

Processional Hymn CWB 447

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,
for, he is our Father; we are his own. *Refrain*

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

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



Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32

Matthew 15: 21-28

Psalm Response

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

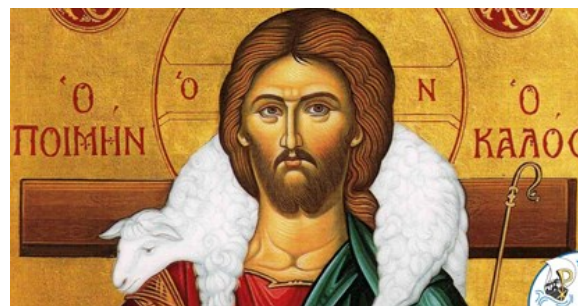
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Preparation of the Gifts CWB 129

Your hands, O Lord, in days of old
Were strong to heal and save;
They triumphed over pain and death,
O'er darkness and the grave.
To you they went, the blind, the deaf,
The palsied, and the lame,
The leper set apart and shunned,
The sick and those in shame.

And then your touch brought life and health,
Gave hearing, speech, and sight;
And youth renewed and health restored,
Acclaimed you Lord of light;
And so, O Lord, be near to bless,
Almighty now as then,
in every street, in every home,
in every troubled friend.

O be our mighty healer still,
Great Lord of life and death;
Restore and strengthen, soothe and bless,
With your almighty breath;
On hands that work and eyes that see,
Your healing wisdom pour,
That whole and sick, and weak and strong,
May praise you evermore.



Holy Communion CWB 651

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat;
come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. *Refrain*

With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude,
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. *Refrain*

Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ out poured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain*

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain*

You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. *Refrain*

Recessional Hymn CWB 472

Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race;
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all God's mighty deeds:
tell of love that knows no limits,
grace that meets all human needs.

God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvellous light,
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified,
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.

One Licence: A-640406



Parish of St Gabriel & St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir - 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



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A 20.08.2023

MASS & RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 9am Mass *St Gabriel's*

Wednesday 9.30am Mass *St Stephen's*

Thursday 9am Mass *St Gabriel's*

Friday 9am Mass *St Gabriel's*

Saturday *St Stephen's*
5pm Reconciliation 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday *St Gabriel's*
9am Reconciliation 10am Mass

Thanksgiving & Clergy support by direct debit

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



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

***Parishioners and visitors to
St Gabriel's Church and parish office
may like to park their cars
in the church car park.***

The Catholic Landscape

Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church
Presented by Anna Krohn ANIMA Education
St Gabriel's Parish Centre Reservoir
Wednesday 23 August 7pm
Thursdays 31 August 7pm (*final*)

World Youth Day 2023

Our parish pilgrims have now returned home. Anna Krohn will help us to unpack the WYD experience, share photos and highlights, and then work on ideas for young adult ministry in Reservoir-Reservoir East and Preston West: **Sunday 3 September** 11.30am-1pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre. Lunch included. \$10 working \$5 non-working/students.

The Benedict Conference Truth, Goodness, Beauty

ACU Cathedral Hall Brunswick St Fitzroy
Saturday 28 October 10am – 5pm

Speakers include Bishop Robert Barron and Prof Tracey Rowland. We would like to take advantage of the group early bird: 8 persons \$40 per person. Contact Fr Pritchard 9460 6036
Email reservoir@cam.org.au

St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir East

200 people attended the rally at St Stephen's on Saturday 29 July. Thanks to Parishioners who have contacted the Archbishop's office in light of the report in Parish Bulletin weekend 22-23 July.

Fire Rescue Victoria inspected St Stephen's Church on Friday 11 August. They recommend additional exit signs and replacement door handles on the side doors.

Parishioners enjoyed coffee after Vigil Mass last Saturday in honour of the feast of St Stephen. Sincere thanks to Bernadette Harris, Pam Coyne, Shane Miranda, Preethi Saldanha, Norman & Nisha Dias.

ST GABRIEL'S THEATRE GROUP

Fiddler on the Roof
Auditions: Sunday 27 August 6pm
Rehearsals: Sundays 6-8.30pm
St Gabriel's Hall
Enquiries: Judy O'Meara 0488 580 145
judeome@hotmail.com

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

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 Sunday Missal \$35
St Paul's Weekday Missal \$90
I'm Going to Mass For ages 2 to 5 \$15
Statue of St Gabriel's \$17
St Gabriel's Charm \$6

Order your 2024 Calendar & Christmas cards

Columban Art Calendar \$10
Voce de Padre Pio Calendario Almanacco \$10
Magellan Christmas cards (pack of 10) \$7.50
Place your order at St Gabriel's piety stall or
Parish office 9460 6036 reservoir@cam.org.au

LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP

St Raphael's Parish
17 Hardy St, Preston West
Wednesdays 1.30pm
Contact: Marijana Jurjevic 0422 340 675

RELIC STATUE OF ST JOHN BOSCO

Veneration and Mass celebrated by
Archbishop Comensoli
Saturday 30 September 11am
St Margaret Mary's Church
51 Mitchell St Brunswick North.

A key spiritual principle is that grace is sheer gift. And when you cling to a gift, hoarding it for yourself, you undermine its nature as gift. The whole point of receiving the divine life is to give it away in turn. If you hoard it and make it your private prerogative, you undermine it; it turns to ashes. But when you give it away, it is renewed within you.

We see this dynamic in the controversial and puzzling story of Jesus' conversation with the Canaanite woman. The foreign woman comes to Jesus seeking a favour, but he protests that he has been sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He seems to be operating out of an exclusivist understanding of Israel's privileges. When she presses the matter, the Lord comes back harshly enough: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." At which point, the petitioner utters one of the great comebacks recorded in the Bible: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Delighted not only by her cleverness and pluck but by the depth of her faith, Jesus says, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Yes, the table of grace was set for the children of Israel, but the food from that table was not meant for Israelites alone, but for all those who would come to that table, by hook or by crook. Israel was chosen, yes - but for the sake of the world.

Bishop Robert Barron



Darebin RSL
402 Bell Street Preston
Tuesday 29 August
6.30pm

Register: Tim Rebbechi
0412 799 845
stgabrielnotices@gmail.com



Next weekend
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

Isaiah 22:19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

WHY DO WE ENDANGER OUR MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN?

There's a new kind of evil afoot in this nation today. Evil is a strong word to use, I know, but I feel it deeply and I don't think I'm the only one. There are people attempting to weave a thread through our social fabric under the guise of compassion, dressed up as kindness and equality, and Australian kids are in their sights.

There's more than one part at play and in truth it has taken me more than a few weeks to finally arm-wrestle my jumbled thoughts into some kind of order. Hold that thought for a moment while I unpack it.

In recent months much has been said about the need to protect Australian teenagers from a range of valid threats, all of which require considered thought about how best to mitigate the risk and protect vulnerable youth while equipping them for adulthood.

There have been calls for mobile phones to be banned in classrooms; calls to ban or severely restrict junk food advertising. Experts have warned about the need to protect teens from digital exploitation. The underlying truth here is the recognition that tender hearts and minds can't make adult decisions or self-regulate their behaviours when it comes to constant external pressures. We recognise that they need help because they lack maturity and because it's our role as a community safeguard them.

If that weren't the case, we wouldn't be having those conversations. Which brings me back to the beginning and the sense that something is very wrong here.

The most confronting example comes courtesy of the ACT government, which has released a framework for consultation that would allow children as young as 14 (yes, they are children under the law and in every other sense) access to euthanasia.

Moreover, this framework doesn't include a requirement (used by most other jurisdictions) that assisted dying can be accessed only by those with an end-of-life prognosis of six to 12 months.

Let me put it another way. We're being asked to believe the same kids who need protection from junk food advertising are emotionally and cognitively mature enough to choose suicide. I was with my father in the specialist's office when he was told he had 18 months to live at best. His liver was bugged. You don't forget those moments. Dad lived another nine years after being diagnosed as terminal. Seven good years, in truth; the last two terrible.

He was wheelchair-bound and fretted that he was a burden. We lied to him, of course we did, through our breaking hearts, and promised him that he wasn't. Truth be told, it was a privilege to help care for him; an exhausting privilege. Under the law today he could have chosen to end his life because he was an adult, and that's my point.

He was an adult and these are adult conversations, not for the likes of children. Can you imagine a vulnerable, terminally ill child fretting that they're a burden on Mum and Dad?

Being presented with a "brave" option to end their own life? It makes my stomach turn and, yeah, I think it's an evil proposition. Australian law and, frankly, common sense and decency recognise that children in their early teens aren't developmentally mature enough to drive, to buy a house.

The law says they can't consent to sexual relationships and we rightly jail the predators who attempt to groom and convince them otherwise. Fourteen-year-olds can't get married or work full time. But the ACT government wants you to believe a 14-year-old, terminally ill kid can make this decision or even should be given the choice.

Like I said, there's something rotten going on when it comes to the way kids are being commoditised, politicised and used for whatever purpose is on the table. The same people who want to lower the voting age say the age of criminal responsibility should be raised. So, which is it - are kids mature enough to vote or not so mature they should be held responsible for their actions?

The contradictions are jarring and this isn't where it stops. One of the most fraught, delicate examples is the framing of support for children in gender distress or suffering from gender dysphoria. Globally, there is a veritable stampede away from so-called gender-affirming care that is beginning to affect the Australian landscape.

The most public of these reversals in treatment approach have happened in Sweden and Britain.

In Britain, the now notorious Tavistock clinic was shut down by the National Health Service after an inquiry found the treatment being given was "not safe or viable as a long-term option for the care of young people with gender-related distress". Former staff members have revealed how vulnerable children were prescribed life-altering drugs after just one assessment. Who was advocating for those kids?

This isn't about what anyone else believes about gender and sex, it's about protecting vulnerable children. They are children. The same children whom climate activists are perfectly happy to terrify with ridiculous tales of a looming apocalypse, all for their own cause.

Here's a question. Do we collectively love our kids enough to say no? Do we love our kids enough to say there might be a better way? Or yes, we need cleaner energy, but there's no need to be afraid. Let me tell you about a bloke called Al Gore; most of what he said was garbage, the world isn't about to end.

No 14-year-old, terminally ill or not, should be given the option to end their life. They should be loved to the end, leaving this earth knowing their life mattered and that the world will be less colourful without them. No child should be given life-altering drugs unless all the questions have been explored and answered. No teen should be terrified into believing the end is nigh, for political gain.

I guess my question is simple. When this generation asks, who was there to protect us, what will your answer be?

Gemma Tognini Weekend Australian 22-23/7/2023