

## SUNDAY MASSES TIMES

Sat. 6 p.m. Vigil St Stephen's  
Sun. 8:30 a.m. (It. & Eng.) St Gabriel's  
10 a.m. St Stephen's  
St Gabriel's

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

(Confessions)

### St Gabriel's

Sat. at 9:45 a.m.

### St Stephen's

Sat. at 5:30 p.m.

## BAPTISMS

by prior arrangement

### St Gabriel's

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 11:30 a.m.

### St Stephen's

by prior arrangement

## MARRIAGES

by prior arrangement

(at least six months notice is required.)

No Sunday weddings.)

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

(this week)

**ST GABRIEL'S** Mon., Fri. at 9 a.m.  
Wed. 11 a.m.  
**ST STEPHEN'S:** Wed., Thurs., at 9:30 a.m.  
No Mass Keon Park Thurs. at 11a.m.

## FERIALS, FEASTS & INTENTIONS—

*Orario sante messe feriali*

**Mon.** 19th Week of Ordinary Time **No Mass**

**Tues.** St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, *priest, martyr*  
*Intention: Josip & Anna Tot—Anniv.*

**Wed.** **SOL. OF THE ASSUMPTION**  
*Intention:*

**Thurs.** St Stephen of Hungary  
*Intention:*

**Fri.** 19th Week of Ordinary Time  
*Intention: Peter Russell—Anniv.*

**Sat.** 19th Week of Ordinary Time **No Mass**



The Partnered Parishes of  
**St. Gabriel, Reservoir**  
and  
**St Stephen of Hungary, East Reservoir**

Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Hactor



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
- 12.08.2018 -  
19a Domenica in Tempo Ordinario

**St Gabriel's**  
1 Viola Street, Reservoir 3073

**Ph:** 9460 6036  
**Fax:** 9460 4771  
**Email:** reservoir@cam.org.au  
**Website:** www.stgabrielsreservoir.org

### Parish Secretaries:

Mrs Gracie Forde  
Mr Hung Chau

### Office Hours:

Mon. & Tues. 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.  
Fri: 8 a.m.—3 p.m.

### School:

**237 Spring Street, Reservoir**

**Ph:** 9469 3513  
**Email:** principal@sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au

**Principal:** Mr Mark Miatello  
**Secretary:** Mrs Enza Torcasio

**St Stephen's**  
71 Whitelaw Street, Reservoir East, 3073

**Ph:** 9460 7266  
**Fax:** 9460 7650  
**Email:** reservoir@cam.org.au

### Parish Secretary:

Mrs Gracie Forde

### Office Hours:

Please contact St Gabriel's Parish Office for all enquiries until further notice.

### School:

**71 Whitelaw Street, Reservoir East**

**Ph:** 9460 3566  
**Fax:** 9462 3404  
**Email:** principal@ssreservoir.catholic.edu.au

**Principal:** Mr Richard Keele  
**Secretary:** Mrs Gracie Forde

We continue the Eucharistic meditation from John's gospel. Last week Jesus called his audience to be open to the gift of faith that will enable them to appreciate the Eucharistic mystery. In today's reading he explains further what this faith implies. Understanding that this passage is a meditative recollection of what Jesus had done for us, we are able to share in the outlook of the community in which this gospel was written. This passage echoes many of the themes that were fundamental to the faith of that community. John's gospel begins with a declaration of faith in the Incarnation: 'The Word became flesh'. This momentous truth is constantly reaffirmed in the writings of this community. Jesus is confronted, in our passage, by the complaints of those who find it hard to accept: 'Come down from heaven! This is Jesus the son of Joseph'. The faith to which Jesus calls us, however, is not an embarrassing burden. It is a blessing that comes to us from the depths of the divine generosity and freedom - we are 'drawn by the Father', setting out on a journey which leads to 'eternal life' in God.

The Father and the Son share in all things, and so he declares that faith is also his gift, a gift that will be ours when we 'come to him' - we must live in his company as his first disciples did. For Christian faith, Jesus is the revelation of the Father - he has truly 'come from God', and 'has seen the Father' - an echo of the memorable words of the gospel's opening: 'it is the only son who is close to the Father's heart who had made him known'. The teaching is like a commentary on his words at the Supper: 'Eternal life is this: to know you [Father], the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent'. Those who live by the faith Jesus is offering share in the divine wisdom itself; they 'hear the teaching of the Father and learn from it'. Referring to the manna - symbol of God's caring for the people of the Exodus - Jesus reminds his listeners that the time of foreshadowing has ended. The faith Jesus offers recognises that all the promises that sustained Israel's faith are being fulfilled: 'I AM the living bread come down from heaven'.

Jesus has prepared his listeners for his announcing of the Eucharistic mystery. Through this mystery he will be nourishing bread for the world, not in metaphor only, but in reality: 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world'. These climactic words clearly echo the words of the Eucharistic ritual familiar to the community of John's gospel: 'This is my body, given for you'. 'Jesus came in the flesh' is one of the formulas of this community's Incarnation faith.

Paul's teaching from Ephesians continues to chime in with our theme: let your communion be shown by genuine friendship; show forth the Christ-life you share in through the Paschal Mystery.

John Thornhill s m

## TODAY'S MASS

**First Reading:** 1 Kings 19:4-8 Elijah is at a low ebb in the wilderness when God provides him with food for nourishment to continue his journey.

**Psalm Response:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 4:30-5:2; A warning not to "grieve the Holy Spirit of God" or to be unkind to one another. A call to follow Christ "by loving as he loved you".

**Gospel Acc:** Alleluia! Alleluia!  
I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel Reading:** John 6:41-51. Jesus says that the bread he gives "is my flesh, for the life of the world".



## NEXT SUNDAY—DOMENICA PROSSIMA

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time—20a Domenica in Tempo Ordinario

Proverbs 9:1-6; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58.

The Parishes of St Gabriel, Reservoir and St Stephen, East Reservoir, are committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the 2001 legislation of the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments. A copy of the Parishes' Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner by contacting the respective Parish Offices.

## GENERAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, NEWS & HUMOUR

**WE WELCOME ELIZABETH GELLEL** to the 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. Masses this weekend to speak to us about the work of CatholicCare.

**ST GABRIEL'S SMARTIES TRIVIA NIGHT, FRI. 17 AUGUST.** We warmly welcome all parishioners and friends of St Gabriel's and St Stephen's to join us at our upcoming trivia night. Organise your team of 8-10 smarties, be sure to all dress in the same smartie colour and come along to the hall at 7pm on Friday 17th August. For more information please contact Kim Lawrence 0414 843 814 or email [pandf@sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pandf@sgreservoir.catholic.edu.au)

**SAINT GABRIEL'S THEATRE GROUP—** Auditions for "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" will be held in St Gabriel's hall on Sunday 26 August at 6 p.m. All ages and abilities welcome. Our attitude is "If you walk in the door - you're in the show"!! Rehearsals continue each Sunday evening from 6-8:30 p.m. until performances in the last week of November. Find us on Facebook or call Judy 0488580145.

**ORGAN RECITAL AFTER 10 A.M. MASS 26 August** with Colin Jenkins. This short recital will be followed by a light lunch in the Bethany Room. Cost: Free.

**RCIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE - Evangelisation and the RCIA, Melbourne 11-13 October 2018,** Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne. A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR PARISH TO ENLIVEN YOUR RCIA TEAM OR SET UP A NEW ONE. Keynote Speakers: Shane Dwyer- Director National Centre for Evangelisation; Dr Elio Capra SDB- Catholic Theological College; Louise Campbell- Director National Liturgy Office, New Zealand. For more information go to: <http://www.cianetwork.net> or email: [treasurer-cianetwork@outlook.com](mailto:treasurer-cianetwork@outlook.com) Places are limited and can now be secured through Trybooking.

**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 – Listen to what the Spirit is saying.** To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question: "**What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?**" Find out more about the Plenary Council 2020 at the new website, now online: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

**THE SENATE** has decided to debate the Restoring Territory Rights (Assisted Suicide Legislation) Bill 2015 on 14, 15 and 16 August, to allow territories the right to make laws on euthanasia. If the bill passes, it will effectively mean euthanasia will be legalised in the ACT and perhaps also in the Northern Territory. **Write to senators to oppose euthanasia.** TODAY and ask them to protect vulnerable people by voting against the Bill. Visit the HOPE website to send your message <http://www.no euthanasia.org.au/sign>

**A VOCATION VIEW:** *To taste and see the goodness of the Lord means to be drawn closer to God. "Try, then, to imitate God as children of His that He loves, and follow Christ by loving as He loved you." Be a presence of God's love in the world today. Do what you can to bring to life God's love.*



### Dates for your Diary

**Sun. 12 August**

CatholicCare Annual Appeal

**Wed. 15 August**

Solemnity of the Assumption—Holy Day of Obligation  
Mass 9.30 a.m. at St Stephen's & 11 a.m. at St Gabriel's

**Thurs. 16 August**

St Stephen of Hungary Feast Day  
Mass 9.30 a.m. St Stephen's

Today we continue to meditate on the Decalogue, reflecting further on the theme of idolatry, of which we spoke last week. Now we take up the theme because it's very important to know it. And we take our cue from the idol par excellence, the golden calf, of which the Book of Exodus speaks (32:1-8) — of which we just heard a passage. This episode has a precise context: the desert, where the people wait for Moses, who went up the mountain to receive God's instructions.

What is the desert? It's a place where precariousness and insecurity reign — there is nothing in the desert —, where water, food and shelter are lacking. The desert is an image of human life, whose condition is uncertain and doesn't have inviolable guarantees. Such insecurity generates primary anxieties in man, which Jesus mentions in the Gospel: "What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?" (Matthew 6:31). They are the primary anxieties. And the desert sparks these anxieties. And in that desert something happens that triggers idolatry: "Moses delayed to come down from the mountain" (Exodus 32:1). He stayed there 40 days and the people became impatient. The point of reference was lacking, which Moses was: the leader, the head, the reassuring guide, and this became unbearable. Then the people asked for a visible god — this is the trap in which the people fell — which they could identify and be guided. And they said to Aaron: "Make us god, who shall go before us!" "Make us a head, make us a leader." To flee from precariousness, — the precariousness of the desert — human nature seeks a "do-it-yourself" religion: if God doesn't make Himself seen, we make a god to our measure. "Before an idol one doesn't risk the possibility of a call that makes one come out of one's securities, because idols 'have mouths, but do not speak' (Psalm 115:5). Then we understand that an idol is a pretext to put oneself at the center of reality, in adoration of the work of one's hands" (Encyclical *Lumen Fidei*, 13).

Aaron is unable to oppose the people's request and he creates a *molten calf*. The calf had a double meaning in the ancient Near East: on one hand it represented fecundity and abundance and, on the other, energy and strength. But first of all it was of gold, therefore it was a symbol of wealth, success, power and money. They are the constant temptations!



A farmer wrote a letter to his son who was in jail for robbing a bank: "This year, I can't plant potatoes because you are not here to plough the field." The son wrote back, "Papa, don't dare plough the field. That is where I hid the money I stole." The police intercepted the letter and by the next day they'd dug up the entire field but found nothing. The son wrote to his father, "Now you can plant your potatoes."

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.



### ROSTERS FOR 18 / 19 AUGUST Readers & Extraordinary Ministers

6 p.m. H. Nowak / J. Borja  
M. Garzia / B. Harris

8:30 a.m. C. Chindamo / E. Palermo

**PLEASE NOTE** that the Wednesday Morning Mass at St Stephen's will be at **9:30 a.m.**

**ST STEPHEN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS - 'EVERY DAY IS OPEN DAY'** — If you know of any family who has a child ready to start School in 2019 please let them know and encourage them to visit the school.

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See what the golden calf is: the symbol of all the desires that give the illusion of freedom and instead enslave, because an idol always enslaves. There is the fascination and one goes for it. The fascination of the serpent, which looks at the little bird and the little bird stays, without being able to move, and the serpent takes it. Aaron was unable to oppose them. However, all stems from the inability to trust above all in God, to put our securities in Him, to let Him give true profundity to our heart's desires. This enables one to endure even weakness, uncertainty and precariousness. Reference to God makes one strong in weakness, in uncertainty and also in precariousness. Without God's primacy, one falls easily into idolatry and is happy with meager reassurances. But this is a temptation that we always read about in the Bible. And think this well: it didn't cost God so much work to liberate the people from Egypt. He did so with signs of power <and> of love. However, God's great work was to take Egypt out of the people's heart, namely, to take idolatry out from the people's heart. And God continues to work again to take it out of our hearts. This is God's great work: to take out "that Egypt" that we carry inside, which is the fascination of idolatry. When one welcomes the God of Jesus Christ, who though He was rich became poor for us (Cf. 2 *Corinthians* 8:9), one then discovers that to recognize one's weakness is not the disgrace of human life, but is the condition to open oneself to Him who is truly strong. Then, God's salvation enters through the door of <one's> weakness (Cf. 2 *Corinthians* 12:10); it's by dint of his insufficiency that man opens to God's paternity. Man's freedom stems from allowing the true God to be his only Lord. And this enables us to accept our fragility and reject the idols of our heart.

We Christians turn our gaze to Christ crucified (Cf. *John* 19:37), who was weak, scorned and stripped of all possessions. However, in Him is revealed the face of the true God, the glory of love and not that of the glittering deceit. Isaiah says: "With His stripes we are healed" (53:5). We were healed in fact by the weakness of a man who was God, by His wounds. And, from our weaknesses, we can open ourselves to God's salvation. Our healing comes from Him who made Himself poor, who accepted failure, who took to the end our precariousness to fill it with love and with strength.

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### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanksgiving: \$259

Presbytery: \$353

*Thanksgiving Collection is the 'life-blood' of the parish because it is regular income. Consider joining and showing your support!*

## PARISHES' INFORMATION

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION** continues on 16 August.



**NEW MEMBERS TO THE THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN** are welcome. **SOME VISITORS or PARISHIONERS** may wish to make a contribution to the Parish Offering but without signing up to the envelope system. Please use the envelopes marked **PARISH OFFERING ST GABRIEL'S RESERVOIR**.

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He came to reveal to us God's paternity; in Christ our fragility is not longer a malediction, but a place of encounter with the Father and source of new strength from on high.

*Pope Francis, excerpt from Wednesday General Audience 8 August*

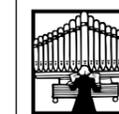
**IN PREPARATION** for the Parishes' Renewal Programme in October you are invited at Masses this weekend to complete a census card if you have not already done so.

Thank you!!

*May they rest in peace*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fr John Van Suylen P.E., Lorna Candy, Emma Di Bartolomeo

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Patrick Mayol, Leonie Gabriel, Peter, Margaret, Frank Chetcuti, Joseph & Rita Vella, George & Carmen Farrugia, Peter Russell, Josip & Anna Tot



### Music at Mass



10 a.m.

Entrance: CWB 449  
Psalm Response: CWB 332 (old edition)  
Gospel Acclamation: CWB 43  
Prep. Of Gifts: CWB 455  
Communion: CWB 651

Final Hymn: CWB 504

Ordinary: *Shalom*

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanks. Envelopes: \$1007

*Weekly Average  
as at 30.9.17 \$1022*

Presbytery Envelopes: \$338

Loose: \$357

*\*Join the campaign! Know the joy of giving  
and spreading the Good News!*