

## 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. to Sat. 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.** Ordinary Time 7 **NO MASS**

**Tues.** Ordinary Time 7  
*Intention:*

**Wed.** Ordinary Time 7  
*Intention:*

**Thurs.** Ordinary Time 7  
*Intention:*

**Fri.** Ordinary Time 7 **Autumn Ember Day**  
*Intention:*

**Sat.** Our Lady  
*Intention:*



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



**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**- 24.02.2019 -**  
**7a 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.

**St Gabriel's Parish Primary School:**  
**237 Spring Street, Reservoir**

*Celebrating Learning, Life and Faith! 90 Years Strong!*

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

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

**St Stephen of Hungary**  
**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.

**St Stephen of Hungary Primary School:**  
**71 Whitelaw Street, Reservoir East**

*Where every child counts!*

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

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

## TODAY'S MASS

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 *David shows mercy to Saul and so proves his uprightness of spirit.*

**Psalm Response:** **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 *Paul explains how we earthly creatures can become heavenly through Christ Jesus.*

**Gospel Acc.:** **Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**I give you a new commandment:**  
**love one another as I have loved you.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 6:27-38 *Jesus shows us how love is a power, not a weakness.*



### NEXT SUNDAY—DOMENICA PROSSIMA

**8th Sunday in Ordinary Time—8a Domenica in Tempo Ordinario**

*Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45*

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Last week we heard Luke's presentation of 'The Beatitudes'. Today we continue the same passage – as Jesus spells out a teaching that has immense importance for those who want to be his followers. We have heard many times of the 'New Commandment' and the 'Law of Love'; but have we made them our rule of life? Today's gospel can help us to do this. 'Love your enemies', Jesus tells us. David's gesture towards king Saul demonstrates a certain nobility; but it is still far removed from the ideal of selflessness Jesus sets before us. 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you ... lend without any hope of return' may well seem an impossible ideal as a way of life. The first disciples of Jesus may well have made this judgment, had it not been for the memory of the life Jesus had lived in their midst. In the New Testament, these first followers share with us how they came to recognise the central importance of the New Commandment of love – as they reflected on the selfless life of Jesus and its culmination in his tragic death. St Paul, in today's second reading, tells us that he has come to see how Jesus has inaugurated a new beginning for the whole of humanity – far greater than that of the first creation. 'Bear one another's burdens', he wrote in another place, 'and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ'. It is the gift of the Saviour's own Spirit, he has come to see, that makes this possible: 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us' (Rom 5:5). John's interpretation of the teaching of Jesus is the same: 'I give you a new commandment ... that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends'. Clearly, this Law of Love – so insistently spelt out by Luke – is an ideal that none of us will ever fully realise. How can we love others as Christ himself has loved them? 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate'. How can our concern for the needy around us be compared with the loving mercy of the Father who 'gave his own Son', that the world may 'have eternal life'. Perhaps it is because this Law of Love seems an impossible ideal that Christians rarely think of it as a practical way of life. As his true disciples, however, Jesus tells us that we must never turn away from this ideal; it must be the measure of our lives. In the presence of the mystery of divine love, we will certainly be humbled, as we reflect upon our own performance. Jesus teaches us how we can put the Law of Love into practice – we should never set limits to the practical good will we have towards our fellow human beings: be they friend or enemy, likely to repay us or not, reasonable or unreasonable in their demands. An impossible ideal it may still seem; but through the gift of God's own spirit, the example of followers of Jesus in every age is there to encourage us, as they gave their times a glimpse of what Jesus was really like. With them, the only reward we should seek is the joy that we share with our Lord, the joy of the selfless giver. And so Luke's presentation of the teaching of Jesus ends as it began, pointing the way to true happiness – in the gifts of God that will be ours when we identify with the generous ways of God, our joy will be 'a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running. 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.

**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 - Listen to what the Spirit is saying.** This 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.

**WE WELCOME the Little Sisters of Poor** from St Joseph's Home, Northcote, who will be at Masses this weekend to speak about their work for the aged.

**NEXT WEEKEND IS PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY** when we distribute boxes or sets of envelopes for our Lenten sacrifice and almsgiving.

**PALMS INFO SESSION:** Sat. 2 March, 10:30 a.m. Ross House, Jenny Florence Room, 247 Flinders Lane. Overseas Catholic communities are inviting you to immerse yourself for 1 to 2 years.

**CLOSE AND CONCRETE: POPE FRANCIS EVANGELISING IN A WORLD OF FLUX**—Thursday 21 March, 5-6:30 p.m. The Oratory, Newman College, 887 Swanston Street, Parkville. A Helder Camara Lecture hosted by Dr Austen Ivereigh (noted UK Catholic writer and biographer of Pope Francis) with a response by Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez SDB of Honduras, Coordinator of Pope Francis' C9 group for the Reform of the Church. **Enquiries:** Br Mark O'Connor at [mark.oconnor@marists.org.au](mailto:mark.oconnor@marists.org.au)

**LIVE-IN WEEKEND RETREAT WITH FR TONY MCSWEENEY SSS AND FR FRANCIS DENTON**—Friday 29 to Sunday 31 March, Pallotti College, 80 McNamaras Road, Millgrove. This enclosed retreat is organised by the Legion of Mary, Melbourne Senatus and is open to everyone. **Cost:** \$190 includes 2 nights' accommodation and all meals. **Enquiries and registrations:** Caroline Fernandez on 0423 838 756 or [smtcsf@gmail.com](mailto:smtcsf@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU** to Moira Mullan for the banner marking the 90th anniversary of the opening of St Gabriel's Parish Primary School.

**ST MARGARET'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE**—currently has one and two bedroom units available.

**6 P.M. MASS AT ST STEPHEN'S**—Today Sat. 24 Feb. from 5:30-5:50 p.m. a brief rehearsal with John Lilburne will take place before Mass to prepare for the Plainchant Mass which will be used on the Saturdays when the organ is not in use.

**A VOCATION VIEW:** *If you love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you, realise that God has already called YOU.*



### Dates for your Diary

#### Sun. 3 March

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

#### Wed. 6 March

Ash Wednesday (a day of Fast and Abstinence from meat)

Masses: 9.30 a.m. St Stephen's

11.30 a.m. & 7 p.m. St Gabriel's

We continue the catechesis on the "Our Father." The first step of every Christian prayer is the entrance in a mystery, that of God's paternity. We can't pray like parrots. Either you enter the mystery, in the awareness that God is your Father, or you don't pray. If I want to pray to God my Father, I begin with the mystery. To understand in what measure God is our Father, we think of the figure of our parents; however, we must always in some measure "refine it," purify it. The Catechism of the Catholic Church also states it, it says thus: "The purification of our hearts has to do with paternal or maternal images, stemming from our personal and cultural history, and influencing our relationship with God" (n. 2779).

None of us have had perfect parents, none, as we, in turn, will never be perfect parents or Pastors. We all have defects, all. We live our relationships of love always under the sign of our limitations and also of our egoism. Therefore, they are often sullied by desires of possession or of manipulation of the other. Therefore, sometimes declarations of love are changed into feelings of anger and hostility. But look, these two loved one another so much last week <and> today they hate each other to death. We see this every day! It's because of this, because we all have bitter roots inside, which aren't good and sometimes come out and do evil.

See why, when we speak of God as "Father," while we think of the image of our parents, especially if they loved us, at the same time we should go beyond. Because the love of God is that of the Father "who is in Heaven," according to the expression that Jesus invites us to use: it's total love, which we in this life savour only imperfectly. Men and women are eternally beggars of love — we are beggars of love, we are in need of love — they seek a place where they will finally be loved, but they don't find it. How many disappointed friendships and loves there are in our world — so many!

In mythology, the Greek god of love is absolutely the most tragic: one doesn't understand if he is an angelic being or a demon. Mythology says that he is the son of Poros and of Penia, that is, of expediency and of poverty, destined to bear in himself a bit of the physiognomy of these parents. From here we can think of the ambivalent nature of human love, capable of flowering and of living arrogantly in an hour of the

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A man from Alaska had heard stories of an amazing family tradition. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their eighteenth birthday. On that day they walked across the lake to have a vodka in the boathouse—their first legal drink. On the man's 18th birthday he got his friend to row him in a boat to the middle of the lake. The man stepped out of the boat and to his surprise started sinking below the water. His friend tried feverishly to pull him up before he drowned. Furious, the man went to his grandmother and told her what had happened. "Why can't I walk on water like them?" he shouted. "Oh, darling! Don't be angry," she replied, "they were born in winter."

## PARISHES' INFORMATION



### ROSTERS FOR 2 / 3 MARCH Readers & Special Ministers

6 p.m. H. Nowak / E. Ferronato

O. & J. Callegari / D. Nosedo

8:30 a.m. C. Chindamo / L. Scardamaglia

**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."

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day, and immediately after wither and die; that which grips always flees away (Cf. Plato, Symposium, 203). There is an expression of the prophet Hosea that frames mercilessly the congenital weakness of our love: "Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away: (6:4). See what our love often is: a promise that is hard to keep, an attempt that soon parches and evaporates; it's somewhat as when the sun comes out in the morning and the dew of the night goes away. How many times we men have loved in this very weak and intermittent way. We all have the experience: we have loved but then that love fell or became weak. Desirous of loving, we then come up against our limitations, with the poverty of our strength, incapable of keeping a promise that in the days of grace seemed easy to realize. At bottom, the Apostle Peter had fear and had to flee. The Apostle Peter was not faithful to Jesus' love. There is always this weakness that makes us fall. We are beggars who on the way risk not ever finding completely that treasure that we seek from the first day of our life: love.

However, another love exists, that of the Father "who is in Heaven." No one should doubt of being the recipient of this love. He loves us. We can say, "He loves me." If even our father and our mother did not love us — a historical hypothesis —, there is a God in Heaven who loves us like no one on this earth has done or can ever do. God's love is constant. The prophet Isaiah says: "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet will I not forget you. Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands" (49:15-16).

Today tattoo is in fashion: "I have graven you on the palms of my hands." I have made a tattoo of you on my hands. I am on God's hands thus, and I can't take it off. The love of God is like the love of a mother, who can never forget. And if a mother forgets? "I will never forget you," says the Lord. This is God's perfect love; this is how He loves us. If even all our earthly loves crumbled and we had nothing left other than dust, there is always for all of us, burning, the unique and faithful love of God.

In the hunger of love that we all feel, let us not look for something that doesn't exist: it is, instead, an invitation to know God who is Father. Saint Augustine's conversion, for instance, passed through this crest: the young and brilliant

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### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanksgiving: \$208

New weekly amount pledged: \$356

Presbytery: \$70

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

**PLENARY COUNCIL DISCUSSION with ADULT FAITH FORMATION** is this Thurs. 28 February in the parish centre followed by supper: 7:30-8:30 p.m.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT TO CONCLUDE WITH Benediction** at 12 Noon follows the 9 a.m. Mass this Fri. 1 March.



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rector was simply seeking among creatures something that no creature could give, until one day he had the courage to look up. And on that day he knew God — God who loves.

The expression "in Heaven" does not intend to express distance, but a radical diversity of love, another dimension of love, a tireless love, a love that will always remain, rather, that is always at hand. Suffice it to say "Our Father who art in Heaven," and that love comes.

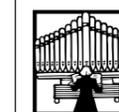
Therefore, don't fear. None of us is alone. If by misfortune your earthly father had forgotten you and you resented him, you are not denied the fundamental experience of the Christian faith: that of knowing that you are the most beloved child of God, and there is nothing in life that can extinguish His passionate love for you.

Pope Francis, Wednesday General Audience, 20 Feb.

## May they rest in peace

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Peter, Margaret & Frank Chetcuti, George, Carmela, Joe & Charlie Farrugia, Georgina & Silvio Satler, Rita & Joseph Vella



## Music at the 10 a.m. Mass.



Entrance:	AOV 12
Psalm Response:	CWB 336 (old ed.)
Gospel Acclamation:	
Prep. Of Gifts:	AOV 110
Communion:	AOV 133
	AOV 37
Final Hymn:	AOV 57
Ordinary:	Freedom

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK—THANK YOU!

Thanks. Envelopes: \$988

New weekly amount pledged \$1235

Presbytery: \$410

Loose: \$476

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