hope*

EMBARK ON A TRANSFORMATIONAL & SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IN THIS YEAR OF JUBILEE  
[melbournecatholic.org/jubilee](http://melbournecatholic.org/jubilee)

