

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 OCTOBER 2026

SERVING GOD THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY. The kingdom of God is already present in our world. It is here that we practise the kingdom values of justice, honesty, love and compassion. It is here that we show our faith in action, work for love and persevere in hope. When we contribute to the well-being of civil society we are promoting the kingdom of God.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 16:6, 8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

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 are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the firstborn of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: 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 Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. 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

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I am you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

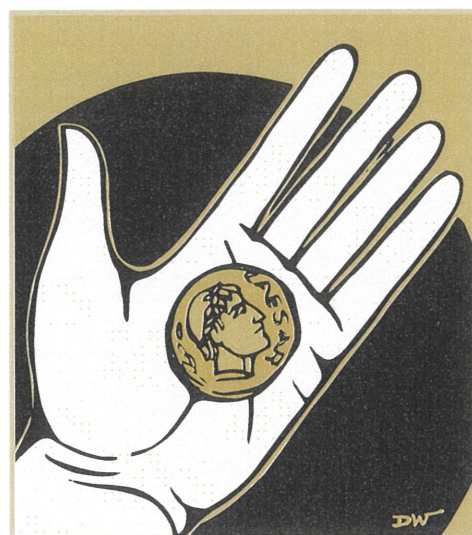
Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

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.

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

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. Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
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 32:18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. 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

WHO IS OUR GOD?

Homilists today may be tempted to use this Gospel as an encouragement to honour taxation: every citizen contributes to the common good, and perhaps parishioners might even be urged to contribute a little more to the parish coffers. After all, Jesus does say, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar!' While we certainly have a responsibility to support those social structures that advance the common good, and to assist those who struggle, something more troubling is at work in this Gospel.

The setting is the Temple Mount, where Matthew presents Jesus undergoing a theological trial before religious leaders and guardians of orthodoxy. It is a scene repeated in every generation of Jesus' followers: the attempt by theological rigorists to indict those whom they regard as out of step with orthodox teaching. Jesus refuses the premise of their question. Instead, he asks them to produce the coin used to pay the tax and to identify the figure and inscription upon it. 'Caesar's,' they reply.

Here lies the real issue. These religious leaders publicly champion the Torah's fundamental confession that there is only one God. Yet, in Israel's most sacred place, the Temple, they carry an image of the god-king Caesar. Their actions contradict the faith they claim to defend. Thus, today's Gospel is not primarily about the lawfulness of taxation. It is about fidelity to the Divine One. Beneath the question of what belongs to Caesar lies the more searching question: Who is our God, the One to whom our ultimate love, allegiance and obedience belong?

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT, DONCASTER



MASS TIMES:

ST GREGORY'S: Sat Vigil 6:30pm,
Sun 10:30am, 5:00 pm

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday @ 10:30am

Youth Mass 2nd Sundays at 5 pm

ST GREGORY'S WEEKDAYS:

Wed: 6:30pm & Fri 9:00am followed by
Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration

ST KEVIN'S: Sat Vigil 5:30pm; Sun 9:15am
Weekdays: Tue & Thurs 9:15 pm

ST CLEMENT: Sat Vigil: 5pm, Sun 9am,
11am (Italian)

Weekdays: Tue (Italian) & Wed 9:15am

CONFESSIONS:

ST GREGORY'S: Saturdays 9:30-11:00am or
by appointment

ST KEVIN'S: By appointment

ST CLEMENT: Saturdays 4:30-4:50pm or by
appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: before/after any
Mass or by appointment

BAPTISMS: Ring the Parish Office for
bookings

**ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Tel: (03) 9848 4483

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Margaret O'Donnell
margaretodonnell@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:

Fridays at 9:45 am in the church meeting
room. Contact Paola Cheng 0415 280 216

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP:

3rd Fridays 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 4th Fridays 7:15pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: 3rd
Mondays 7:00 pm in the School Parish Room

ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB: Membership
enquiries: Gianna Alessio (President) 0438
410 506

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Terry M 0402307384

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Ex 22:20-26, 1 Thess 1:5-10, Mt 22:34-40

Parish Office: Mon-Fri 8:30am to 3:20pm

Phone: 9412 8425

Email: doncaster@cam.org.au

Website: stgregs.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Assist. Priest: Anton Aseervathampillai

Business Manager: David Hii

Parish Secretary: Vera Arief (Mon & Wed)

Luisa Yambao (Tue, Thur, Fri)

Bookkeeping: Bernadine De Silva (Mon)

Sacristan: Mary Stocco: 0412 742 657

St Gregory the Great Primary School

Principal: Natalie Ballinger

principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 18 October 2026

Words from PP,

Columban Calendars

We have good stock but they are selling – so ... buy 1, 2, 3 – for yourself or as gifts.

Christmas Planning

Advent Penitential Service: December 3rd 7:30 pm at St Clement of Rome – a joint penitential service/ reflection for all three of our parishes, followed by the opportunity for individual absolution.

I'll publish full Christmas / New Year Mass times in the near future.

Cornerstone Youth and Young Adults – Mass

A lovely surprise last Sunday at St Greg's – a lovely person donated dinner for everyone after the amazing Youth led Mass. It has inspired some people to look at making this a regular event. The Holy Spirit is working! Inspiring! Guiding! Leading! Come Holy Spirit.

November Masses

Envelopes are available in the gathering space for you to submit your requests for November Masses. You can put your envelopes in the box in the gathering space or into one of the collections and it will get separated out and given to me.

I gather the Mass requests and allocate them throughout the month – allocated as they arrive. Usually there are more requests than Fr Anton and I can celebrate so I pass the additional Masses to Aid to Church in Need and priests in great need get some much needed help and you get the Masses you request.

Alpha – Adult Retreat

The Alpha retreat for the adult group was held last weekend – and most successful it was. Much experience of praying with each other and the invoking of the Holy Spirit.

Many testimonials about change

Men's Group

We have a men's group that meets at St Kevin's Church gathering space (26 Herlihy Road Templestowe Lower) on the second Friday of most months (18 yr or older). 7:30 pm start – for a couple of hours – usually with pizza and byo. something to drink.

A time for chatting, touching on challenges of faith, sharing life events and stories and complexities, and generally having a comfortable relaxing time together.

Email templestowe@cam.org.au or call 98505983 and we can get you into the group.

Christmas Gift

I have copies of a lovely little book called "A River Dreaming" – written by Aunt Betty Pike. It presents a challenging allegory about being a person living 'between races' or 'across races' – Aboriginal and Irish in Betty's case.

I recommend it to you to read but also as a gift of young people (or older people) – an easy read and well worthwhile. \$10 each. Available in the gathering space.

World Youth Day – 2027 August 3-8 Seoul Korea

World Youth Day is coming! Less than a year away! We already have ten people who have committed: aged 16 and up with some parent. It would be amazing to have a large group going from our three parishes.

Best web-sites to get an idea of what's happening: <https://wydseoul.org/en> and Melbourne Archdiocese: <https://youth.melbournecatholic.org/wyd27>

Vera is enthusiastic and has booked tickets already and is keen to help you get involved and booked. Email her at Vera.Arief@cam.org.au and she will contact you to talk about it.

It's World Youth Day so ... of course, there is a focus on youth, 14-30 year olds. But ... Actually everyone is welcome to attend.

God bless, Fr Charles.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those who are sick at this time: Fr Anthony Grenville, Elmo Silvapulle, Meredith Barnes, Mike Yambao, Caroline Tang, John Green, Anna, Vincent, Leone, Sunny Boy Pereira, Anna Ziglinis, Emmly L

Those who died recently: Michael Mullens

Those whose anniversaries occur about now: Nursianti Bachtiar, John Bumford



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention:

For Pope Leo, that he will regain full health for the work
he is called to lead.

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

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 6:30 PM	Lectors: Noel & Cathy McClelland Communion: Frances Cannizzo, Margaret O'Donnell
SUNDAY 10:30 AM	Lectors: Tony Ting, Justin Green Communion: Behnaz Behmadi, Sauro Antonelli, Lilian Antonelli
SUNDAY 5:00 PM	Lectors: Valentinus Reza, Mary Tonti Filippini Communion: Dot Haynes, Nita Pereira

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Phil Handang **FLOWERS:** Geraldina Donato
MONEY COUNTERS: Christopher Lim
MORNING TEA: Brian & Jenny Tyedin

NEXT WEEK

Lectors: Frank Ryan, Gerard O'Donnell Communion: Sharron Wilkinson, Iris O'Farrell
Lectors: Franklin Shepherdson, Ivonne Gunawan Communion: Dai Sim, Luci Giardino, Nuccia La Rocca
Lectors: Thomas Ong, Alvin Priyana Communion: Seleana Ong, Margaret O'Donnell

CARE OF THE CHURCH: Agnes Chee **FLOWERS:** Mary Piccoli
MONEY COUNTERS: Josie Masters
MORNING TEA: N/A

Scan and Give



Scan this code with your phone camera & donate directly to our church. Choose Payment for Church Donations.

Give by Contactless

Use our Eftpos Terminal located in the church Narthex.
 You can donate with: a debit/credit card.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School



Open Day: 29 October 2026 at 9.30-11.30 am

School Tours: contact 9848 4483; sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

Parish Facilities: The Parish Hall and Parish Room are available
 Bookings can be made: office@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

	Young Adults Group 7:15PM	The Young Adults Group extend a warm invitation to all between 18 and 35 to join our gathering in the parish room at 7:15pm on Friday 30th October. Dinner will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there! Info: doncaster@cam.org.au
	Encounter Night-Speaker & Eucharistic Adoration 7PM	Come and encounter Jesus through a night of worship, inspiring talks, and Eucharistic Adoration, followed by supper and fellowship. St Gregory's, Doncaster. All are welcome!
	Nicholas Tonti-Filippini Oration 7PM	HEALTHCARE, CONSCIENCE AND THE LAW SPEAKER: Paul Santamaria KC VENUE: Catholic Leadership Centre East Melbourne COST & BOOKINGS: Two Course dinner and speech - \$125 www.trybooking.com/DPWCZ CONTACT: admin@catholicmedicine.org or www.catholicmedicine.org White Mass for healthcare workers will be celebrated by Archbishop Peter Comensoli at St John the Evangelist Church at 6PM
SAVE THE DATE 17 November 2026	Please save the date for our upcoming Parish Assembly. Further details will be provided closer to the date.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ART SHOW 2026
 Let Your Light Shine!

Join the St Greg's community in celebrating the creativity and artistic talents of our students!

Opening Night: Wednesday 28 October, 6:00pm-7:30pm
 Entry: \$10 per family (cash and card accepted)
 Additional Viewing Times: Thursday 29 October: 8:30am-9:15am and 3:30pm-4:30pm
 Friday 30 October: 8:30am-9:15am

Enjoy student artwork, interactive activities, a class artwork silent auction and raffle prizes.

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL: Donations of new raffle prizes from families and local businesses are warmly welcomed. Gift vouchers, products, hampers, food items, homewares and experience vouchers would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at the school front office.
 Funds raised will help cover the costs of running the Art Show.
 Come along and support our wonderful young artists!

Holy Souls - Memorial Book

Our Memorial Book is available on the table in the Church Narthex throughout October. The names of loved ones recorded in last year's book have been printed in alphabetical order by surname.
 Please check whether your loved ones' names are listed and add only those that are missing.
 Moving forward, we will retain these names in the book so that our loved ones continue to be remembered in our prayers each year, with new names added as requested.

Supporting Our Families During VCE

We acknowledge that this can be a challenging and stressful time for young people undertaking VCE, as well as for their families.
 If you or your family need someone to talk to, some support, or simply someone to listen, please don't hesitate to reach out to Fr Charles or the Parish Office. We are here to support you and walk alongside you during this time.

