

Processional Hymn CWB 244

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
Where such a mighty Guest may come.

For you are our Salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without your grace we waste away,
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out your hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let your light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

To God the Son all glory be
Whose advent sets your people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Psalm Response

Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

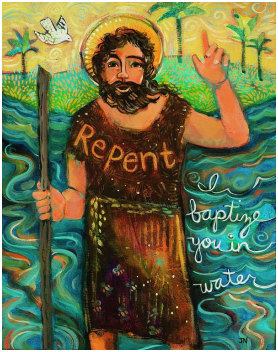
Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths;
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Engulfed by many chores in the lead-up to Christmas, we can fail to hear a voice that cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord. Let us resolve to include some time to pray, to reflect on the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, and to seek reconciliation with God and others, in our Christmas preparations.

The Holy Spirit filled John the Baptist, who was the last prophet of the Old Testament. Under his inspiration John was sent to prepare for the Lord a people well disposed. He was to proclaim the coming of Christ, the Son of God, upon whom he saw the Spirit descend and remain, the one who baptises with the Spirit.

Compendium 141



Preparation of the Gifts CWB 251

Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord:
keep watch, take heart.

Holy Communion CWB 239

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is near,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!'

Wakened by the solemn warning
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling
shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected
comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiv'n.

So, when next he comes in glory,
and earth's final hour draws near,
may he then as our defender
on the clouds of heav'n appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

Recessional Hymn CWB 242

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, true wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind.
Bid ev'ry sad division cease,
and be yourself our Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

One Licence: A-640406

Partnered Parishes
**St Gabriel & St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir—Reservoir East
and St Raphael Preston West**
Clergy: Fr G Pritchard, Fr S Grainger, Fr A Fragapane

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

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

2nd Sunday of Advent
Yr B 10.12.2023

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* 10.30am 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 providing a safe environment for
everyone. Please make sure children
are supervised at all times
within church buildings
and on church grounds.***

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

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

This Committee serves the Partnered Parishes. At a meeting at St Gabriel's Parish Centre Reservoir on Friday 1 December these policy documents were formally adopted:

1. *Safeguarding children and young people Code of Conduct and Declaration December 2023.*
2. *Parish Statement of Commitment.*
3. *Safeguarding Committee Role description.*
4. *Safeguarding children and young people policy.*

Parish Volunteers must have a current WWCC. All volunteers are invited to a briefing on the policy document on Saturday 17 February 2024 2pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre.

Parish volunteers will sign the *Code of Conduct Declaration* and receive a blessing on their service amongst us at Commitment Masses weekend 24 & 25 February 2024:

St Stephen's Reservoir East Saturday 6pm
St Gabriel's Reservoir Sunday 10am
St Raphael's Preston West
Saturday 6pm Sunday 9am *Italian* and 10.30am

PARISH MISSION

In recent weeks some parishioners have attended Evening of Evangelisation and Proclaim Conference. Last Saturday they met together to talk about Parish life and mission. Ideas included: Alpha, Lamps Alight, Mens Ministry, Advent and Christmas programs, RCIA, young adults, Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025. There are opportunities for Reservoir—Reservoir East—Preston West in the new year, especially as we look forward to the arrival of the Dominican Sisters. Special thanks to Jonathan & Diane Abuthan, Andrew Dos Santos and Liliana Keating.

***At Christmas we provide extra support
to our Bishops and priests,
retired and sick priests.
The Christmas offering envelope
is included in our parish
Thanksgiving envelopes.
Christmas offering envelopes
are also available at
St Gabriel's and St Stephen's churches.***

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023

HOLY ROSARY

Wednesday 9am *St Stephen's Reservoir East*
Wednesday 3.30pm *St Raphael's West Preston*

WEEKEND 16—17 DECEMBER GAUDETE

Saturday *St Stephen's Reservoir East*
6pm Vigil Mass, Coffee & Cake
Sunday *St Gabriel's Reservoir*
10am Mass
Rite of Acceptance into Order of Catechumens
Coffee Truck

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Stephen's Reservoir East
Saturdays 5pm December 9, 16, 23
Wednesday December 20 10am

St Gabriel's Reservoir
Sundays 9am December 10, 17, 24
Tuesday 19, Thursday 21, Friday 22 December
9.30am, 7pm

St Raphael's Preston West
Saturdays 9.30am December 10, 16, 23



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday 24 December
St Stephen's Reservoir East 6pm Mass
St Gabriel's Reservoir 7.30pm Carols 8pm Mass
St Raphael's Preston West
5pm Mass; 7pm Mass;
11.30pm Carols; 12 midnight Mass

Monday 25 December
St Gabriel's Reservoir 10am Mass
St Raphael's Preston West
9am Italian 10.30am Mass

NEW YEARS DAY

Monday 1 January 2024
St Gabriel's Reservoir 10am Mass
St Raphael's Preston West 10am Mass

CHRISTMAS SEASON BLESSING OF HOMES

Register: Parish Office reservoir@cam.org.au

ESAME DI COSCIENZA

Consiste nell'interrogarsi sul male commesso e il bene omissso: verso Dio, il prossimo e se stessi.

Nei confronti di Dio

Mi rivolgo a Dio solo nel bisogno?
Partecipo alla Messa la domenica e le feste di precetto?
Comincio e chiudo la giornata con la preghiera?
Ho nominato invano Dio, la Vergine, i Santi?
Mi sono vergognato di dimostrarmi cristiano?
Cosa faccio per crescere spiritualmente?
Come? Quando?
Mi ribello davanti ai disegni di Dio?
Pretendo che egli compia la mia volontà?

Nei confronti del prossimo

So perdonare, compatire, aiutare il prossimo?
Ho calunniato, rubato, disprezzato i piccoli e gli indifesi?
Sono invidioso, collerico, parziale?
Ho cura dei poveri e dei malati?
Mi vergogno della carne di mio fratello, della mia sorella?
Sono onesto e giusto con tutti o alimento la "cultura dello scarto"?
Ho istigato altri a fare il male?
Osservo la morale coniugale e familiare insegnata dal Vangelo?
Come vivo le responsabilità educative verso i figli?
Onoro e rispetto i miei genitori?
Ho rifiutato la vita appena concepita?
Ho spento il dono della vita?
Ho aiutato a farlo? Rispetto l'ambiente?
Nei confronti di sé Sono un po' mondano e un po' credente?
Esagero nel mangiare, bere, fumare, divertirmi?
Mi preoccupo troppo della salute fisica, dei miei beni?
Come uso il mio tempo? Sono pigro?
Voglio essere servito? Amo e coltivo la purezza di cuore, di pensieri e di azioni?
Medito vendette, nutro rancori?
Sono mite, umile, costruttore?

*Mio Dio, mi pento e mi dolgo con tutto il cuore
dei miei peccati,
perché peccando ho meritato i tuoi castighi,
e molto più perché ho offeso te,
infinitamente buono
e degno di essere amato sopra ogni cosa.
Propongo col tuo santo aiuto
di non offenderti mai più
e di fuggire le occasioni prossime di peccato.
Signore, misericordia, perdonami.*



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

Our St Vincent de Paul conference asks our support for their outreach to needy families at this time.
The Christmas Appeal envelope can be placed in the weekend collection.

PARISH OFFICE

Closes Friday 22 December 9am –3pm
Opens Friday 19 January 2024
9am—12noon
Phone and email checked regularly

May our dead enjoy light, pardon and peace

Patrick Fitzgerald RIP
10.30am Funeral Mass
Robert Spark RIP
11am Funeral Prayers *St Gabriel's*
Angelina Bagnara RIP
Thursday 10am Mass *St Stephen's*
Giuseppa Colosimo RIP
10.30am Funeral Mass *St Gabriel's*

Anniversary of death

Paul Formela, Jan Merchel, Sam Bainy

ADVENT TALKS

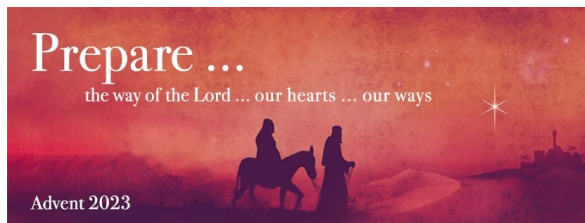
Presented by the Caroline Chisholm Library

Tuesday 12 December 7.45pm
Mary—Handmaid of the Lord
St Mary MacKillop Church
152 Odessa Ave Keilor Downs

Monday 18 December 6pm
Christmas—an Eastern Catholic Perspective
St Michael's Church
456 Dryburgh St North Melbourne

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Sunday 17 December
6.30 Free Barbeque
7.30pm Songs & Stories
Reservoir Presbyterian Church
cnr Edwardes & Ashley Sts Reservoir
reservoirpc.org.au



Beginnings are important, and the beginning of Mark's Gospel is no exception. His very first sentence reads like a summary of the entire book: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God". So where does Mark start the story? He takes us to the Judean desert, where John the Baptist is preparing the way for the Christ, the Messiah.

Contrary to expectations that the Messiah would bring Israel military liberation, John proclaims that Jesus will baptize his people in the Holy Spirit. He will open the way for God himself to dwell in them!

That's why John offered baptism for the forgiveness of sins. He knew that Jesus had come to do something new, something astonishing. Repentance was the key that would help the Jews - and us -to receive this surprising good news.

In order to be ready, we need to empty ourselves of our old ways of thinking. That's where repentance comes in. It clears out the sin that clouds our vision of God. It removes our shame and guilt and delivers us from whatever blocks God's life from taking root in us. It makes us ready to receive God's forgiveness and helps us to become more aware of his abiding presence within us.

Are there ways that you need a change of attitude or a new hope this Advent? As you prepare the way for Jesus during this holy season, go back to "the beginning" and listen to John the Baptist's message. Repentance is good news because it opens your heart to Jesus. So take advantage of opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this season. Let God expand your capacity to receive him at Christmas. As Mark shows us in his Gospel, that's where it all begins.
wau.org

Next weekend 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

