

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Our Parish conference meets on the 3rd Monday of the month 7.30pm Emmaus Room
St Gabriel's Parish Centre.
New members are always welcome.
Emergency Assistance 1800 305 330

LEGION OF MARY

Our Parish Legion of Mary invites families to welcome the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima for a week of family prayer.
Contact Maureen O'Dwyer 9460 8520

ST GABRIEL'S PIETY STALL

St Paul's Sunday Missal \$35
St Paul's Weekday Missal \$60
My Simple Mass book \$8 (children)
My Little Missal \$8 (children)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time B

Isaiah 35:4-7

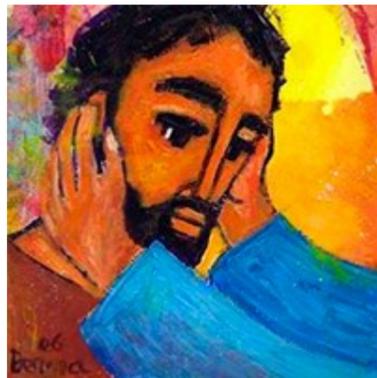
James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

Imagine the great joy of someone who has been cured of a hearing disability. What a thrill it must be to hear clearly, perhaps for the first time, the sounds of birds, of the ocean breaking, of music, of a friend's voice.

Many of us enjoy good hearing but we can still turn a deaf ear to the cries of the poor, to the pleas of someone for forgiveness, even to the teachings of Jesus.

What joy we too will know if we allow Jesus to touch us and heal our spiritual deafness.



NEXT SUNDAY—DOMENICA PROSSIMA

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time B

Isaiah 50:5-9

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

May They Rest In Peace

All Fathers & Grandfathers
Giuseppe Di Nello, Paulo & Antonio Soccio,
Margaret Forde

Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love.

A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.

Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration.

When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless", when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In the end, this is what Jesus would have us understand when he says: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (Mt 23:9).

In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son.

Pope Francis *Patris Corde* (2020)
www.vatican.va



Partnered Parishes of St Gabriel Reservoir & St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir East

Parish Priest: Fr Gregory Pritchard

Parish Office: 1 Viola Street Reservoir 3073

Mon/Tue/Thur 8:30am—12:30pm Fri 8am—3pm

Phone: 9460 6036

Email: reservoir@cam.org.au / reservoir@cam.org.au

www.stgabrielsreservoir.org

St. Gabriel's Church
1 Viola St Reservoir 3073

St Stephen's Church
71 Whitelaw St Reservoir East 3073



23rd
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time B
5.09.2021

Happy
Father's
Day

**CHURCHES ARE CLOSED
DURING LOCKDOWN**

**11am Sunday Mass from
St Patrick's Cathedral
Channel 44**

melbournecatholic.org.au
Daily Mass from St Patrick's Cathedral
Prayer of the Day
Daily readings

Birthday of Our Lady Wednesday 8 September

Along with the birth of Jesus and St. John the Baptist, Mary's birth has been celebrated by the Church from early times. In fourth-century Jerusalem a feast of her birth was celebrated at the Church of St. Ann. Mary's birth is seen always as part of God's plan for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ.

BAPTISMS

Sundays 11:30am
by appointment
Covid-19 restrictions apply.

WEDDINGS

At least six months notice.
No Sunday weddings.
Covid-19 restrictions apply.

The partnered parishes of St Gabriel Reservoir and St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir East are committed:
- to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community;
- 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 parishioners on request from the Parish office.

May God bless all fathers and grandfathers in our parish!

*We bless your name, O Lord,
For sending your own incarnate son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.*

*We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

On Father Day, we honour our own fathers. We also remember our priests, especially those who have now retired from active ministry because of age or illness. We think of the priest who baptized us, our parish priest while we were growing up, the priest who married us, the priest who was a good friend to our family. There are 96 retired Melbourne priests. Our donation today supports their healthcare and other needs. A Father's Day Appeal envelope is included in your Thanksgiving envelopes. The Appeal envelope can also be obtained at the newsletter stand at the front door of St Gabriel's presbytery. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible. Post the envelope or place it in the slot at St Gabriel's presbytery. Donations can also be made at: www.cam.org.au/foundation

PARISH LIFE

- **Get together for Parish men** will not take place this weekend (4-5 September). We hope that we can arrange something for October, including a meeting with MenAlive founder Robert Falzon
- **Spiritual Afternoon with St Joseph** is postponed to March 2022
- **Feast of St Gabriel and St Vincent de Paul Appeal**; We hope to celebrate our parish feast on weekend 25-26 September
- Sincere thanks to our parishioners who continue to support our parish, collecting a **Parish Bulletin** and leaving **Parish Thanksgiving** and clergy support at St Gabriel's presbytery. The Parish bulletin can also be found on our website: www.stgabrielsreservoir.org

Thanksgiving contribution by direct debit

St Gabriel's Church account
BSB: 083-347 account: 639372585

St Stephen's Church account
BSB: 083-347 account: 145763498