

Processional Hymn AOV 184

Refrain; All the earth proclaim the Lord,
Sing your praise to God.

Serve you the Lord, heart filled with gladness.
Come into his presence singing for joy! *Refrain*

Know that the Lord is our creator.
Yes, he is our Father; we are his own. *Refrain*

We are the sheep of the green pasture,
For we are his people; he is our God. *Refrain*

Enter his gates bringing thanksgiving,
O enter his courts while singing in praise. *Refrain*

Our Lord is good, his love enduring;
His word is abiding now with us all. *Refrain*

Honour and praise be to the Father,
The Son, and the Spirit, world without end. *Refrain*

Liturgy of the Word

Wisdom 9:13-18 Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Luke 14:25-33

Psalm Response

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws. Alleluia!

It is somewhat shocking to hear Jesus say, "Whoever comes to me without hating (family members) cannot be my disciple". Jesus is using hyperbole to stress that we must give first place to following him. If that puts us in conflict with our family, we must choose Jesus. Thankfully, most of us don't face such a conflict. We can rejoice in God and in family, as Paul does in today's Second Reading.

Preparation of the Gifts AOV 74

Come to the water, you who are thirsty!
Though you have nothing, I bid you come
and be filled with the goodness I have to offer!
Come! Listen! Live!

Why spend your money on what cannot fill
the emptiness deep in your heart?

Listen to my word and you will enjoy
goodness and peace in your heart! *Refrain*

Just as the heavens are high above earth,
my ways and thoughts beyond you!

Call me your Father and know I am near!
I will be Father to you! *Refrain*

Just as the rain falls to water the earth,
just as a seed becomes bread.
my word upon you can never return
until my longing is filled! *Refrain*



One Licence: A-640406

Next weekend 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-32

Holy Communion AOV 125

Refrain: Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

I am the bread of life,
the true bread sent from the Father. *Refrain*

Your ancestors ate manna in the desert
but this is the bread come down from heaven. *Refrain*

Eat my flesh and drink my blood,
and I will raise you up on the last day. *Refrain*

Anyone who eats this bread,
will live forever. *Refrain*

If you believe and eat this bread,
you will have eternal life. *Refrain*

AOV 56

God of day and God of darkness,
now we stand before the night;
As the shadows stretch and deepen,
come and make our darkness bright.
All creation still is groaning
for the dawning of your might,
when the Sun of peace and justice
fills the earth with radiant light.

You shall be the path that guides us,
you the light that in us burns;
Shining deep within all people,
yours the love that we must learn
for our hearts shall wander restless
'til they safe to you return;
finding you in one another,
we shall all your face discern.

Gentle Father, Loving Mother,
Jesus: Brother, Saviour, Friend;
Spirit of all grace and power,
may we praise you without end.
Grant us all a peaceful resting,
let each mind and body mend,
so we rise refreshed tomorrow,
hearts renewed to kingdom tend.

Recessional Hymn AOV 131

Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us, his love is forever,
faithful to the end of days.

Refrain: Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.

Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all. *Refrain*

Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high;
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,
splendour of the living God. *Refrain*

Praise him with your singing,
praise him with the trumpet, praise God with the lute and
harp; praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your
dancing, praise God till the end of days. *Refrain*



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

Parish Priest: Fr Gregory Pritchard
Parish Office: 1 Viola Street Reservoir 3073
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am—12:30pm Friday 9am—3pm
Phone: 9460 6036
Email: 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 Year C
04.09.2022

**Please hand sanitise
at entry & Holy Communion**
**Face masks
recommended indoors**

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 9am *St Gabriel's*
Wednesday 9.30am *St Stephen's*
Thursday 9am *St Gabriel's*
Friday 9am *St Gabriel's*

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday *St Stephen's*
5pm Reconciliation 6pm Vigil Mass
Sunday *St Gabriel's*
9am Reconciliation 10am Mass

Thanksgiving and Clergy support offering by direct debit

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

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



Parish Thanksgiving Renewal

Parish Census Update Weekends October 8-9, 15-16
Renewal Weekends November 5-6, 12-13

**Our Parish is committed
to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children and vulnerable adults**



*May God bless all
fathers and
grandfathers
in our parish!*

Three young parishioners receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** at Sunday 10am mass this weekend: Congratulations to Diego D'Auria, Mathias Fernandez, Nathan Gualano

Fr Pritchard administers the Sacrament of Confirmation by special delegation of Bishop Curtin (Canon 882)

Christ communicates his Spirit and the grace of God through the sacraments to all the members of the Church, who thus bear the fruits of the new life of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also the Master of prayer.
Compendium 146

Weekly meetings for our **RCIA candidates** Thursdays 7pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre. All are welcome to use these meetings as a way to refresh our faith and to support our candidates. Our basic text is YOUCAT: Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, presented by Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day Madrid (Spain) 2011.

Priest's Retirement Foundation Father's Day Appeal this weekend. A report on the mission of the foundation is included in today's Parish bulletin.

Sincere thanks to parishioners who volunteered to assist with maintenance of St Gabriel's Church grounds.

We will celebrate the **feast of St Gabriel** Sunday 25 September 10am Mass. We hope to have morning tea after mass in the church grounds. Please let the Parish office know if you would like to provide some cupcakes, slices, cannoli or crostoli.

The **Parish pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima** will be blessed at Masses on weekend 1-2 October. Parishioners are invited to register for the Pilgrim statue to visit your home for family prayer.



Protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization, through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach. Our campaign begins 8 September and runs until 6 November.

Here's how to take part:

- Vigil location: Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, near Jolimont Station (NB the vigil site is at the marked 'exclusion zone'.)
- Vigil hours: 8 am to 8 pm daily

www.40daysforlife.com/Melbourne

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD: AN INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

Presented by David Schütz & Natasha Petrakos ANIMA Education. Monday nights 19 September to 17 October 7pm – 9pm. This unit is offered on Zoom (a link will be sent to those who enrol). The classes will involve live Zoom presentation and interactive discussion. Cost: \$95
Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CBDDM>

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

- Donation boxes are below statue of St Joseph in St Gabriel's Church, and near baptismal font in St Stephen's Church.

- **Vinnies Reservoir 10 Edwardes St Reservoir**
1300 736 933 vinnies.org.au/getinvolved
volunteer@svdp-vic.org.au

Vinnies Reservoir welcomes Uni students for placement, year 10+ for work experience, and Duke of Edinburgh award applicants. Volunteers needed 7 days 9am to 12pm

LEGION OF MARY

- Our Parish praesidium (group), dedicated to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, meets every Monday 1.30pm Bethany Room St Gabriel's Parish Centre. *New members are always welcome.*
- Our Parish Legion of Mary invites families to welcome the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima for a week of family prayer.
- *Enquiries Maureen O'Dwyer 9460 8520*

ST GABRIEL'S PIETY STALL

St Paul's Holy Week Missal \$10
St Paul's Sunday Missal \$35
St Paul's Weekday Missal \$60
New Order of Mass \$7
My Simple Mass book \$8 (children)
My Little Missal \$8 (children)
Baptism Candles & Stoles \$15

LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP

St Raphael's Parish 17 Hardy St, Preston West
Wednesdays 1.30pm
Contact: Nikki Daniel 9470 5840

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

*After the Homily,
the candidates make a Profession of Faith.*

Celebrant:

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.
All: Amen

Celebrant:

Let us pray to God the almighty Father, for these, his adopted sons, already born again to eternal life in Baptism, that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them to confirm them with his abundant gifts, and through his anointing conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these your servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin: send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety; fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

*The candidates are anointed with Sacred Chrism.
The Universal Prayer follows.*

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Have you heard of the National Monument of Scotland? If not, that's not surprising. It was never finished. Planned as a replica of the Parthenon in Athens, the project ran out of funds shortly after its six-ton foundation stone was laid. It's now known as "Edinburgh's Disgrace." Its unfinished pillars stand as a sobering tribute to poor planning.

That sounds a lot like the builders Jesus describes in today's Gospel. Who would build a tower without first calculating the money needed to complete it? Jesus asks. It seems obvious. But Jesus wasn't talking only about the cost of construction. He was talking about the cost of discipleship.

Jesus wanted the people to understand what following him would mean. Becoming his disciple would change how they prayed, where they lived, and what their future held. Following Jesus would require them to take up their cross, and he wanted them to choose it with eyes wide open. Jesus loved them. He didn't want them to end up like those Edinburgh builders, unable to finish what they had started.

In some ways, we're all a bit like that unfinished monument: works in progress. But the good news is that we can finish. We just need to keep on choosing to follow Jesus. Jesus tells us that our journey will require more than our own natural resources-not to discourage us, but to point us to God, the finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus says, "Come, follow me." He knows the challenges you will face, and he doesn't want you to give up when you realize it costs you more than you expected. He has all the grace you need to resist temptation. His love will strengthen you on your path toward heaven. And he has deep pockets, overflowing with mercy, to help you choose him day after day.

wau.org

LOST IN THE SECULAR DESERT I

We are on the way to becoming, for the first time, an avowedly anti-Christian nation. Not just non-Christian, but anti-Christian. The census tells us. The culture tells us. The law tells us.

The 2021 census represents an explosive dam burst, with a flood of biblical proportions to follow. For the first time in the modern nation's history, only a minority of Australians identify as Christians.

This is not a gentle decline. It is a bus hurtling over a cliff. As recently as 25 years ago, nearly three-quarters of Australians called themselves Christians. In 2011, 61 per cent was still a solid majority; five years later it was 52 per cent, last year just 44 per cent and still falling. That's a staggering 17 per cent fewer of the population who are Christian in 10 years. Nothing as dramatic and consequential has happened in Australian belief and outlook since 1788.

To be sure, there are nuances in the census. "No religion" does not equate directly to formal atheism. The National Church Life Survey suggests a small majority of Australians believes in God. That's consistent with the census. Non-Christian religions - Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism and others - take total religious affiliation above 50 per cent.

The census also has some surprises. Sydney, sin city, is the most God loving part of Australia, just as London is the most religious part of Britain.

But difficult as it may be for some Christians to accept, and much as some secular commentators may want to play it down, claiming that Christian affiliation was formerly overstated or to avert the public gaze from the radical wave engulfing us, Christians must understand they are a minority. That should free them to become a creative, dynamic minority, offering something magnificent to society. They also should get the same rights as other minorities, but that's another story.

In his brilliant 2021 book, *Being the Bad Guys*, Perth evangelical pastor Stephen McAlpine presents the dramatic transformation in Christianity's standing: "Wasn't it only yesterday Christianity was regarded as a societal good? Now? It's not only unpalatable; it's positively toxic."

Greg Sheridan is foreign editor of *The Australian* and author of several books including *Christians: The Urgent Case for Jesus in our World*.
News Weekly 20 August 2022

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St Gabriel's Theatre Group Rehearsals

2022 production *Peter Pan*
Sunday 4 September 6pm
St Gabriel's Parish Hall
Family groups welcome
Come along
or phone Judy 0488 580 145



PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

- In 1990 Archbishop Little established the Priests Retirement Foundation, "caring for those who cared".
- Priests are not employees of the Archbishop or the Parish so they are not eligible for superannuation.
- Last financial year the Foundation spent \$4.375 million dollars caring for those who cared, our retired priests.
- Priests generally retire at 75 years according to Canon (Church) Law. The Retirement Foundation meets their needs. Retired priests have served us well. Most have served 50 years in parish ministry before retiring.
- 95 Melbourne priests are currently retired; 7 priests are aged in their 90s; 49 are in their 80s; 29 are between 75-80. They are grateful for your support now and in the future. They have ministered in most Melbourne Parishes
- Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued early July 2023 for donations of \$5 or more.
- The collection for the clergy supports our own Parish Priest. This includes quarterly stipend, Medicare, health care, housekeeping, clothes, car expenses, annual leave, retreat, clergy conference.
- The Presbytery collection also supports:
Archbishop Comensoli and our bishops: 5%
Priests in needy parishes: 12.5%
Sick and retired priests: 12.5%

"It has been a wonderful custom in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to allow the faithful of the Archdiocese to show something of their own appreciation through the annual Fathers' Day Appeal. The appeal goes to the care of retired and sick priests by providing suitable accommodation, medical assistance and a comfortable standard of living for them.

*May I commend the Appeal to you.
Please pray for your priests, as they pray for you!"*

Archbishop P A Comensoli.

*May they exalt
and rejoice forever in Heaven*

Recently Deceased

Fr Michael Bogusz
Carlo De Fazio Romano

Anniversary of death

Margaret Forde

The Christian who dies in Christ reaches at the end of earthly existence the fulfillment of that new life which was begun in Baptism, strengthened in Confirmation and nourished in the Eucharist, the foretaste of the heavenly banquet. The meaning of the death of a Christian becomes clear in the light of the death and Resurrection of Christ our only hope. The Christian who dies in Christ Jesus goes "away from the body to be at home with the Lord". (2 Corinthians 5:8)
Compendium 354