

PROCESSIONAL HYMN CWB 244

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
Where such a mighty Guest may come.

For you are our Salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without your grace we waste away,
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out your hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let your light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

To God the Son all glory be
Whose advent sets your people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

2nd Sunday of Advent C

Baruch 5:1-9 Philipians 1:4-6, 8-11 Luke 3:1-6

Psalm Response

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

All these names-Pontius Pilate, Herod, Annas, and Caiaphas-belong in the Passion of Christ. Why, then, do we hear them now before his birth? To remind us of why the Lord was born: "Jesus Christ was born to die on the cross" (Saint Leo the Great). The winding road that Christ makes straight is the way to Calvary. With Christ we want to "walk in safety under the glory of God...by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort" We do that this Advent by living the memory that Christ is born to save us. The love of Christ Jesus moves us to embrace every sacrifice that prepares in us the way of the cross. In Christ's flesh "all mankind shall see the salvation of God".



COMMUNION HYMN CWB 594

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Alleluia

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - Al - le - lu - ia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you
Allelu, Alleluia

RECESSIONAL HYMN CWB 232

Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free!
from our fears and sins release us,
in your heart our rest shall be.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope to all you shall impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born, your people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever,
now your gracious kingdom bring:

By your own eternal Spirit
rule in our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.

NEXT SUNDAY—DOMENICA PROSSIMA

3rd Sunday of Advent C

Zephaniah 3:14-18 Philipians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

One Licence: A-640406



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

Second Sunday of Advent C 5.12.2021

***Fully Vaccinated Only**
***Trybooking required**
***Hand sanitise at entry &**
Holy Communion
***Please place Thanksgiving**
in baskets on entry

Weekday Masses

6 December - 10 December

Monday *No Mass*
Tuesday 4pm *St Raphael's*
Wednesday 8.30am *St Raphael's*
Thursday 8.30am *St Raphael's*
Friday 8.30am *St Raphael's*

Weekend Masses 11 - 12 December

Saturday 6pm St Stephen's

<https://www.trybooking.com/BVZCB>

Sunday 10am St Gabriel's

<https://www.trybooking.com/BVZCC>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St Stephen's Saturdays 5pm
St Gabriel's Sundays 9am

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.

We welcome **5 new priests** to the Archdiocese of Melbourne, ordained by Archbishop Comensoli at St Patricks Cathedral on Saturday 4 December.

Father Alexander Chow
Father Hoang Dinh
Father Jaycee Napoles
Father Joseph Nguyen
Father Samuel Pearson

Father Pritchard's doctor warns that recovery from shingles can take up to 6 weeks.

Please be advised that our parish celebration of the **Immaculate Conception of Our Lady** is now cancelled.

The schedule for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** has been revised.

We are glad to welcome **Father Fayez** once again this weekend.

Weekday Mass is available at St Raphael's Preston West.

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and **readers** are asked to advise the Parish office of your availability for Christmas Masses as soon as possible.

In Europe, families erect **Christmas trees** and **Nativity sets** in their home on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception. We decorate our homes, and place a wreath on the front door; a warm welcome to visitors, family and friends during joyful Advent and the Christmas season, Mum and Dad can lead their family in the blessing of the Christmas tree.

Holy Lord,
we come with joy to celebrate
the birth of your Son,
who rescued us from the darkness of sin
by making the Cross a tree of life and light.
May this tree, arrayed in splendour,
remind us of the life-giving Cross of Christ,
that we may always rejoice in the new life
that shines in our hearts.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

362 Albert Street East Melbourne www.mmhc.org.au

- **Visit the museum** that tells the story of St Mary and the Sisters of St Joseph. Do a walking tour of the Mary MacKillop Heritage trail and Mary's birth place in Fitzroy.
- **Advent with Mary MacKillop** - Online Advent reflection program consisting of 4 one-hour sessions that will be held on Wednesdays from 7 - 8pm on November 24 and December 1, 8, and 15. The sessions will be based on the Advent readings and will be combined with reflections on St Mary of the Cross. Each session will incorporate aspects of the program *Blessed*. Access to sessions via a Teams link provided by MMHC after registration. Please consider donating \$7.50 per session or \$25 for the 4 sessions.

MenALIVE offers weekly refuel! each Tuesday 7.30pm on zoom us02web.zoom.us/j/87979703609
This time spent with men throughout Australia and New Zealand to review next Sunday's Mass readings using the SOAP method: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer.

Available from the Parish Office and St Gabriel's church:

Journey to Bethlehem Advent Wreath \$95
Magellan Christmas cards 10 pack \$7
2022 Daily Mass Book \$25

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.stgabrielreservoir.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

Priests appreciate the extra support given in the Christmas offering.

All mankind shall see the salvation of God

Imagine John awaiting God's time in the desert. He must have grown tired of living on locusts and wild honey! But while John was waiting, God was working. John grew "strong in spirit . . . until the day of his manifestation to Israel". That day finally arrived! God spoke, and John's mission began. Waiting. It's central to the season of Advent. We hear how Israel waited centuries for the Messiah. We see Elizabeth and Zechariah waiting until old age to have a child. And we see John waiting for years before beginning to preach and baptize.

We wait too. We wait not just for Christmas, but also for Jesus' Second Coming, when he will fulfil every promise and right every wrong. Waiting for the Lord to answer our prayers can be especially difficult because we can't always see progress. So how can we learn to wait on the Lord with a sense of hope?

We can start by remembering God's faithfulness. John must have spent time recalling how God had delivered Israel and what God had personally promised him. Like John, we can recall God's blessings in our lives and all he has done in sending Jesus to save us. That can help make our waiting a little sweeter; it can also lead us to trust him a little more deeply.

We can also praise God while we are waiting: for what he has already done and for what he will do in the future. We can praise him that one day he will put an end to our struggles and welcome us into his heavenly home. But we can also praise him for what he is doing right now. He is working in our families, in our churches, and in our world. As we praise him, our hope will rise and our faith will grow stronger. And when God's timing does arrive, our hearts will be ready - just as John's was!

Immaculate Conception of Our Lady

Today's Gospel (Lk 1:26-38) reading highlights for us how crucial Mary's yes was to God's plan of salvation. It shows how Mary wasn't just a docile participant in this plan: she freely offered herself to God as his handmaid, as a servant of a very lowly status. This unique woman, who was conceived without original sin, did more than just consent to having Jesus take shape her womb for nine months. She allowed him to change the trajectory of her entire life! From the moment she said yes, Mary was no longer only the wife of Joseph. She became the mother of all believers.

Reflecting on Mary's openness her new calling, Pope Francis once said, "Immediately upon receiving the Angel's announcement," Mary "went to share the gift of her fruitfulness with her relative Elizabeth". Mary wasted no time in living out her new vocation!

The Holy Father went on to say how the same holds true for us. God wants to "make of us gift for others," just as he did for Mary. And how do we do this? By allowing the Spirit to make us "instruments of acceptance, instruments of reconciliation, instruments of forgiveness." In short, by treating the people around us with the same love and mercy that Jesus has shown us.

Take time today to reflect on the life of this humble girl from Nazareth. How can you imitate her willingness to give what she received? Especially during this season, when tensions between family members can run high, how can you act as an instrument of reconciliation, welcome, or healing? A listening ear, an offer of prayer, a readiness to forgive-it doesn't take much to be a channel of God's grace. That's because the grace comes from God, not from you. You're simply giving away the gift that he has freely given to you.

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Weekend 11-12 December
St Stephen's Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass Confirmation
St Gabriel's Sunday 10am Mass
Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens of Jonathan Abuthan

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Friday 24 December

St Stephen's Reservoir East 6pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BVPUI>

St Gabriel's Reservoir 7.30pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BVPUL>

St Gabriel's Reservoir 9pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BVPUU>

Saturday 25 December
St Gabriel's Reservoir 10am
<https://www.trybooking.com/BVPUS>

Registration by Trybooking ONLY

CHRISTMAS SEASON BLESSING OF HOMES

Register: Parish office 9460 6036
email reservoir@cam.org.au

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Stephen's

Saturday 4 December 5pm
Saturday 11 December 5pm
Saturday 18 December 5pm

St Gabriel's

Sunday 5 December 9am
Sunday 12 December 9am
Sunday 19 December 9am
Tuesday 21 December 9.30am & 7pm
Wednesday 22 December 7pm
Thursday 23 December 9.30am & 7pm
Friday 24 December 9.30am

May They Rest In Peace

Recently Deceased
Fr John Hepworth
Barbara Brown
Dominic Presti
Mary Ganci

Pope Francis

We need to imagine ourselves in the little Italian town of Greccio, near Rieti. Saint Francis stopped there, most likely on his way back from Rome where on 29 November 1223 he had received the confirmation of his rule from Pope Honorius III. Francis had earlier visited the Holy Land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem. It may also be that the Poor Man of Assisi had been struck by the mosaics in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major depicting the birth of Jesus, close to the place where, according to an ancient tradition, the wooden panels of the manger are preserved. Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him realise his desire "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay." His faithful friend went immediately to prepare all that the saint had asked. On 25 December, friars came to Greccio, together with people from the farmsteads in the area, who brought flowers and torches to light up that holy night. When Francis arrived he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene. A priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. At Greccio there were no statues; the Nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present. This is how our tradition began: with everyone gathered in joy around the cave, with no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery. Thomas of Celano, the first biographer of Saint Francis, notes that this simple and moving scene was accompanied by the gift of a marvellous vision: one of those present saw the baby Jesus himself lying in the manger.

Blessing of the Family Nativity Scene

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.
Lord,
bless our family and all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing of the Family Meal

God, the Father of mercies,
you willed your Son to take flesh,
in order to give life back to us.
Bless these gifts
with which we are about to nourish our bodies,
so that, receiving new strength,
we may wait in watchfulness
for the glorious coming of Christ.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.