

Processional Hymn CWB 588

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praises sing?
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him,
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Liturgy of the Word

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

Psalm Response

I will rise and go to my father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation
he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

The parables in today's Gospel all speak of the mercy of God. When we stray from the right path, God comes looking for us, not to condemn us but to offer us forgiveness. If we are contrite, God will lift us up and carry us back to the community, as a shepherd carries a stray sheep back to the flock. What great rejoicing there will be in our reunion with God and with the community.

Next weekend

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

Amos 8:4-7 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 16:1-13

Recently Deceased

Queen Elizabeth II
Leo Lee

Anniversary of death

Giuseppe Brogno

May the memory of our departed brothers and sisters be always in our Masses and prayers, as we ask God's forgiveness for their sins and a place in their eternal home.

One Licence: A-640406

Preparation of the Gifts CWB 297

Our Father, we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
we rise with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling,
we hear you call our name.

And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning
with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.

O Lord of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving and ever caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon and in peace.

Holy Communion CWB 293

Refrain: Lord, let your mercy be on us
as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithfulness and love,
this love can never be measured;
God's beauty is like nothing we have ever seen,
so let us place our trust in God. *Refrain*

The word of the Lord means a patient, gentle God,
whose love can never grow weary.
God's mercy is as though our sins have never been,
if we can place our trust in God. *Refrain*

The word of the Lord is fire burning strong
and love that never grows weary.
God will seek and save the lost until we all return,
so let us place our trust in God. *Refrain*

Recessional Hymn CWB 561

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
Lord, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father, and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heav'n and earth adore;
who ever was, is now,
and shall be evermore.



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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 11.09.2022

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

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 9am *St Gabriel's*

★ Wednesday 9am *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**

The death of Queen Elizabeth II, after a long reign marked by extraordinary constancy, fidelity, courage and service, will bring great sadness to many people in Australia, including members of the Catholic community. As the Queen enters into the great mystery of eternal life with the Lord, we will pray for the repose of her soul and for the support and comfort of her family, her nation and the wider community of the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth was never reticent about acknowledging her Christian faith. Her annual Christmas message invariably focused on Jesus Christ as a model of humble and generous service. It was a model she strived to emulate throughout her long life. May she rest in peace.

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.

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.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available each weekend: Saturday 5pm St Stephen's, Sunday 9am St Gabriel's

When I go to Confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul. To leave with greater spiritual health. To pass from misery to mercy. The centre of confession is not the sins we declare, but the divine love we receive of which we are always in need. (Pope Francis)

The Parish office will soon place orders for:

Columban Art Calendar 2023 \$9
Padre Pio Calendario 2023 \$12
Magellan Christmas Cards \$7 (packet of 10)
Catholic Mothers Planner 2023 \$55

These will be available from
St Gabriel's Piety Stall later in the year.
Please phone or email the parish office 9460 6036
reservoir@cam.org.au to register your order

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

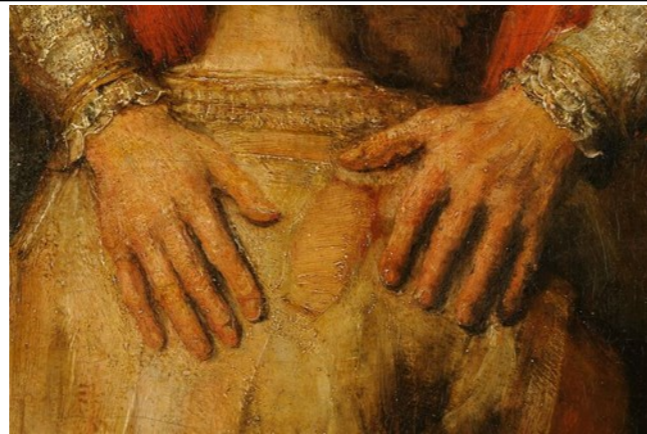
- Our Parish praesidium (group), dedicated to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, meets every Monday 1.30pm Bethany Room St Gabriel's Parish Centre.
New members are always welcome.
- Our Parish Legion of Mary invites families to welcome the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima for a week of family prayer.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



What an image! You can picture Jesus' listeners gasping at his description of a respected, wealthy landowner, advanced in age, hiking up his robes and running to greet his wayward son! In the patriarchal culture of ancient Israel, it would have been humiliating for a father to do such a thing. The child should be the one coming to the father - humble and repentant - while the father stands firm, arms folded, waiting to see what his son has to say for himself. Any father acting as the father in the parable did would have brought scandal to himself and his family.

But "scandal" is a good way to describe Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. Jesus told this story in response to a group of Pharisees who were scandalized by his practice of openly welcoming "sinners" (Lk 15:2). It's as if Jesus were saying, You think I'm a cause for scandal? Let me tell you a parable about my heavenly Father and the depths of his mercy!

God's mercy defies our fallen human logic. Whoever heard of a God who runs to welcome sinners before they have a chance to repent? Or a God who forgives sins that we think are unforgivable? Or a God who rejoices over us even when we give him very little reason to rejoice? But this is your God. His love is unfathomable and free flowing. In a world powered by pride and selfishness, a world that urges retaliation for every single slight, it's downright scandalous.

And it's for you. Your heavenly Father loves you completely, and there's nothing you can do to make him stop loving you. There's nothing you can do to make him give up on you - or any of your loved ones. So let God love you today. Let him run to you and embrace you and shower you with his mercy. Even if it scandalizes you, let that mercy fill your heart and flow out to the people around you. wau.org

*Father of mercy, like the prodigal son
I return to you and say:
"I have sinned against you
and am no longer worthy to be called your son."
Christ Jesus, Saviour of the world,
I pray with the repentant thief
to whom you promised Paradise:
"Lord, remember me in your kingdom."
Holy Spirit, fountain of love,
I call on you with trust: "Purify my heart,
and help me to walk as a child of light."*

LOST IN THE SECULAR DESERT II

In a justly famous blog post a few years ago, Perth evangelical pastor Stephen McAlpine suggested most Christians accept that Christendom - with all its virtues and all its villainies - is over and they are now in exile. They envisaged this exile in a metaphorical Athens, debating their beliefs in polite and interested company.

That was Stage One Exile. Now, Stage Two Exile, is in a much more hostile Babylon, where they confront a state and culture uninterested in their ideas, determined instead to bludgeon them into submission.

McAlpine says: "The elite frame work that drives the culture is increasingly interested in bringing the church back into the public square, not in order to hear it, but to expose its real and imagined abuses and render it naked and shivering before a jeering crowd".

Of course, the culture is not uniformly hostile to Christianity, but the "elite framework that drives the culture" certainly is.

I saw this in Hobart a few weeks ago. The so-called Dark Mofo, put on by the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), was in full swing. A strand in Dark Mofo, much subsidised by innocent Tasmanian taxpayers, celebrates nihilism and ugliness. It frequently mocks and contemptuously misuses Christian symbols and terminology, and sometimes celebrates the repulsive and evil.

One representative caption says: "Satanise your hands." The Mofo jamborees have used inverted crosses, an old anti-Christian symbol; they have buried an artist underground for three days in mimicry of Christ's resurrection; displayed a simulated man being hacked to death; recreated pagan customs; used foul animal carcasses; and much else.

No doubt there is great technical expertise in Mofo, but this dopey, second-rate, pretend radicalism - in truth about as radical as a ride in a limousine to a Hollywood fashion show - indicates a distressed and confused culture. It displays all the aesthetic insight and emotional maturity of an over-indulged teenager trying ever more offensive swear words to shock the parents who indulged him.

When swearing no longer shocks, he lights a cigarette and stubs it out on their bed. That's so cool, provocative, cutting-edge, subversive (the rank weasel word of our time). And so, so courageous.

But on the Hobart waterfront, in counterpoint to Mofo, I attended a Christian exhibition entitled Miracles. It was sublime, challenging, beautiful in design, with a quietly building narrative, engaged fully with science and reason. It examined the history of Christian miracles and explored their scientific investigation. Naturally it was subject to minor hostile demonstration.

So, just who was authentically countercultural here? Who had something to say, an original vision? Who was serving truth and beauty?

Consider the ridiculous reaction to former Prime Minister Scott Morrison preaching a sermon at Margaret Court's Pentecostal church in Perth. Morrison's faith is the centre of his life. When he was PM, there was not one speck of effort to enforce, impose or privilege it. Morrison told the Perth congregation they could place a higher trust in God than in government, or even the UN, not that he said anything remotely against, much less delegitimising, government. He echoed the famous words of the psalm: "Put not thy trust in kings or princes".

A welter of absurd criticism followed on commercial television, radio and the ABC, denouncing Morrison for "inappropriate" and "jarring" comments. We live in an age of spectacular cultural and religious ignorance. Did any commentator acknowledge that secular politics was invented by Christianity ("Render unto Caesar...")?

Christians have always placed a higher trust in God, even as they pledge to obey all legitimate earthly authorities. Jesus himself said: "My kingdom is not of this world".

Morrison's sermon dealt constructively, sympathetically and theologically with anxiety. Did any denouncer bother listening to it? Most disheartening was Anthony Albanese's criticism, which wrongly implied Morrison was spreading conspiracy theories.

Morrison says: "Having a strong faith and belief has always meant dealing with mockery and misrepresentation. It is increasingly going with the territory in Western societies, including Australia. History shows this has only ever served to make faith communities stronger".

Christianity's enemies in Australia stand poised to prosecute a bewildering range of legal attacks against Christians and their institutions, designed mainly to prevent them speaking in the public square. The NSW euthanasia law obliges Christian retirement homes to welcome kill teams into their homes. Legislation in some states, especially Victoria, makes it extremely difficult for Christian schools to hire Christian teachers other than for the principal, chaplain and perhaps religious knowledge teachers.

Greg Sheridan *News Weekly* 20 August 2022

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St Gabriel's Theatre Group Rehearsals

2022 production *Peter Pan*
Sunday 11 September 4pm
St Gabriel's Parish Hall
Family groups welcome
Come along
or phone Judy 0488 580 145



Pakistan Flood Appeal
www.caritas.org.au
1800 024 413

Central to the Church's teaching is the idea that each of us is created and loved by God, and that this love pervades every aspect of our humanity and every moment of our life's journey. This week, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference released *Created and Loved: A guide for Catholic schools on identity and gender*, outlining a pastoral approach shaped by the theological, medical and legislative context in which Catholic schools operate.

melbournecatholic.org