

St Gregory's Catholic Parish



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wwwst.gregsqeuanbeyan.com

Our parish acknowledges the original custodians, the first peoples of the land where we gather to pray. We welcome any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples present. We honour their elders past, present and emerging as we walk together continuing the path to reconciliation.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

31 Jan and 1 February 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the
name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just

but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading

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

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.'

Mass Times (St.Raphael's)
Sunday 5:30pm (Sat night)
8am and 10am
Weekdays
Tues - Thur 5:30pm
Fri at 12noon
2nd Sat of month 9:30 am at
St. Gregory's Church

Confession Times
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
6pm
St.Raphael's

Parish Playgroup Has finished for 2025
A NOTICE WILL BE POSTED WHEN A NEW COORDINATOR IS FOUND

Parish Youth Group
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
On recess until 2026

REFLECTION

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

To follow Jesus does not mean merely that one travels with him from place to place. It means that one learns from him, that one follows his manner of life and his way of thinking. To follow Jesus means to follow his example in the way he respects himself and other people, in his use of the things of the natural world. It means that one listens to what he says and asks for an explanation when what he says is not understood. All of this requires that the disciple be a learner, one who can learn from the life of Jesus as well as from his teaching. The first lessons that the disciples must learn are found in the beatitudes. The same lessons are placed before us, the modern-day disciples. The setting of Jesus' teaching is so serene; a mountain apart, a teacher with his disciples gathered around him, simple statements that are coupled with glorious rewards. However, the reality of the lessons is in stark contrast with this tranquil scene. These beatitudes, these blessings call for profound inner transformation. The gospel outlines the kind of person the disciple is to become; the psalm sketches the program to which the learner is called. The disciples of Jesus are not merely his followers; they also continue the work that he began. In whatever circumstance of life we find ourselves, as disciples of Jesus we work to sustain the good that is in the world and to transform whatever needs transformation.

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

Priest: *Let us turn to the Lord and seek refuge in his name for God hears our every prayer.*

Reader: For a humble and merciful Church.

In your goodness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who work for peace and justice among nations.

In your goodness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are abused or persecuted.

In your goodness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are poor in body or spirit.

In your goodness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For this community, made holy in Christ.

In your goodness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died and those who mourn.

In your goodness:

Priest: *God of all blessedness, you sent Jesus to be our teacher and our saviour. Hear these prayers and form us as the community of the beatitudes. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

All: Amen.

Thank you for your generosity!

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you so much for your selfless and generous support recently of the local jail. Your donation enabled the chaplaincy team to compile and distribute 400+ Christmas packs to detainees.

Also a big thank you to Lorraine Lasker and her family for co-ordinating the production of each pack ready for distribution.

The detainees were genuinely moved and grateful.

Peace and blessings, Fr Peter Day AMC Chaplain

Save the Date!

Our Parish Assembly will be held on 9 May 2026.

"Conversation in the Spirit"

Contact Selina Stanford for more information.

Email: sstanford2000@gmail.com

Nursing Home Mass Times

1st Wed 10 am George Forbes House
2nd Wed 10.30 am Heritage Nursing Home
3rd Wed 10.30am Warrigal.

St Vincent de Paul Conference

Meeting 7pm every 2nd Thursday next
On 10 February 2026
St. Raphael's Parish Room
ALL WELCOME

Formation in Faith (RCIA)

Everyone is welcome to join the group:
Sundays 9am Parish Meeting Room at St.Raphael's Presbytery.

Rosary

Tuesday- Friday 5pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday 11am
Meditation
Tuesdays at 7pm
St. Raphael's

PARISH & ARCHDIOCESAN INFORMATION

Let us pray for the sick in our Parish Christian Borja, Connie Griffin, Hugo Villa, Fred Spiteri, Lucy Aloe, Felicia Lyons, Robert (Ned) Vodovic, Mirella Wakim, Thomas, Juliet & Rommel Estabillo, Rosario Surmeida, Katie Casey, Antonio & Dhel Borja, Dennis Pountney, Andy McCosker, Patelisio Langi, Phil Hastings, Cheryl Smith, Mary Miller, Dick Grimes, Ulima Faatamala, Gwynne McIntyre, Patrick McCormack, Patricia Mooney, Catherine Cullen, Eva Sutton, John Church, Rae Blyton, Oliver Pacione, Gary Grady

Recently Deceased: Lourdes Iglesias, John Luketic, Greg Thornton, Julio Garcia Rodriguez, Raelene Griffin, Eric Knapp

Anniversaries: Frank Nicita

Baptisms: Austin David Doyle, Tomi Christian Lukasik, Sebastian Thomas Runciman, Hazel Jordan

70th Wedding Anniversary.

This week we have the pleasure of joining with the Bernabe family and congratulating Juan and Cora on their 70th Wedding anniversary.

Didn't they do well?! Please join the family for morning tea following 10am Mass this weekend.

St. Raphael's Church Bell.

We have achieved about 50% of our target goal and proceeding with the upgrade.

More funds will be required and you can donate by direct bank transfer to

St Gregory's Parish BSB 062 786 ACC 0001 2889

Please Reference Bell Donation & your name

If you prefer you can donate directly via the QKR! APP

Thank you for your generosity.

St. Gregory's Parish Sacramental Program 2026.

Enrol and pay via the Qkr!app – each sacrament \$50.

Reconciliation (8-9 years or older) closing date 23 Feb 2026

First Eucharist (9-10 years or older) closing date 11 May 2026

Confirmation (11-12 years or older) closing date 10 August 2026.

Reconciliation Preparation

Held after 5.30pm Mass in St. Raphael's Church

Wednesday 25 February (Parent/carer information and 1st class for children)

Wednesday 4 March (2nd class for children)

Wednesday 11 March (3rd class for children)

Wednesday 18 March (4th class for children and rehearsal)

Sacrament Celebration Wednesday 25 March 2026 following Mass at 5:30 pm St Raphael's Church (all children)

Preparation dates for 1st Eucharist and Confirmation will be posted later in 2026.

Charity Collection totalled \$3759.25 for 2025/6 year. Next month we start again for 2026/27 and our first charity will be the Sleep Bus.

Lenten books coming soon. We will let you know when they arrive. Suggested donation is \$5.

Women's Breakfast on 21 Feb at 0830 at Suppetos Jerrabomberra. Please sign the sheet at the back of the church for catering.

Michelago Mass on Saturday 28 February 2026 at 5.30pm.

St.Vincent de Paul volunteers will be collecting donations following masses this weekend. They will have their own tap machines.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

©Liturgy Help

Air Conditioning in St.Raphael's Church

Father George is very sorry because we cannot turn this on. It has **nothing** to do with saving money but it is because the electricity supply to the church is inadequate and needs an upgrade to bring more power in from the grid. Pity nobody thought about this in 1957.

The Parish Pastoral Council hope to complete this work in 2026 but it is very involved and expensive. Some roadworks will be required in conjunction with Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus doesn't start in a fantasy dream world of perfection. Jesus looks at the world as it often is for many people, perhaps for most people around the world: 'the poor in spirit', 'those who mourn', 'those who are gentle', 'those who hunger and thirst for justice'. Jesus astonishes the crowd by saying that such people are 'Blessed'. How can this be? The answer lies in our Lord's emphasis on the new community he is establishing under the reign of God: what he calls 'the Kingdom of God'. Those in such wretched circumstances will have things set right, but only if followers of Jesus do everything possible to lift the poor out of the poverty which crushes their spirit, do everything possible to comfort those who mourn, do everything possible to make sure the gentle share the earth's resources, do everything possible to satisfy the craving for justice. We could pause for a moment to pray the 'Our Father' pledging ourselves to help construct this new society where the Beatitudes can come true: 'Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

mtate@bigpond.com

Parish Safeguarding Commitment

Our Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the center of all our thinking and action. For more information visit the Canberra Archdiocesan website at <https://cgcatholic.org.au/professional-standards.Communicating Concerns>: Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns they may have by emailing the Parish Office. Alternately, Parishioners may raise any specific safeguarding issues by emailing the Parish Office marking the email to the attention of the Parish Safeguarding Volunteers. Parishioners are also welcome to contact Maria Hicks, Manager for the Archdiocese Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPPS) by emailing ipss@cg.org.au or phone 02 6239 9806

St. Gregory's safeguarding volunteers are Mary Dorrian, Nick Pelle, Leah Taylor and Malcolm Harrison

Parish Finance Council (PFC):

Anne Alexander (Chair), Paul Lindwall, Matthew Mason-Cox, Chris Anthony

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Janine Deakin (Chair), Bec Giampaolo, Gretchen Bell, Sybil Busby, Glenda Chapman, Jaynel Estrella, Ralph Frank, Nisha & Manoj Jose, Nick Pelle, Sheryl & Benjie Reyes, Selina Stanford.

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