

Processional Hymn AOV 54

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto Me, and rest;
lay down, thou weary one,
lay down thy head upon my breast'.

I came to Jesus, as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink, and live'.

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright'.

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that Light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.

Liturgy of the Word

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

Psalm Response

Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

The Christian community must contribute to the welfare of the broader human society. We have a duty to pray for civil leaders and to act justly in our places of work. We must do what we can to ensure that the institutions of our society are devoted to the well-being of all citizens. If we ourselves are devoted to God and not to money, we will bring great riches to our society.

Preparation of the Gifts AOV 37

Refrain: Come to me, all who labour
and are heavy burdened,
and I shall give you rest.
Take up my yoke and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart.
And you'll find rest for your souls.
Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall never be in need.
Fresh and green are the meadows
where he gives me rest. *Refrain*

Next weekend

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time C



Amos 6:1, 4-7
1 Timothy 6:11-16
Luke 16:19-31

One Licence: A-640406

Holy Communion AOV 164

Refrain: Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.

As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again. *Refrain*

The bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain;
just as now it is gathered,
make your people one. *Refrain*

We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love. *Refrain*

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 556

Refrain: May the Spirit of Christ be our hope
through the day, be our guard through the night,
our companion on the way.

Christ be ever before us, Christ be ever behind us,
Christ be ever within. *Refrain*

Christ upon our left hand watching, at our right hand
guiding, Christ above, beneath us guarding,
near to us abiding. *Refrain*

Christ be in each holy silence, Christ be in our speaking,
Christ in every work we offer, ever in our seeking.
Refrain

Let us be God's light in the darkness,
Let us be God's kindness;
Let us be God's justice and mercy,
hands and feet of Christ. *Refrain*

God Creator, bless and keep us, Christ, be ever near us;
Spirit be the light before us, gentle be our pathway.
Refrain

Recently Deceased

Fr Luigi Sabbadin CS
Gina Puntoriero

Anniversary of death

James Healy

*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.*



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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
18.09.2022

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

WEEKDAY MASS

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

National Day of Mourning
Thursday 9am Requiem Mass
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***

***National Day of Mourning
for Her late Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II
Thursday 22 September
Requiem Mass
St Gabriel's Church 9am***

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 celebrate the **Feast of St Gabriel** next Sunday 25 September 10am Mass. 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 weekend 1-2 October. Parishioners are invited to register for the Pilgrim statue to visit your home for family prayer.

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

Funeral Mass of Fr Luigi Sabbadin CS
Former Parish Priest of St. Luke's Lalor
RIP 9 September 2022
Wednesday September 28 7pm *Holy Rosary*
Thursday 29 September 10.30am *Funeral Mass*
Melbourne General Cemetery 1pm *Burial*
Holy Rosary and Funeral Mass
St Luke's Church Lalor

ST PETER CLAVER MISSION FETE

Saturday 8 October 9am —2.30pm

154 Cotham Road Kew

This year the proceeds will be forwarded to Sr Sol Meda B Pomey OSA Delegate Superior for financial aid to construct a wall needed for landslide prevention and the safety of their Chapel. Enquiries Phone 9817 3715

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



Pakistan Flood Appeal

www.caritas.org.au

1800 024 413

Pray for kings and other secular leaders? Why would the early Christians want to pray for the Roman authorities who were, at best, suspicious of them and, at worst, their persecutors? Yet St. Paul said such prayer was necessary, not only so that the community of believers might worship the Lord in peace, but also so that these leaders might come to know the Lord (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

This is good advice for us to follow as well. So often we are disturbed by what we see and hear in the news. We might feel anger toward a particular leader or anxious about an uncertain future. We might also feel helpless, thinking that we can't make a difference in the events unfolding all around us.

But we can make a difference through "supplications, prayers, [and] petitions" (1 Timothy 2:1). In fact, that's the most powerful thing we can do! God hears our prayers, and through them, he can change hearts, turn situations around, and even bring good out of evil.

Just as importantly, those prayers can change us. Sometimes we get into an unhealthy pattern of reacting with anger or resentment when we read the news. Then we risk hardening our hearts, not only toward our leaders, but toward anyone who doesn't agree with our own views. But when we turn to God, he will show us who and what to pray for. He will also help us realize how much he loves all people, even those we consider our "enemies."

Next time you find yourself angry about a leader or a situation, try to let go of the anger and pray instead. The more you do this, the more you'll find your own heart softening. Not only that, but one prayer at a time, you'll be doing your part to change the world! wau.org

O God,
to whom every human power is subject,
Grant to your servant
His Majesty King Charles III
wisdom in the exercise of his high office,
so that, always revering to you
and striving to please you,
he may constantly secure and preserve
for the people entrusted to his care
the freedom that comes from unity and peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



St Gabriel's Theatre Group Rehearsals

2022 production *Peter Pan*

Sunday 18 September 4pm

St Gabriel's Parish Hall

Family groups welcome

Come along

or phone Judy 0488 580 145

LOST IN THE SECULAR DESERT III

Schools are a huge battleground because the Bible is full of "dangerous statements". Consider St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." This is a spectacular rejection of today's zeitgeist.

No Christian expects the state to legally enforce their morality. And it's certainly true that Christians routinely fail to live up to St Paul's ethos. But is it now a bureaucratic or even criminal offence for Christians even to speak and teach their beliefs?

If a Christian school merely teaches the New Testament, it could be sued for discrimination. If a school asks a boy transitioning to be a girl to just slow down and think things over, and instead of wearing a dress perhaps wear the sports uniform that is non gender specific, it could be sued under several states' anti-repression laws. Pastors have told me that if a man, suffering mentally and spiritually from confusion over sexual matters, asks the pastor to pray with him, the pastor can be prosecuted.

Most states have outlawed the seal of the confessional for Catholic priests, though there is no evidence this will help in the battle against child abuse. The confidentiality of the confessional has been a Catholic sacramental doctrine for centuries. Priests have gone to their death rather than break it. Such confidentiality is allowed to lawyers and doctors. But good priests are to be criminals.

There are many more legal assaults on Christianity, under way or in preparation.

One question for Christian institutions is whether they bend the knee to the new state religion or continue the teachings of Christ and the Apostles found in the New Testament. The early Christians faced similar choices.

Under Roman rule, Jewish communities had an exception from paying homage to Roman gods, the official state religion. Once the Roman Empire distinguished Christians as a separate group, they lost that exemption. Early Christians were not looking for trouble, much less martyrdom, but they would not worship the divine god Caesar, as Roman authorities designated their emperor.

Christianity in the past has frequently been at a low ebb and it has showed a genius for bouncing back. This always takes courage, resolution, shrewdness, innovation. New missions for new times. Despite today's decline, there are many green shoots in the Christian garden. Jesus instructed the first Christians to proclaim his message, but also told them: "Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

Giving life to both halves of that injunction is challenging. How Christians respond to their newly difficult cultural circumstances will determine much of what happens to them, and to the truths they offer.

The Australian Catholic Church recently held a Plenary Council, a national consultative meeting. Its preparatory documents, emerging from a 'new class' of Catholic institution bureaucrats, made a few gestures to the zeitgeist but was chiefly concerned with internal governance, positions of power and changing liturgy.

Philippa Martyr, a Perth academic who is a columnist at *The Catholic Weekly*, in a tough-minded judgement says: "One of the themes of the Plenary Council was that Catholicism doesn't have to be this hard (in opposition to the culture). These gabfests are basically setting up income streams for people in future jobs. It's all piffle: It's got nothing to do with salvation."

In the end, Christian denominations choose between surrender to the ideology of the culture of faithfulness to their beliefs. It's not possible to do both. The Christian movements that accommodate the culture on its key points inevitably disappear, for if they are only offering what the culture already has, why would anybody bother?

Sydney's Catholic Archbishop Anthony Fisher, at the start of the Plenary Council, admonished the preparatory documents for their lack of attention to three crises: the decline of Christianity produced by secularism and exacerbated by the abuse crisis and disengagement brought on by Covid-19; the need to protect "the unborn, pregnant, refugees, trafficked, frail elderly, dying and other invisibles"; and the growing cultural hostility to Christianity.

The early Christians, notwithstanding all the changed of 2,000 years, faced similar challenges. I asked Melbourne's Catholic Archbishop Peter Comensoli whether there were lessons from the early Christians for the Church today: "Yes. I spend a lot of time in the Acts of the Apostles, to find ways to be active and Christian when you're unknown."

"There's a great ignorance of Christianity these days. Acts gives the church ways to be faithful disciple when you're small and not necessarily of interest, and if you are of interest you might be getting a bad rub."

"Life as a Catholic is a life of exile at the moment. That will be the way for some time. Identification with the faith is often with big institutions, schools, healthcare. But these are not the sites where we will rebuild faith. That will be in families and small communities."

John Dickson, an Anglican cleric and a prolific and brilliant historian of the ancient world, believes profoundly in the example of the early Christians. It's a theme of his superb new book, *Bullies and Saints*.

"The early Christians were cheerful being a minority," he says. "They were reconciled to having no power and being frequently insulted."

"They thought of themselves as a tiny minority which had stumbled upon a vast treasure. Of course, the rest of the world didn't have it, so they wanted to share it. They were characterised by cheerfulness, confidence, humility."

"The early Christians didn't have social credibility, or emperors or senators who professed Christianity. All they had was prayer, service, persuasion and suffering."

Dickson cites non-Christians sources from the early days for Christianity recounting Christians' compassion and generosity, their care for the sick, their philanthropy. Women flocked to early Christianity. Celsus, a second-century Greek philosopher who wrote the first systematic denunciation of Christianity, mocked it as a religion of women and slaves.

"Everyone found a social lung in the early church," Dickson says, "everyone could breathe a bit easier."

The Christian sexual ethic, of marriage as an institution of mutual love, of women equal before God to men, of girl babies valued, of restraint on the gratifications and brutalities of men—these were radical but ultimately deeply attractive to a pagan world that had elevated self-indulgence for the powerful, and especially male gratification, very high.

Edward Gibbon, in his classic and intensely anti-Christian *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, lists five reasons for Christianity's triumph: the zeal of Christian belief; the promise of eternal life; the miracles though the age of miracles was brief; the virtues of Christians, with people, priests and bishops working to a common vision.

Today's Christians, like anyone else, would find these qualities hard to emulate. But history shows Christianity's ability, metaphorical and literal, to rise from the dead. It's done it before. In our society, will it happen again?

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

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