

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time B
Isaiah 50:5-9 James 2:14-18 Mark 8:27-35

When Christ asks, "Who do people say I am?" the disciples first state the answers that miss his true identity. The subsequent revelation from the mouth of Peter—"You are the Christ"—can only be the work of God. Yet Peter still fails to see why Christ must undergo his Passion, which saves our lives. Christ's rebuke speaks to us, too, for it corrects our tendency to think that the cross in our own life is a sign that God abandoned us. Faith enables us to think as God does, and to know in moments of suffering that "The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults." This certainty frees us to prove that we have faith by being generous and selfless. If we embrace Christ and his Passion, who can prove us wrong.



NEXT SUNDAY—DOMENICA PROSSIMA
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time B
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 James 3:16-4:3 Mark 9:30-37

Saint Mark has one basic aim in his Gospel: bringing his hearers and his readers to recognise Jesus as being the one he describes in the first sentence of his Gospel, "Jesus the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God", and to confess him as such.

For Jesus' disciples this question, whether explicit or implicit, must have been at the heart of their hopes and expectations from the beginning. Naturally they wondered (at least in their hearts) whether Jesus was the promised Messiah or not. And they hoped that he was. Thus, Jesus' question, "Who do men say that I am?" was not wholly unexpected. The apostles, who had their ear to the ground along with ordinary people, were able to answer straight off, "A prophet!" That is the way it has been, to this day.

Many people see in Jesus no more (and no less) than a prophet. For many people these days, their awareness of his inmost mystery seems to be fading. Many people find it hard to believe that he is God's Son and that all the hopes of mankind are fulfilled in him. It is a lot easier to regard him as one of the great prophets in the history of mankind, along with Buddha, Moses, and Muhammad.

"But who do you say that I am?" It is a completely direct and personal question. Not, what do "people" say, what does "everybody" think, but you personally. To this day, the question is suddenly there in our lives: "Who am I, Jesus, for you? Are you giving me your real, personal answer?"

Peter gives the answer without hesitation, concisely: "You are the Messiah, the Christ." That is not merely a neutral observation. I should almost want to say that it is a declaration of love. It is a confession of faith that turns into an expression of personal loyalty, an expression of hope: "You are the one we have longed for; you have been our hope for generations already."

Peter has scarcely uttered this – surely on behalf of the other apostles, too – when Jesus "applies the breaks": "Don't talk to anyone else about this!" Why is there this ban on shouting out loud such joyful news? Because such misconceived hopes will be placed on the Messiah. Because his coming is associated, above all, with political expectations.

How much Peter in particular still has to learn about understanding in what sense Jesus is "the Messiah" is immediately apparent when Jesus starts to talk "quite openly" about the suffering that lies before him. The Messiah has to suffer, instead of liberating people? Peter simply cannot allow this. Never again will he have to suffer such a sharp rebuff: "Behind me, Satan!" (That is a literal translation.) "Only if you follow me along the path to the Cross will you understand the way in which the Messiah effects his task of liberating people: not by armed force, but by the powerlessness of love."

Not even death can touch love, for "after three days he will rise again". Then you can, and must, tell everyone, "Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God!"

Cardinal Christoph Schonborn OP



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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time B
12.09.2021

**CHURCHES ARE CLOSED
DURING LOCKDOWN**

Sunday Mass

from

St Patrick's Cathedral

11am

Channel 44

melbournecatholic.org.au

Daily Mass from St Patrick's Cathedral

Prayer of the Day

Daily readings

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tuesday 14 September**

This feast commemorates the rescue of the relic of the True Cross by Emperor Heraclius in 629 after it had been captured by the Persians; it also marks the original dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where relics of the Cross were kept, in 335. The Feast celebrates the Cross, the instrument of our salvation, and is in many ways an extension of Good Friday. The Cross is a great and powerful sign of God's love for us— a love stronger than death—and also a daily reality in our lives: the only true path to holiness.

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.

9/11 2001-2021

Many of us have vivid memories of the terrible events which disturbed the peace of the world 20 years ago this weekend. Australian Prime Minister John Howard was in Washington when hijacked planes smashed into the World Trade Centre towers and the Pentagon. It seems that the White House was also a target. Terror attacks also followed in London and Bali. Recent events remind us that the world remains a different place. Public security is emphasized, especially at airports. Surveillance cameras everywhere. Photo ID. A world absorbed in a war against terror. And in these days the world also grapples with COVID19.

LEGION OF MARY 1921-2021

On Wednesday 7 September 1921 the first meeting of the Legion of Mary was held in Dublin Ireland. A group of mainly young women were accompanied by 2 priests and the founder of the Legion, Servant of God Frank Duff.

Gathered around Our Lady's Statue, they prayed the Rosary and set themselves the task of visiting the patients at Dublin Union Hospital. The work of the lay apostolate began. Melbourne priest Father Henry Bakker encountered the Legion at 1932 Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. Returning to Australia he and Mrs. Gavan Duffy established the Legion at St Mary's Ascot Vale and Frankston. Today the Legion is well established in many Australian parishes and schools. Our Parish Praesidium *Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament* has a long history. Enquiries Maureen O'Dwyer 9460 8520.

PARISH LIFE

- **Get together for Parish men.** 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
- The annual **Father's Day Appeal** provides support to our retired and sick priests. An envelope is included in your Thanksgiving series. 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
- 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