

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., Thurs., Fri. at 9 a.m.

ST STEPHEN'S: No Mass Wed. at 9:30 a.m.
No Mass Keon Park Thurs. at 11a.m.

FERIALS, FEASTS & INTENTIONS—

Orario sante messe feriali

Mon. St Bernard, *abbot, doctor* **No Mass**

Tues. St Pius X, *pope*
Intention: John Russell—Anniv.

Wed. Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Intention: No Mass

Thurs. 20th Week of Ordinary Time
Intention: James Michael Hctor—Anniv.

Fri. St Bartholomew, *apostle*
Intention: Peter Russell—Anniv.

Sat. 20th Week of Ordinary Time **No Mass**



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

Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Hctor



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 19.08.2018 -
20a Domenica in Tempo Ordinario

St Gabriel's
1 Viola Street, Reservoir 3073

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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
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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
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Principal: Mr Richard Keele
Secretary: Mrs Gracie Forde

In today's gospel reading Jesus concludes his teaching on the mystery of the Eucharist. We hear again the announcing of the Eucharist as the ultimate expression of the Incarnation: 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world'. The listeners find this hard to accept, giving expression to the challenge all believers face as they own the truth of Jesus' words. The forthright response of Jesus to these doubts is a support and confirmation for our faith: through his Paschal Mystery he has truly become the healing and nourishment of the world, and he gives an ultimate expression to this fact by becoming our sacramental food and drink. Jesus is insistent: 'My flesh is real food and my body is real drink'; and the words he uses for 'eating' and 'drinking' in the gospel text have a graphic realism, confirming what he has said.

The Eucharistic mystery, whereby the Saviour makes himself - in the achievement of his Paschal Mystery - our very nourishment, is realised in a meal ('Do this' Jesus says). The first reading takes up the banquet theme. A celebratory meal shared with friends is one of the most meaningful moments of our human experience. Wisdom, the personification of God's ways in the world, calls those who are lost to share in her banquet. Now Jesus, who is the very Wisdom of God in person, calls us to his table.

And what does the nourishment of this meal bring to those who respond to the Lord's invitation? Nothing less than a sharing in the divine life that unites Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the same gospel, at the Supper, the prayer of Jesus to the Father will be: 'All I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them [my disciples] I am glorified'. In this discourse Jesus emphatically links this sharing in the divine life with the Eucharist: 'As I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me'. And the joy of that life will never end: 'Anyone who eats my flesh has eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day'.

As they gather to celebrate what God has done for them in Christ, they give expression to their wonder in 'the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns'. And when they return to their daily lives they take this faith and enthusiasm with them as they 'go on singing and chanting to the Lord in their hearts'. Their central prayer is one of gratitude 'always and everywhere they give thanks to God'. 'Eucharist' we know means 'Thanksgiving' - the Church's principal act of worship is a grateful response to the God who 'loved us first'. Our prayer is to the Father, 'in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ'; because the Saviour has made himself our way to the Father. Their life of witness and their prayer will be used by God to 'redeem' such people. We who are called to the Lord's table have a great responsibility - in eternal life we shall see how important in the designs of God are our heartfelt Prayers of the Faithful as we have bring the needs of the human family in faith and love to the Father.

John Thornhill s m

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6 Wisdom teaches us that eating the bread and wine that God gives us will bring us everlasting life.

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20 St Paul reminds us that we need to be careful about how we live our life. There are many things that could lead us away from God so we are urged to live by the Spirit and deepen our relationship with God through prayer and thanksgiving.

Gospel Acc: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: John 6:51-58

Jesus invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood so that we may have everlasting life.



NEXT SUNDAY—DOMENICA PROSSIMA

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time—21 Domenica in Tempo Ordinario

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69.

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

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 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

YOUTH MASS—At the outer edges of the archdiocese, in beautiful Drysdale on the Bellarine Peninsula, this Youth Mass is an opportunity for young people (particularly of secondary school age) and their families to join together for Mass, even to take part in the preparations for and delivery of the Mass. Pizza dinner follows, so join other young parishioners for this special monthly Mass, taking place on the fourth Sunday of each month throughout the year. Sunday 26 August, 5.30 p.m. at St Thomas', Peninsula Drive, Drysdale. Details: 5251 2502 or youthmassdrysdale@gmail.com

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: John's Gospel reveals God's promise of the Word made flesh. This is revealed through the sacrifice made by Christ: "I am the living bread, come down from heaven... the bread I give is my flesh for the life of the world...". Do this in memory of Him.



Dates for your Diary

Sun. 26 August

National Day for Migrants and Refugees
Auditions for 2018 St Gabriel's Theatre Group
Production at 6 p.m. Parish/School Hall Viola Street

Sun. 2 September

Father's Day and Priests Retirement Collection

Dario put his finger in the wound and repeated the word "why" more than once. Not all "whys" have an answer. Why do children suffer, for example? Who can explain this to me? We do not have the answer. Only, we will find something by looking at Christ crucified and His Mother: there we will find a way to feel something in the heart that is an answer. In the Lord's Prayer (cf. Mt 6:13) there is a request: "Lead us not into temptation". This Italian translation has recently been adjusted to the precise translation of the original text, because it could sound ambiguous. Can God the Father "lead us" into temptation? Can He fool His children? Of course not. And therefore the true translation is: "Do not abandon yourself to temptation". Keep us from doing evil, free us from bad thoughts ... Sometimes the words, even if they speak of God, betray His message of love. Sometimes we are the ones who betray the Gospel. And he spoke of this betrayal of the Gospel, and he said: "The Church, bearer of the Word of God on earth, seems increasingly distant and closed in its rituals". What he said is strong; it is a judgement on us all, and also in a special way for – let us say – pastors; a judgement on us, the consecrated ones, the consecrated ones. He told us that we are increasingly distant and closed in our rituals. Let us listen to this with respect. It is not always the case, but sometimes it is true. For the young, impositions from above are no longer sufficient: "We need proof and a sincere witness of the Church that accompanies us and listens to us for the doubts that our generation poses every day". And he asks all of us, pastors and faithful, to accompany, to listen, to bear witness. If I am a Christian, a lay faithful, a lay faithful, a priest, a nun, a bishop, if we Christians do not learn to listen to suffering, to listen to problems, to be silent and to let people talk and listen, we will never be able to give a positive answer. And so many times the positive answers can not be given with words: we must give them, risking ourselves in testimony. Where there is no testimony, there is no Holy Spirit. This is serious. Of the early Christians it was said: "Look how they love each other". Because people saw the testimony. They knew how to listen, and then they lived as the Gospel says. Being a Christian is not a status of life, a qualified status: "I thank you, Lord, because I am a Christian and I am not like others who do not believe in you". Do you like this prayer? This is the prayer of the Pharisee, the hypocrite; this is how hypocrites pray. "But, *cont. next column*



A man called into his local pharmacy to have a prescription filled. While he was waiting he noticed a man standing perfectly still. When the pharmacist returned with the prescription the man said: "What's with the gentleman in the corner, he's hasn't moved." The pharmacist replied he came in here much earlier with a very bad cough and everything I tried, cough syrup, lozenges, sprays hasn't helped. So I have given him some laxatives." Looking at the man standing still, and then turning back to the pharmacist, the man said: "How is that going to help?" The pharmacist looked him directly in the face and said: "Now he is too frightened to cough!"

PARISHES' INFORMATION



ROSTERS FOR 25 / 26 AUGUST Readers & Extraordinary Ministers

6 p.m. M. Beck / L. Piazza
L. Ferronato / L. Tafalo

8:30 a.m. L. Carusi / P. Bettin / M Bettin

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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poor people, they do not understand anything. They did not go to catechesis, they did not go to a Catholic school, they did not go to the Catholic university ... but, they are poor people ...": is this Christian? Is it Christian or not No! This is a scandal! This is a sin. "I thank you, Lord, because I am not like the others: I go to Mass on Sunday, I do this, I have an orderly life, I confess, I am not like the others ...". Is this Christian? No. We have to choose witness. Once, in a lunch with young people in Krakow, a young man told me: "I have a problem at university because I have a partner who is agnostic. Tell me, Father, what should I say to this agnostic companion to make him understand that ours is the true religion?" I said, "My friend, the last thing you have to do is tell him something. Begin to live as a Christian, and he will be the one to ask you why you live like that".

Dario continued: "Pointless glories and frequent scandals now make the Church barely credible in our eyes. Holy Father, with what eyes can we reread all this?". The scandal of a formal Church, not a witness; the scandal of a Church that is closed because she does not reach out. Every day he [Dario] must come out of himself, whether he is happy or sad; he must go out to caress the sick, to give the palliative care that will make their transit to eternity less painful. And he knows what it means to come out of himself, to go to others, to go beyond the boundaries that give security. In Revelation there is a passage in which Jesus says: "I knock at the door: if you open, I will come in and will dine with you": Jesus wants to come to us. But I often think of Jesus knocking on the door, but from inside, because we let him go out, because we often, without witness, hold him prisoner to our formalities, our closures, our selfishness, our clerical way of life. And clericalism, which is not just clerics, is an attitude that affects all of us: clericalism is a perversion of the Church. Jesus teaches us this path of exit from ourselves, the path of witness. And this is the scandal – because we are sinners! – that we do not go out of ourselves to give testimony.

I invite you to ask – to Dario or to someone else – who does this work, who is able to come out of himself, to give testimony. And then, to reflect. When I say "the Church does not bear witness", can I also say this about myself? Do I bear witness? He can say it, because he bears witness every day, with the sick. But I can say that? Can any one of us criticize *cont. next column*

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanksgiving: \$234

Presbytery: \$229 CatholicCare: \$220

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

WE WELCOME into the Church and our Parish Family **Jackson Charles Tenace** whose baptism we celebrate today.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION continues on 23 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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that priest, that bishop or that other Christian, if he is not able to come out of himself to bear witness?

Dear young people – and this is the last thing I will say – Jesus' message, the Church without witness, is just smoke.

Pope Francis meeting with young Italian Catholics, Rome, 11 August.

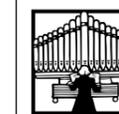
IN PREPARATION for the Parishes' Renewal Programme in October you are invited at Masses this weekend to complete a census card if you have not already done so.

Thank you!!

May they rest in peace

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES: James Michael Hctor, Linton Bridges, John Russell



Music at Mass



10 a.m.

Entrance: CWB AOV 12
Psalm Response: CWB CWB 407 (old edition)
Gospel Acclamation: CWB
Prep. Of Gifts: CWB AOV 37
Communion: CWB AOV 65
AOV 54
Final Hymn: CWB AOV 57
Ordinary: Shalom

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanks. Envelopes: \$1201

*Weekly Average
as at 30.9.17 \$1022*

Presbytery Envelopes: \$509

Loose: \$304 CatholicCare: \$1307

***Join the campaign! Know the joy of giving**