

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.
Mass at Keon Park Thurs. at 11a.m.

FERIALS, FEASTS & INTENTIONS—

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Mon. Ordinary Time 6 **NO MASS**

Tues. Ordinary Time 6
Intention:

Wed. Ordinary Time 6
Intention:

Thurs. Ordinary Time 6
Intention:

Fri. The Chair of St Peter, bishop
Intention: Patrick Michael Mayol, Leonie Gabriel—Dec'd.

Sat. St Polycarp, bishop, martyr **NO MASS**
Intention:



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



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 17.02.2019 -
6a Domenica in Tempo Ordinario

St Gabriel's
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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:

Please contact St Gabriel's Parish Office.

School:

71 Whitelaw Street, Reservoir East

Ph: 9460 3566
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Principal: Mr Richard Keele
Secretary: Mrs Gracie Forde

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading: *Jeremiah 17:5-8* *There are two types of people: those who put their trust in human beings; and the others who trust in God.*

Psalm Response: **Happy are they who hope in the Lord.**

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20* *If Christ has not been raised from the dead, you are still in your sins.*

Gospel Acc.: **Alleluia, alleluia!**
Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: *Luke 6:17, 20-26*

*Blessings on those who have to depend on God;
woe to those who rely on worldly things.*



NEXT SUNDAY—DOMENICA PROSSIMA

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time—7a Domenica in Tempo Ordinario
1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38

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.

This gospel passage (Matthew 5:1-11) has great importance for those who claim to be followers of Jesus. Where am I to find true happiness? – the ultimate concern, surely, in all our striving. Happiness – which is often confused in people's minds with the superficial contentment we call 'a good time' – will only be found in the things that meet our deepest needs as persons. And, in the end, only the things of God that will fill the 'depths' that are in every human person (John Paul II). As the world's true Saviour, Jesus shows us how we can fill these depths – all that he stood for as he shared our life shows us the way to true happiness, even in this present life; and he promises to share with us his own happiness in the life to come. In today's gospel he points out the way to those who want to be his true followers.

Note how Luke sets the scene. The audience addressed by Jesus is made up of two groups, 'a large gathering of his disciples' (those who have made a commitment to what Jesus stands for), and 'a great crowd of people from all parts' (those who are drawn to him, but hesitate to commit themselves more fully). Jesus 'fixes his eyes' on the first group, and addresses his teaching concerning true happiness to them. Note, however, that in the scene as Luke describes it there is no hard boundary dividing the two groups. Though the words of Jesus are addressed to the first group, they are also an invitation to those in the second group to find the joy that will be theirs if they take his paradoxical invitation seriously. And, because our Christian communities have always contained these two groups, Luke is inviting us to ask ourselves where we stand.

'How happy are you who are poor'. Jesus' teaching on true happiness – to be continued, we should note, in next week's reading – overturns the assumptions of worldly wisdom. In Matthew we find a different wording: 'Blessed (with true happiness) are the poor in spirit'. There is a subtle difference in what the two evangelists wish to convey of the teaching of Jesus. Luke does not canonise a state of material deprivation – in what follows, as we shall see, Jesus urges those who have material resources to use them with a generosity learned from their heavenly Father: what Matthew calls being 'poor in spirit'. But it must also be recognised that Luke is calling to mind a fundamental biblical theme: those who are materially poor are privileged, not because they are morally superior, but because they are the object of God's special concern: 'God hears the cry of the poor'. Those who have learned to trust in this truth have found great blessings – whether their deprivation has been imposed on them by circumstance, or they have embraced a life of poverty that is voluntary, in imitation of the Saviour's own life.

In our pursuit of happiness, God respects our freedom. As the first reading reminds us, the outcome depends the choices that shape our lives. Jesus contrasts true happiness with the 'woes' of an empty life. Perhaps we can see in today's troubled world 'a fulfilment of the woes Jesus directed against a rich, abundant, laughing, self-congratulating social order' (Paul Tillich).

John Thornhill sm

GENERAL MEETINGS, EVENTS, NEWS & HUMOUR

SPEAKING AWESOME WORDS is an interactive two-hour training session for lectors/readers. The session is conducted by the Australian Catholic University Centre for Liturgy. Ms Sharon Boyd from the centre will be conducting a session here at St Gabriel's for our lectors/readers on **Tues. 12 March from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** in the church and parish centre. The session is open to 20 participants and will replace the Readers' Renewal Evening scheduled for that date. Readers from both parishes are strongly encouraged to attend. Please register your name ASAP to the parish office 94606036.

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES AND VISITORS to the 10 a.m. Mass today to begin the 90 years celebration of St Gabriel's School. A special welcome to the new families and Prep Children and new staff members.

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR FOSTERING VOCATIONS Wed. 20 February, 9–10.45 a.m., Rosary in the Grotto till 4 p.m. 112B St Georges Road, Northcote. Please join the Little Sisters of the Poor for a day of prayer for fostering vocations to the Little Sisters of the Poor. **Enquiries:** 9489 8444.

SOUTHERN STARS SOCIAL CLUB: PARTY FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS AGED 28–60: Saturday 23 February, 8 p.m. Benedict House, 301 Warrigal Road, Burwood, includes supper and lucky door prizes. Cost: \$13 Enquiries: Peter on 9885 2167.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 - Listen to what the Spirit is saying. Find out more about the Plenary Council 2020 at the new website, now online: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au On Thurs. 28 Feb. at 7:30 p.m. in St Gabriel's Parish Centre there will be an opportunity for parishioners to express their hopes for the Church in Australia. On Wed. 6 March the local consultations across Australia will conclude.

MERCY TEACHERS' COLLEGE, ASCOT VALE REUNION: 1969 GRADUATES— It is our 50th year since graduation, and a reunion for all graduates of 1969 has been proposed. If you are a graduate from 1969, or have the contact details of any graduates, please contact margdrum@gmail.com.

PALMS INFORMATION SESSION Saturday 2 March 2019, 10:30 a.m. Ross House, Jenny Florence Room, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

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 8414 6000.

6 P.M. MASS AT ST STEPHEN'S—on the Saturdays when the organ is not played we are hoping to start using a plainchant setting of the Mass i.e. Lord have mercy, Gospel acclamation, Holy, Holy ... etc. On Sat. 24 Feb. from 5:30-5:50 p.m. a brief rehearsal with John Lilburne will take place before Mass. Interested and enthusiastic parishioners are encouraged to attend.

A VOCATION VIEW: *Try not to pray for an easy life; rather, pray to be a strong person. Strong in trust, hope, care, love. Follow the Master.*



Dates for your Diary

Sun. 17 February

Beginning of St Gabriel's School 90 Year Celebration

Tues. 19 Feb

St Gabriel's Beginning of School Year Mass 9 a.m.

Sun. 3 March

Presentation Mass for all Sacrament Candidates in 2019 10 a.m. at St Gabriel's

We continue our course to learn ever better to pray as Jesus taught us. We must pray as He taught us to do so. He said: when you pray, enter in the silence of your room, withdraw from the world, and turn to God calling Him "Father!" Jesus wants His disciples not to be as the hypocrites, who pray standing upright in the Squares to be admired by the people (Cf. *Matthew* 6:5). Jesus doesn't want hypocrisy. True prayer is that which is made in the secret of the conscience, of the heart: inscrutable, visible only to God – God and me. It shuns falsehood: it's impossible to feign with God. It's impossible. Before God there is no trick that has power; God knows us thus, naked in conscience, and we can't feign. At the root of the dialogue with God there is a silent dialogue, as the crossing of looks between two persons who love one another: man and God: our looks cross, and this is prayer. To look at God is to let oneself be looked at by God: this is to pray. "But Father, I don't say words . . ." Look at God and let Him look at you: It's a prayer, a beautiful prayer!

Yet, despite the disciple's prayer being wholly confidential, it never falls into "intimism". In the secret of his conscience, a Christian doesn't leave the world outside the door of his room but carries persons and situations in his heart, their problems, so many things, all are taken to prayer.

There is an impressive absence in the text of the "Our Father." If I asked you what is the impressive absence in the text of the "Our Father"? It won't be easy to answer. A word is missing. All of you think: what is missing in the "Our Father"?

Think what is missing. A word, a word that in our times — but perhaps always — everyone holds in great consideration. What is the word that is lacking in the "Our Father" that we pray every day? To save time, I'll say it: the word "I" is lacking. "I" is never said. Jesus teaches to pray having on one's lips first of all "You," because Christian prayer is dialogue: hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done." Not my name, my kingdom, my will. "I" no, it should not be. hunger — are all in the plural. In Christian prayer, no one asks for bread for him/herself: Give me my daily bread — no — give us, he entreats for all, for all the poor in the world. This must not be forgotten, the word "I" is lacking. One prays with "you" and with "us." It's a good teaching of Jesus; don't forget it. *... cont. next page*



A young boy walked to the corner convenience and grocery shop to buy a large sized box of laundry detergent. The grocer asked: "Have you got a lot of laundry to do, Tim?" "Not laundry," said the boy, "I'm going to wash my cat." "You shouldn't use this detergent on your cat," the shopkeeper warned, "it's too harsh and the cat will get sick and may even die." Tim was not to be swayed and left the shop with the detergent. A fortnight later he was back in the shop to buy some lollies. The shopkeeper asked, "How's your cat?" "Oh, it died," said Tim. The shopkeeper said, "I told you that the detergent was too harsh." "I don't think it was the detergent that killed him," said the boy, "I think it was the spin cycle."

PARISHES' INFORMATION



ROSTERS FOR 23 / 24 FEBRUARY

Readers & Special Ministers

6 p.m. P. Bettin / B. Harris

M. Bettin / M. Garcia

8:30 a.m. E. Palermo / V. Divita

ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL ENROLMENTS—'Every Day is Open Day'. If you know of any family who has a child ready for School please let them know about us and encourage them to visit the school!

"Where every child counts."

...cont.

And then it passes to "Us." All the second part of the "Our Father" is declined in the first person plural: "give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Even man's most elementary requests — such as that of having food to assuage Why? — because in the dialogue with God there is no room for individualism. There is no ostentation of our own problems as if we were the only ones suffering in the world. There is no prayer elevated to God that isn't the prayer of a community of brothers and sisters, the "us": we are in community; we are brothers and sisters; we are a people that pray, "we." Once a prison chaplain asked me a question: "Tell me, Father, what is the word contrary to 'I'?" And I, naive, said: "You." "This is the beginning of war. The word opposed to 'I' is 'we,' where peace lies, all together." It's a good teaching that I received from that priest. In prayer, a Christian bears all the difficulties of persons that live around him: when evening falls, he tells God the sorrows he has come across that day: he puts before Him many faces, friendly and also hostile, he doesn't drive them away as dangerous distractions. If one doesn't realize that around one there are so many people suffering, if one is not moved by the tears of the poor and is accustomed to everything, then it means that his heart . . . is how? Withered? No, worse, it's of stone.

In this case, it's good to entreat the Lord to touch us with His Spirit and tenderize our heart." "Lord, tenderize my heart." It's a beautiful prayer." "Lord, tenderize my heart. So that I can understand and take charge of all the problems, of all the sorrows of others." Christ didn't pass unaffected next to the miseries of the world: every time He perceived loneliness, pain of body or spirit, he felt a strong sense of compassion, as a mother's innermost being. This "feeling compassion" — let us not forget this very Christian word: to feel compassion — it's one of the keywords of the Gospel: it's what spurred the Good Samaritan to approach the wounded man on the side of the road, as opposed to the others who had a hard heart. We can ask ourselves: when I pray, do I open myself to the cry of so many close and distant persons? Or do I think of prayer as a sort of anesthesia, to be able to be more tranquil? I throw out the question there; each one answer to himself. In this case, I would be the victim of a terrible mistake.

My prayer would certainly no longer be a Christian prayer, because that "us," which Jesus taught us, impedes me from *cont. next column....*

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanksgiving: \$274

New weekly amount pledged: \$356

Presbytery: \$301

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

ST GABRIEL'S FINANCE COMMITTEE meets this Tues. 19 Feb. at 10 a.m.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION continues this Thurs. 21 Feb. 2019.



... cont.

being in peace on my own, and makes me feel responsible for my brothers and sisters.

There are men who apparently don't seek God, but Jesus makes us pray for them also because God seeks these people most of all. Jesus didn't come for the healthy but for the sick and the sinners (Cf. *Luke* 5:31) — namely, for all, because he who thinks he is healthy in reality isn't so. If we work for justice, let us not feel ourselves better than others: the Father makes His sun rise on the good and on the evil (Cf. *Matthew* 5:45). The Father loves all! Let us learn from God who is always good to all, as opposed to us who are able to be good only to some, to someone <we> like.

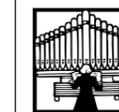
Brothers and sisters, Saints and sinners, we are all brothers loved by the same Father. And, in the evening of life, we will be judged on love, on how we have loved. Not just a sentimental love, but compassionate and concrete, according to the evangelical rule — don't forget it! — "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me" (*Matthew* 25:40). Thus says the Lord.

Pope Francis, Wednesday General Audience, 13 Feb.

May they rest in peace

RECENTLY DECEASED: Emilio Meco

ANNIVERSARIES: Patrick Michael Mayol, Leonie Gabriel



Music at the

6 p.m. & 10 a.m. Masses



Entrance:	CWB 486
Psalm Response:	CWB 366 (old ed.)
Gospel Acclamation:	CWB 43
Prep. Of Gifts:	CWB 555
Communion:	CWB 509
	CWB 456
Final Hymn:	CWB 494

Ordinary: 'Shalom'

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanks. Envelopes: \$846

New weekly amount pledged \$1235

Presbytery: \$292

Loose: \$399

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