

Processional Hymn CWB 595

Refrain: Seek, O seek the Lord, while He is near;
trust Him, speak to him in prayer, and he will hear.

God, be with us in our lives,
direct us in our calling;
break the snares the world contrives,
keep us from falling. *Refrain*

God, increase in us the life
that Christ by dying gave us.
Though we faint with mortal strife
his blood will save us. *Refrain*

Strengthen in our hearts the love
we owe to one another.
How can we love God above
and not our brother? *Refrain*

Liturgy of the Word

Ezekiel 18:25-28 Philippians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32

Psalm Response

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice,
says the Lord; I know them,
and they follow me. Alleluia!

Preparation of the Gifts

Cantor:	All:
St Gabriel, glorious Archangel,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, strength of God.	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, who stands before the throne of God.	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, model of prayer,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, herald of the Incarnation,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, who revealed the glories of Mary,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, Prince of Heaven,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, ambassador of the Most High,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, guardian of the Immaculate Virgin,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, who foretold the greatness of Jesus,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, peace and light of souls,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, admirable teacher,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, strength of the just,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, protector of the faithful,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, first adorer of the Divine Word,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, defender of the Faith,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, zealous for the honour of Jesus Christ,	<i>pray for us</i>
St Gabriel, whom the Scriptures praise as the angel sent by God to Mary, the Virgin,	<i>pray for us</i>



Holy Communion CWB 542

Lord of all nations, grant me grace
to love all people, every race;
to see each mortal as I ought,
my kindred, whom your love has bought.

Break down the wall that would divide
your children, Lord, on every side.
My neighbour's good let me pursue,
let Christian love bind warm and true.

Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
will crucify my Lord anew.

Recessional Hymn CWB 649

You are the Way: in you alone
from sin and death we rise;
without your grace we nothing are,
in you all goodness lies.

You are the Truth: your Word alone
full wisdom can impart;
your Word alone transforms the mind
and purifies the heart.

You are the life: the empty tomb
proclaims your victory,
And those who put their trust in you
shall evermore be free.

You are the Way, the Truth, the Life;
grant us that Way to see,
that Truth to keep, that Life to live,
that we your friends may be.

Partnered Parishes

**St Gabriel & St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir—Reservoir East
and St Raphael Preston West**

Clergy: Fr G Pritchard, Fr S Grainger

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

St Raphael's Church
17 Hardy St Preston West 3072

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A 24.09.2023

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

St Raphael's Preston West
Weekend Masses
Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 9am *Italian* 11am Masses

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Wednesday 4pm
Thursday & Friday 8.30am

Reconciliation Saturday 9.30am

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***



We celebrate today the Feast of St Gabriel

Fresh Roast Mobile Café
after Sunday 10am Mass
in the Church grounds

October is the month of the Holy Rosary

*The Rosary is a synthesis of the mysteries of Christ:
We contemplate them with Mary,
who allows us to see*

with her eyes of faith and love. Pope Francis

We will recite the Mysteries of the Rosary at 9am
each Wednesday of October
at St Stephen's Church Reservoir East.

Referendum Day **Saturday 14 October**

St Gabriel's Hall will be a polling place.
Sausage sizzle provided by St Gabriel's Theatre Group.

Parish RCIA

Weekly meetings for our RCIA candidates
Thursdays 7pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre.

Becoming Missionary Disciples with Archbishop Julian Porteous

*Archbishop Porteous is one of the most courageous bish-
ops in Australia today. He is visiting Melbourne to inspire
Catholics to be missionary disciples using their head, heart
and hands to evangelise.*

Wednesday 4 October 6.30pm light supper, 7pm Talk
Greg Craven Conference Centre Australian Catholic
University Fitzroy. Registration: CatholicEvents.com.au

ST GABRIEL'S THEATRE GROUP

Fiddler on the Roof

Rehearsal: Sunday 3.30pm—9pm

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@svdv-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

Orders close Sunday 1 October

Columban Art Calendar \$10

Voce de Padre Pio Calendario Almanacco \$10

Magellan Christmas cards (pack of 10) \$7.50

LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP

St Raphael's Parish 17 Hardy St Preston West

Wednesdays 1.30pm

Contact: Marijana Jurjevic 0422 340 675

MARCH FOR THE BABIES

Saturday 7 October 12.30pm

marchforthebabies.com

FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Sunday 8 October 1.30pm

St Mary's Church 91 Manning Rd Malvern East

combinedsocietiesofmary.com

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. www.benedictconference.com



Support for Libya & Morocco
Caritas.org.au 1800 024 413

In Jesus' time, rabbis often used stories with two sons who respond to their father - and by extension, to God - in two different ways. So when Jesus told the chief priests and elders this parable, it didn't seem so different. Here, a father tells his sons to go work in his vineyard and gets two different answers. But ironically, despite their different responses, each son teaches us something similar about the free will that God has given us.

The first son, who immediately said no to his father but afterwards went to work, teaches us that it's always possible to change our minds and hearts. This son's "no" wasn't the final answer for him; he thought better of his initial response and went on to do his father's will.

The second son, who immediately said yes but did not do what his father wanted, also teaches us that it's always possible to change our minds and hearts. This son's yes sounded like an obedient response to his father, but in the end, something made him change his mind and turn that "yes" to a "no."

Jesus' parable tells us that changing your mind can work both ways. That's the blessing of free will that Ezekiel also describes in today's first reading. Imagine! God loves us so much that he gives us this freedom, even when it might mean - like that second son - that we turn away from him. But Ezekiel assures the Israelites of God's promise: when someone turns from wickedness and toward the Lord, they will receive mercy. And that can happen no matter how long ago we have turned away from the Lord.

So take heart! It's never too late to use your free will as God intended. If there's a way that you've turned from the Lord, be like the first son in Jesus' parable and return to him with all your heart.

wau.org

Our Blessed Dead

Recently Deceased

Agnese Di Mase RIP

Cosimo Marinucci

Verena Spinoso

Pastors of Reservoir

Fr Patrick Ryan

Fr Edmund Nowlan

Fr John Phelan

Monsignor Aldo Rebeschini

Pastors of Reservoir East

Fr Gerard Sullivan

Fr Frank Larsen

Next weekend 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43



HEAVENLY PROTECTORS II

The New Testament

Angels are even more common in the New Testament, especially the writings of St Luke (the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles). As seen above, an angel announces the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus. Angels proclaim the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. An angel strengthens Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In Acts of the Apostles, angels liberate Peter and John from prison. They lead Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch. An angel comforts Paul when he is on a ship in danger of sinking.

In Matthew, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream to tell him to welcome Mary and her unborn child into his care. An angel also appeared to him to tell him to take Mary and the baby Jesus into Egypt to escape from the wicked plans of King Herod to kill the child.

All of the Gospels have angels at the resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, the number and description of the angel messengers differs in each of the Gospels. In John there are two angels who announce to Mary Magdalene that Jesus had risen. Two is the number needed to give witness in the Old Testament. In Matthew there is one angel who announces to the two women that Jesus had risen. Since there were already two women to give witness, one angel was enough for the announcement. In Mark there is one young man dressed in white who announces the resurrection. While this is obviously an angel, Mark calls him a young man to recall the young man who ran away from the soldiers in the garden of Gethsemane.

Finally, in Luke there are two men. Luke presents three separate resurrection scenes outlining our faith life: at first we hear about our faith from others, then, like the road to Emmaus we meet God in word and sacrament, and finally we see him face to face (like the disciples to whom Jesus appeared). Since the scene of the women at the tomb represents our first stages in faith instruction, the angels are called men because we usually learn about our faith from humans and not directly from heavenly creatures.

One especially consoling image presented in the Gospels concerning angels is that of the guardian angel (Mt 18,10). Jesus promises his disciples that each of his little ones is accompanied by an angel which looks upon the face of God. We are never alone. God always has someone watching over us.

Spiritual creatures

One of the difficulties of the early Church concerning angels was what rank they should be considered to have. They are totally spiritual creatures, and in the Greek world the spiritual was considered to be much superior to the physical. Given this, the early Christians had to ask whether the angels were superior to Jesus. He, after all, was incarnate. Might he be inferior to the angels?

This is why the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of Jesus being superior to the angels. In Ephesians, Jesus is said to be raised above every Principality, Power and dominion (the names of three of the choirs of angels). In the Book of Revelation, the visionary is told not to worship the angels (Rev 19:10 & 22:9).

Thus, angels are servants of God who are messengers, guides and helpers. They worship the almighty God, and they enter into our world to protect us. May we always love and honour them.

Messenger of St Anthony September 2021

Cardinal Sarah:

No Synod can invent 'Female Priesthood'

Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect emeritus of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, stressed that "the priesthood is unique" and warned that "no council, no synod" can "invent a female priesthood."

In his conference on the priesthood, titled Joyful Servants of the Gospel and given July 3 at the Conciliar Seminary in Mexico City, the cardinal assured that no one "has the power to transform this divine gift to adapt it and reduce its transcendent value to the cultural and environmental field."

"No council, no synod, no ecclesiastical authority has the power to invent a female priesthood...without seriously damaging the perennial physiognomy of the priest, his sacramental identity, within the renewed ecclesiological vision of the Church, mystery, communion, and mission," he emphasized.

Cardinal Sarah stressed that "the Catholic faith professes that the sacrament of Holy Orders, instituted by Christ the Lord, is one, it is identical for the universal Church. For Jesus, there is no African, German, Amazonia, or European priesthood. The priesthood is unique, it is identical for the universal Church."

In his conference, the prefect emeritus also reflected on "being a priest" and stressed that "the priesthood is a great, great mystery, so great a gift that it would be a sin to waste it."

"It's a divine gift that must be received, understood, and lived, and the Church has always sought to understand and enter deeper into the real and proper being of the priest, as a baptized man, called to be an *alter Christus*, another Christ, even more so an *ipse Christus*, Christ himself, to represent him, to conform to him, to be configured and mediated in Christ with priestly ordination," he explained.

For the Guinean prelate, "the priest is a man of God who is day and night in the presence of God to glorify him, to adore him. The priest is a man immolated in sacrifice to prolong the sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of the world."

The cardinal said that the "first task" of priests "is to pray, because the priest is a man of prayer: He begins his day with the Office of Readings and ends his day with the Office."

"A priest who does not pray is about to die. A Church that does not pray is a dead Church," he warned.

Regarding the lack of priestly vocations, he encouraged the faithful to pray because "it's not that we are few."

"Christ ordained 12 for the whole world. How many of us are priests today? There are close to 400,000 of us priests in the world. There are too many of us," he said, citing the same observation made by Pope Gregory the Great in the seventh century.

"Many have accepted the priesthood, but they're not doing the work of the priest," Sarah explained.

"So in response, we must pray. Ask him to send workers to his harvest, pray. And show that we priests are happy, because if young men see that we are sad, we won't attract anyone." he urged. "We have to be happy, even if we're suffering."

Adoremus Bulletin September 2023