

## SUNDAY MASSES TIMES

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

### MARRIAGES

by prior arrangement

(at least six months notice is required.  
No Sunday weddings.)

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

(this week)

**ST GABRIEL'S:** Tues., Thurs. & Fri. at 9 a.m.

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

### FERIALS, FEASTS & INTENTIONS—

*Orario sante messe feriali*

**Mon.** 7th Day in the Octave of the Nativity  
*Intention:* **NO MASS**

**Tues. SOL. MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
*Intention:*

**Wed.** Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen  
*bishops, doctors*  
*Intention:*

**Thurs.** Weekday of Christmas Time  
*Intention:*

**Fri.** Weekday of Christmas Time  
*Intention:*

**Sat.** Weekday of Christmas Time **NO MASS**  
*Intention:*

## TODAY'S MASS

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 *Hannah longed for a child and, having pleaded with God, she fulfils her promise by dedicating him to God and a life of service.*

**Psalm Response:** **How happy are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

**Second Reading:** 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 *St John reminds us that we are the children of God. We are to be confident in God's love for each one of us.*

**Gospel Acc.:** **Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Open our heart, O Lord,**  
**To listen to the words of your Son.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:41-52  
*Mary and Joseph have been to Jerusalem with Jesus but, instead of returning with them,*



### NEXT SUNDAY—DOMENICA PROSSIMA

#### Solemnity of the Epiphany—*Epifania del Signore*

*Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*

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.



The Partnered Parishes of  
**St. Gabriel, Reservoir**  
and  
**St Stephen of Hungary, East Reservoir**  
Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Hactor



### 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:

Please contact St Gabriel's Parish Office.

#### 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

### The Holy Family - 30.12.2018 - *La Santa Famiglia*

**T**he Saviour has been born to us! The liturgies of the Christmas season invite us to reflect upon this basic truth of Christian faith: the eternal son has become one of us and shared our life experience. He grew up in a family; parental authority shaped his human development; at the age prescribed for Jewish youths, he attended the Passover festival with his parents; a self-reliant lad, he was presumed throughout a whole day to be somewhere else in the caravan returning from Jerusalem.

We speak of family 'bonds' and 'ties'. If they are not transformed into adult-to-adult relationships, as we grow up, these family ties can become a bondage that inhibits personal development. The story Luke hands onto us in today's gospel reminds us that, as his life choices were made, the relationship Jesus had with Mary and Joseph had to be transformed. The 1st reading recounts an old story of Samuel, the prophetic leader who anointed David as king. Despite similarities between this story & the story told by Luke a family going up to Jerusalem, a child's destiny foreshadowed – there are significant differences. The Old Testament story is a legend that serves as an introduction to a collection of historical traditions in which Samuel plays a key role. If we recognise the hand of God in Samuel's young life of service in the temple, it does not come about through his own choice, but through that of his devout mother. Luke's story is closer to our common human experience – Mary has to come to terms with intimations of a decision that will lead Jesus to leave home to take up the life of a wanderer, carrying out the mission that will shape his life - and will ultimately lead to his death. She begins to know the 'sword' Simeon foretold would 'pierce her soul'.

Jesus, as the liturgy of Christmas Day has reminded us, is 'the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart', come into the world to make the Father known. He grew up as a dutiful son of his human parents; but as he 'grew in wisdom' - through his contact with the faith traditions of his people - he knew in the mysterious depths of his human experience the call to identify with the great mission that had brought him into the world: 'Why are you looking for me? Did you not know that I must give myself to my Father's affairs?' Bringing us this brief narrative, Luke intimates what lies ahead. His gospel narrative moves towards its climax when Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem to meet his fate. Ultimately, it is 'after three days' that he is restored to his disciples as their Risen Lord.

As the bonds that unite parent and child mature, they are both blessed. In the background of Luke's story, we recognise the ongoing fidelity of Mary, as she came to accept and identify with the response of her Son, as the first of all his disciples. The second reading from the first letter of John chimes in with our reflections upon the shared life of the Holy Family. In the end, the mission of Jesus was to open the way to our sharing in his risen life, sharing all things with the Father – sharing in the family life of God, as it were. The choices he made, in the freedom he shares with us, can inspire us to make our life choices, knowing that each of us has a unique place in the Father's loving plan.

John Thornhill sm

## GENERAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, NEWS & HUMOUR

**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 - Listen to what the Spirit is saying.** Find out more about the Plenary Council 2020 at the new website, now online:

### CAMPION COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM—

Experience college life and a taste of the Campion College course, including literature, history, theology, hiking and sports. Monday 7 to Friday 11 January 2019

Enquiries: [study@campion.edu.au](mailto:study@campion.edu.au) or (02) 9896 9300

Registrations: [www.campion.edu.au/summer](http://www.campion.edu.au/summer)

**ST MARGARET'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE—**currently has one and two bedroom units available. The prices start from \$222,000. If you are interested or have any queries please call Erin on 8414 6000.

### SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION: WORLD YOUTH DAY @ HOME – REGISTRATIONS CLOSING SOON!

In 2019, the Melbourne Summer School of Evangelisation in partnership with the Archdiocesan Office for Youth will be offering a special WYD-themed Summer School! The Summer School will include many of WYD features such as Catechesis with bishops, a Stations of the Cross, an expo and a final Mass. Join Bishop Mark Edwards and participants from around Australia for a week of faith and fellowship. Open to young people aged 16-35. Sunday 20 to Sunday 27 January 2019 PGL Campaspe Downs, 1302 Trentham Road, Kyneton. Registrations close December 20. To register visit: [www.cam.org.au/wyd/wydhome](http://www.cam.org.au/wyd/wydhome).

**2019 CAMINO JOURNEYS FOR WOMEN—**This free information event is for women who are interested in joining a Guided Camino Pilgrimage in September 2019. Come along and find out how you can be part of our Gentle Camino. This unique Guided Camino Pilgrimage has been specifically designed to offer you guided meditations, nightly sharing circle, quiet reflection, prayers and Mass, pre-booked accommodation and daily luggage transfers. We will be walking an average of 10–15km per day over the last 100km from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, starting 9 September 2019. Sun. 20 January 2019, 2 p.m. The Garden, Mind Body Business, 4 Ross Smith Avenue, Frankston Website: [www.caminojourneysforwomen.com.au](http://www.caminojourneysforwomen.com.au) Registrations: Joanne Cashman on 0417 137 369 or [caminojourneysforwomen@gmail.com](mailto:caminojourneysforwomen@gmail.com) or register online at [www.caminojourneysforwomen.com.au](http://www.caminojourneysforwomen.com.au)

### Mrs Rose Dignam,

Sacristan at St Gabriel's and St Stephen's, is returning to live in the Philippines with her extended family on Tues. 8 January.

To thank Rose for her service here and to wish her well there will be Morning Tea in the Bethany Room, Parish Centre, after the 10 a.m. Mass next Sunday, 06 January.

**A VOCATION VIEW:** Unless your family loves you, nothing else makes sense. In your family your vocation can grow in wisdom, age and grace.



## Dates for your Diary

Tues. 1 January 2019  
NEW YEARS' DAY

Joseph with Mary his spouse, went up "to the city of David called Bethlehem" (Lk 2:4). Tonight, we too, go to Bethlehem, there to discover the mystery of Christmas.

1. *Bethlehem*: the name means *house of bread*. In this "house", the Lord today wants to encounter all mankind. He knows that we need food to live. Yet he also knows that the nourishments of this world do not satisfy the heart. In Scripture, the original sin of humanity is associated precisely with taking food: our first parents "took of the fruit and ate", says the Book of Genesis (cf. 3:6). They took and ate. Mankind became greedy and voracious. In our day, for many people, life's meaning is found in possessing, in having an excess of material objects. An insatiable greed marks all human history, even today, when, paradoxically, a few dine luxuriantly while all too many go without the daily bread needed to survive.

Bethlehem is the turning point that alters the course of history. There God, in the *house of bread*, is born in a manger. It is as if he wanted to say: "Here I am, as your food". He does not take, but gives us to eat; he does not give us a mere thing, but his very self. In Bethlehem, we discover that God does not take life, but gives it. To us, who from birth are used to taking and eating, Jesus begins to say: "Take and eat. This is my body" (Mt 26:26). The tiny body of the Child of Bethlehem speaks to us of a new way to live our lives: not by devouring and hoarding, but by sharing and giving. God makes himself small so that he can be our food. By feeding on him, the bread of life, we can *be reborn in love*, and break the spiral of grasping and greed. From the "house of bread", Jesus brings us back home, so that we can become God's family, brothers and sisters to our neighbours. Standing before the manger, we understand that the food of life is not material riches but love, not gluttony but charity, not ostentation but simplicity.

The Lord knows that we need to be fed daily. That is why he offered himself to us every day of his life: from the manger in Bethlehem to the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Today too, on the altar, he becomes bread broken for us; he knocks at our door, to enter and eat with us (cf. Rev 3:20). At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life.

In Bethlehem, we discover that the life of God can enter into our hearts and dwell there. If we welcome that gift, history changes, starting with each of us. For once Jesus dwells in our heart, the centre of life is no longer my ravenous and selfish ego, but the One who is born and lives for love. Tonight, as we hear the summons to go up to Bethlehem, the house of bread, let us ask ourselves: What is the bread of my life, what is it that I cannot do without? Is it the Lord, or something else? Then, as we enter the stable, sensing in the tender poverty of the newborn Child a new fragrance of life, the odour of simplicity, let us ask ourselves: Do I really need all these material objects and complicated recipes for living? Can I manage without all these unnecessary extras and live a life of greater



It was late December and the magistrate was in a good mood. He asked the defendant: "What are you accused of?" The defendant replied, "I am accused of having done my Christmas shopping too early!" The judge said, "But that's not a crime." "Well, it was before the store opened..."

What did Adam say to his wife on Christmas?  
*It's finally Christmas, Eve!*

## PARISHES' INFORMATION



### ROSTERS FOR 5 / 6 JANUARY Readers & Special Ministers

6 p.m. VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!  
8:30 a.m. VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!

**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 about us and encourage them to visit the school!

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and the shepherds. Jesus is bread for the journey. He does not like long, drawn-out meals, but bids us rise quickly from table in order to serve, like bread broken for others. Let us ask ourselves: At Christmas do I break my bread with those who have none?

2. After Bethlehem as the house of bread, let us reflect on Bethlehem as the *city of David*. There the young David was a shepherd, and as such was chosen by God to be the shepherd and leader of his people. At Christmas, in the city of David, it was the shepherds who welcomed Jesus into the world. On that night, the Gospel tells us, "they were filled with fear" (Lk 2:9), but the angel said to them "Be not be afraid" (v. 10). How many times do we hear this phrase in the Gospels: "*Be not afraid*"? It seems that God is constantly repeating it as he seeks us out. Because we, from the beginning, because of our sin, have been afraid of God; after sinning, Adam says: "I was afraid and so I hid" (Gen 3:10). Bethlehem is the remedy for this fear, because despite man's repeated "no", God constantly says "yes". He will always be God-with-us. And lest his presence inspire fear, he makes himself a tender Child. *Be not afraid*: these words were not spoken to saints but to shepherds, simple people who in those days were certainly not known for their refined manners and piety. The Son of David was born among shepherds in order to tell us that never again will anyone be alone and abandoned; we have a Shepherd who conquers our every fear and loves us all, without exception.

The shepherds of Bethlehem also tell us how to go forth to meet the Lord. They were keeping watch by night: they were not sleeping, but doing what Jesus often asks all of us to do, namely, *be watchful* (cf. Mt 25:13; Mk 13:35; Lk 21:36). They remain alert and attentive in the darkness; and God's light then "shone around them" (Lk 2:9). This is also the case for us. Our life can be marked by *waiting*, which amid the gloom of our problems hopes in the Lord and yearns for his coming; then we will receive his life. Or our life can be marked by *wanting*, where all that matters are our own strengths and abilities; our heart then remains barred to God's light. The Lord loves to be awaited, and we cannot await him lying on a couch, sleeping. So the shepherds immediately set out: we are told that they "went with haste" (v. 16). They do not just stand there like those who think they have already arrived and need do nothing more. Instead they set out; they leave their flocks unguarded; they take a risk for God. And after seeing Jesus, although they were not men of fine words, they go off to proclaim his birth, so that "all who heard were

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanksgiving: \$446 *New weekly amount pledged: \$356*  
Presbytery: \$433

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

**WE WELCOME** the St Anuarite Choir from Melton which will sing at the 10 a.m. Mass today.  
**ADULT FAITH FORMATION** will resume on



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To keep watch, to set out, to risk, to recount the beauty: all these are *acts of love*. The Good Shepherd, who at Christmas comes to give his life to the sheep, will later, at Easter, ask Peter and, through him all of us, the ultimate question: "Do you love me?" (Jn 21:15). The future of the flock will depend on how that question is answered. Tonight we too are asked to respond to Jesus with the words: "I love you". The answer given by each is essential for the whole flock.

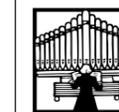
"Let us go now to Bethlehem" (Lk 2:15). With these words, the shepherds set out. We too, Lord, want to go up to Bethlehem. Today too, the road is uphill: the heights of our selfishness need to be surmounted, and we must not lose our footing or slide into worldliness and consumerism.

I want to come to Bethlehem, Lord, because there you await me. I want to realize that you, lying in a manger, are *the bread of my life*. I need the tender fragrance of your love so that I, in turn, can be bread broken for the world. Take me upon your shoulders, Good Shepherd; loved by you, I will be able to love my brothers and sisters and to take them by the hand. Then it will be Christmas, when I can say to you: "Lord you know everything; you know that I love you" (cf. Jn 21:17).

## May they rest in peace

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Mariano Serrano, Flordelisa Legaspi

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Agosto Guardiani (*Month's Mind*), John Demanuele, Emanuela & Manuel Azzopardi, Mary Lowry



## St Gabriel's Music at the 10 a.m. Mass



Entrance:  
Psalm Response:  
Gospel Acclamation:  
Prep. Of Gifts:  
Communion:

**St Anuarite Choir**  
from Melton  
Choir master: Mr Costa

Final Hymn:

Ordinary:

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanks. Envelopes: \$1310 *New weekly amount pledged \$1235*

Presbytery: \$447

Loose: \$404

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