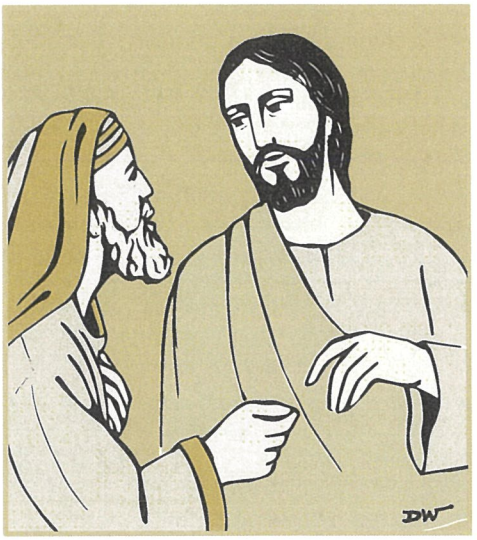
Our Sunday Celebration

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time / A — **25 October 2026**

OBSERVE THE SORT OF LIFE WE LIVE. In every society people observe the actions of others. When many people ignore a particular law others conclude that it is alright for them to do the same. Children often imitate the behaviours of their parents. When we practise the law of love in our lives we benefit not only those who need our help but also those who observe our actions.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
cf. Ps 104:3-4

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

GREETING

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

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
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.

P. 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. Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM
Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING
1 Thess 1:5-10

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

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 22:34-40

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.
You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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. Look, we pray, O Lord,
on the offerings we make to your majesty,
that whatever is done by us in your service
may be directed above all to your glory.
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 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,
perfect in us what lies within them,
that what we now celebrate in signs
we may one day possess in truth.
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 in peace.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

As with last Sunday's Gospel, we find ourselves again on the Temple Mount—the sacred place where the Torah was taught and people were encouraged to live its demands and invitations. As Matthew's Gospel approaches its concluding chapters, however, the Temple also becomes the arena for another trial, continuing from last Sunday. Jesus' religious opponents set theological traps, seeking to expose him as an imposter and false teacher. This time the question concerns the greatest of the 613 commandments discerned in the Torah. It is a formidable test. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus to a Jewish community of followers living decades after the Galilean ministry of Jesus. The teaching Matthew records in the mid-80s CE reaches back to the original teaching of Jesus in the 30s.

Both then and now, Jesus draws upon the Torah to identify the two commandments that stand at the heart of faithful living. The first comes from Deuteronomy: to love God with one's whole being—heart, soul and mind. This command was so central to Jewish faith that it was symbolically carried on the body, clothing and doorposts of the home, and recited frequently each day in prayer. From this all-encompassing love of God flows the second commandment: to love one's neighbour as oneself. The two cannot be separated. Love of God finds its expression in how we love and treat others.

These commandments remain at the heart of our Christian heritage. They continue to shape our relationship with God and with one another, calling us beyond religious observance alone into a life grounded in love.

Fr Michael Trainor

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT, DONCASTER

Parish of St Gregory the Great

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
margaretodonnel@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:
ALL SAINTS:
Apoc 7: 2-4, 9-14, 1 Jn 3: 1-3, Mt 5: 1-12

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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
25 October 2026

Words from PP,

All Souls Day – Masses and Cemetery Visits
In special recognition for those who have died we will have the following procession on All Souls Day – Monday 2nd November
Start and end with Mass and visit three cemeteries to go round and visit the graves of those we know.
9:15 am: Begin with Mass at St Clement of Rome
10:00 am: Gather at Templestowe Cemetery and go around blessing grave sites.
Travel to Eltham ca. 10 mins
11:00 am: Gather at Eltham Cemetery (in the car park at the side entrance on Metery Road, Eltham), go round blessing grave sites.
Travel to Warrandyte ca. 20 mins
12:30 pm: Gather at Andersons Creek Cemetery (11 Blair St Warrandyte), go round visiting blessing sites.
Finish the day with Mass at St Gregory the Great at 5:00 pm.
Fr Anton will lead the procession.

Masses for November
Don't forget to fill in an envelope requesting prayers during November for those you love who have died.

Christmas Gift
"A River Dreaming" I have plenty (hundreds) of copies of this little book – written by Aunty 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 for young people and older people – an easy read with deep meaning and great illustrations: just $10 each. Available in the gathering space.

World Youth Day – 2027 August 3-8 Seoul Korea
World Youth Day! Please let us know if you are thinking, dreaming, pondering, wondering about going. E-mail vera.arief@cam.org.au. Vera is enthusiastic for a large number of people from our parishes to go! It's only nine months away. Start thinking! Let us help in guiding you.

Columban Calendars
We still have ample supplies. I love these calendars for the paintings used which evoke deep reflections in me. And useful for the calendar of saints etc too.

Reporting Things
During the week I went into one of our meeting rooms and saw a broken chair. Sitting there. A while ago there was a broken toilet seat. And another time a dripping tap. And also I've found trip hazards. And dirty toilets. None of these were reported to me or to a sacristan.
Please! Please! Please!
If something is broken I not working I dirty I missing: REPORT IT to me or the sacristan or the parish office.
Of course if you see something you feel is wrong in relation to children particularly: report it (Safeguarding).
I want you safe and comfortable so we can properly be in the presence of Jesus for the world.
PS: that broken chair? It was for a child to use. When I checked there were six others similar and all of them were ready to break: it seems no harm happened this time but … having a chair collapse under you is a good way to get an injury: young or old.

Music and Singing at our Masses
Christ Jesus our Lord is at the core of everything we live for and doubly so at the core of our Mass.
Thank you to all who are providing us with music and singing: you are treasures of the Lord.
It has been wonderful to me to see the arrival of new people into our Music and Singing ministry at our Masses in St Clement's / St Gregory's / St Kevin's – supplementing or expanding our existing music ministries.
Please! Put yourselves forward: if you have some skills as a musician or some ability to sing: every one of our music groups will welcome you. Approach the musicians at the Mass you go to and offer your gifts. Or e-mail / call your parish office.

Co-responsibility in the Church
Cardinal Grech is speaking in Melbourne, live, on Co-responsibility in the Church on Nov. 4th
It looks to be a well worthwhile talk from an excellent speaker.
I encourage you to go along but you must register – use the QR code on the poster in the gathering space. Or go to notredame.edu.au and search for "Grech" and follow instructions. There is a charge.

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, Teresa Wong, John Green, Anna, Vincent, Leone, Sunny Boy Pereira
Those who died recently: Patricia Huntley, Datsa
Those whose anniversaries occur about now: Nanito Evangelista, Adi Priyana, Maria Briffa, Tim Doherty, William Maher Jr.



Fr Charles' Prayer Intention:
We pray in thanks for the wonders of human ingenuity which, through the power of the Holy Spirit, enables our medical and technical achievements and the great good that arises.

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

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
SATURDAY 6:30 PM	**Lectors:** Frank Ryan, Gerard O'Donnell **Communion:** Sharron Wilkinson, Iris O'Farrell	**Lectors:** Frances Cannizzo, Peter Whiting **Communion:** Sharron Wilkinson, Margaret O'Donnell
SUNDAY 10:30 AM	**Lectors:** Franklin Shepherdson, Ivonne Gunawan **Communion:** Dai Sim, Luci Giardino, Nuccia La Rocca	**Lectors:** Paola Villanueva, Gril Job **Communion:** Erin Djukiadmodjo, Agnes & Fred Fulia
SUNDAY 5:00 PM	**Lectors:** Thomas Ong, Alvin Priyana **Communion:** Seleana Ong, Margaret O'Donnell	**Lectors:** Jane Ma, Benedicta Wong **Communion:** Alfred Ma, Dot Haynes
	CARE OF THE CHURCH: Agnes Chee **FLOWERS:** Mary Piccoli **MONEY COUNTERS:** Josie Masters **MORNING TEA:** N/A	**CARE OF THE CHURCH:** Sharron Wilkinson **FLOWERS:** Irene Dharmawan **MONEY COUNTERS:** Iris O'Farrell **MORNING TEA:** Don & Lina

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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

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

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



Encounter Night- Speaker & Eucharistic Adoration 7:00 PM

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 7:00 PM

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 6:00 PM.



PARISH ASSEMBLY 6:30 PM St Gregory's Hall

You are warmly invited to our Parish Assembly, an opportunity for us to come together in faith, share our hopes and ideas, and discern how the Holy Spirit is guiding our parish community.
This Assembly is especially significant as our discussions will also contribute to the upcoming Archdiocesan Synod. Fr Charles, who has been chosen as a Clergy Representative, will bring our ideas shared during our discussions to the Synod, giving our parish a voice in the wider Church.
Together, we will discern how the Holy Spirit is guiding us to build a welcoming and faith-filled community where everyone feels heard and included.
Please add your name to the sign-up sheets in the church foyer to assist with catering.
We look forward to seeing you there!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR OUR PARISH

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will hold its annual planning day on 17 November to reflect on our parish's future and plan for the coming years.
Do you have any ideas, suggestions or comments about how our parish can continue to grow and better serve our community? We would love to hear from you! Please feel free to approach any member of the Parish Pastoral Council and share your thoughts before the planning day.
Your input is valuable as we discern together how to build a vibrant, welcoming and faith-filled parish.
Your Parish Pastoral Council members are: Margaret O'Donnell, Dot Haynes, Mary Tonti-Filippini, Natalie Ballinger, Francis Yim, David Hii, Stephanie Ong, Abraham Prawira, Brianna Chow, Justin Green, Alfred Ablaza and Fr Charles Balnaves.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Join us for our Open Day to explore our school, meet our welcoming staff, and discover the opportunities we offer to help every child learn, grow and thrive.
📅 Thursday, 29 October 2026 ⏰ 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Bring your family along and experience what makes our school such a special place to learn, grow and belong.
We look forward to welcoming you and your family!



Safeguarding Essentials Training for Volunteers

All parish volunteers who have not yet completed the compulsory Safeguarding Essentials Training are invited to attend a combined training session on Saturday, 21 November, at 4:00 pm at St Kevin's Parish.
If you have not yet completed this requirement, please make every effort to attend.
Please email or call the Parish Office to confirm your attendance so that the necessary training resources can be prepared.
Thank you for your cooperation and for your continued service to our parish community.