

**Partnered Parishes St Gabriel & St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir—Reservoir East
St Raphael Preston West, St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North**

Clergy: Fr G Pritchard, Fr Jossy Kizhakkethalackal, Dcn F Correya

Parish Office Hours:

**St Gabriel's Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday 9am - 3pm
0487 116 154 reservoir@cam.org.au**

**St Joseph the Worker Wednesday & Friday 9am- 3pm
9460 3013 reservoirnorth@cam.org.au**

**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**

**St Joseph the Worker Church
79 Wilson Blvd Reservoir North 3073**

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Yr C 5 October 2025**

**WEEKDAY MASSES
7-10 October**

**St Joseph the Worker Church
9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

**St Raphael's Church
9.15am Friday**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Wednesday 8 October 8.30am
St Joseph the Worker Church**

**Friday 10 October 8.30am
St Raphael's Church**

WEEKEND MASSES

**Saturday 4pm Reconciliation
5pm Vigil Mass
1st Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass
Maltese Reservoir North**

**Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass
Reservoir East
Reconciliation on request**

**Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass
Preston West**

**Sunday 9am Mass English/Italian
Reservoir North**

**Sunday 8am Reconciliation Reservoir
9am Mass Reservoir**

**Sunday 10.30am Mass Preston West
English/Italian**

**Thanksgiving & Clergy support
by direct debit**

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

**St Raphael's Church
BSB: 083-347 Account: 643968007**

**St Joseph the Worker Church
BSB: 083-347 Account: 645772382**

**Our Partnered Parishes are committed to the safety,
wellbeing and dignity of everyone including children
and vulnerable adults. Please make sure children are
supervised at all times within church buildings and on
church grounds.**



Vicar General Fr Tony Kerin will celebrate Masses at St Raphael's West Preston weekend 18-19 October.

Please note new program of **Masses at St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North** commencing weekend October 25-26: Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass; Sunday 10.30am Mass (Sunday 9am Mass is discontinued).

The **weekend Mass program** from weekend 25-26 October will remain the same at St Raphael's, St Gabriel's and St Stephen's.

Sr Jessica Cobrador OP will arrive among us on Tuesday 14 October, bringing our Dominican Community to 3 Sisters. Sr Jessica is a qualified teacher, experienced Parish collaborator, and fluent Italian-speaker. She brings many gifts to the Preston-Reservoir area.

Srs Josefina & May Flor have prepared 10 young candidates for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** this weekend. The Dominican Sisters will continue to serve our area, enlivening Parish life with their apostolate of teaching, evangelization and mission. They remain resident at 17 Hardy St West Preston. Best wishes to the Sisters for the feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Tuesday 7 October.

**Sincere thanks
to parishioners who have hosted morning tea
at our churches in recent weeks:**

St Joseph the Worker: *Rosanna Cavello, Rosanna Truda, Franca Pascuzzi, Miriam Mizzi, Diam Nguyen, Rocco Alberti, Carlo Di Berardino*

St Raphael's: *Antonietta Gaggiano, Patricia Guarino*

St Gabriel's: *Tim & Jen Rebbechi, Charith & Tharini Fernando*

At a recent Clergy day, Archbishop Comensoli noted that **Mass attendance** in Melbourne parishes has recovered since the dark days of COVID 19. The Mass count in May included 103,000; the improvement is most evident in Parishes administered by the diocesan clergy. *Take the Way of the Gospel* in conjunction with initiatives for the Jubilee Year of Hope, moves toward partnering and collaborating with the parishes around us and the increased participation and engagement of parishioners at their local church is gaining some ground and producing fruit.

Fr Pritchard will attend Jubilee celebrations of the **Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy** Sydney October 6-10. He will take annual leave during November. Fr Jossy will visit his elderly parents in India October 20-31. *Please note changes to the daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration program.*

ST GABRIEL'S THEATRE GROUP

Hello Dolly

Rehearsals Sundays 6pm

St Gabriel's Parish Hall Reservoir

Enquiries: Judy judeome@hotmail.com

STELLA MARIS FESTA

Friday 17 October 7pm Mass & refreshments
St Joseph the Worker Church Reservoir North

Saturday 18 October 6pm Dinner Dance
Le Grande Reception Epping.

Members \$85, non members \$90, children \$40

Sunday 19 October

St Joseph the Worker Church & Hall Reservoir North
2.30pm Mass 4pm procession 6pm MMG Concert Band

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. Members of our Partnered Parishes are warmly invited to join the Society in its mission of charity and outreach. *Contact Conference president Andrew Dos Santos reservoir.conf.pres@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

LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP

20th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 11 October

6pm Praise & Worship

6.30pm Mass, Refreshments

Wednesdays 1.30pm

St Raphael's Church Preston West

Enquiries: Marijana 0422 340 675

CATHOLIC MEN FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne 10am

melbournemensrosarycrusade.com

Sacramental Journey First Holy Communion

St Stephen of Hungary Church Reservoir East

Saturday 4 October 6.30pm

St Joseph the Worker Church Reservoir North

Saturday 11 October 5pm

Congratulations Katia, William, Charlotte, Sabew, Maris, Alannah, Lucas, Jeanne, Jon

Parish RCIA resumes Thursday 9 October 7pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre Reservoir. RCIA leaders are invited to attend Regional Network Gathering St Francis of Assisi Parish Mill Park Wednesday 8 October.

Young Parishioners meet TODAY Sunday 5 October St Gabriel's Parish Centre 10.30am—12noon lunch included \$10 working \$5 non working / student. David Schutz presents Jesus in the letters of St Paul. David presented a very informative and engaging account of Jesus in the Gospels in April.

New Life: Life in the Spirit Seminar

Tuesdays 7.30pm-9pm 9 weeks

St Oliver's Parish Centre 1 Landells Rd Pasco Vale

Enquiries: Marthese 0421 815 369 mtemm@hotmail.com

March for the Babies

Saturday 11 October 1pm

Assemble Treasury Gardens
cnr Spring St & Wellington Pde
marchforthebabies.com

Song of this Land

St Patrick's Cathedral Sunday 12 October

2.30pm Multicultural Rosary. 3pm concert.

music@cam.org.au

Nicholas Tonti-Filipinni Oration

Friday 17 October 6pm Mass 7pm Oration

St John's Church & Catholic Leadership Centre

576-594 Victoria Pde East Melbourne

Trybooking.com/events/landing/1445697

Annual Mission Fair

Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver

154 Cotham Rd Kew

Saturday 18 October 9am – 2.30 pm

Enquiries: 9817 3715

Christus Rex Pilgrimage

Thursday 23– Sunday 26 October.

St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat

to Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo.

Information/register: crex.org

Hope as an Anchor Jubilee Event

Monday 13 October 2025 7pm

St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church

33 Howard St West Melbourne

*Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction,
Rosary, Procession, Mass*

Columban Calendar 2026 \$10

Majellan Christmas Cards \$8

Available at Piety Stall

St Gabriel's & St Raphael's



Christianity's Secret Formula II

The general performance of pagan society in plagues was appalling. Predominantly, people ran away whenever and wherever they could. When relatives contracted the plague, families often put them out on the street while they were still alive, leaving them to die agonisingly, alone and neglected, in an effort to keep the disease away.

Bodies piled up in the street and in public houses. Food distribution broke down. The army was more than decimated. The Christian response was the opposite. They stayed to help. They nursed each other and, when they could, nursed their pagan neighbours. Not everyone, not even a majority, who gets a plague illness dies. Their chances of survival are vastly improved if they receive even basic nursing, so that when they are most sick, some reassuring figure provides them with food and drink. Do even that much and survival rates soar. Further, Christians who got the disease early and survived often developed some immunity, and this looked miraculous.

The psychological response was radically different too. In the face of death, Christians still believed that life had meaning. Christians were psychologically and spiritually equipped to respond helpfully in the plagues because they'd already learnt to love others, to serve others. They judged human life in the perspective of eternity.

Dionysius, the bishop of Alexandria, wrote: "Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves, thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ. The best of our brothers lost their lives in this manner, a number of presbyters, deacons and laymen winning high commendation so that death in this form, the result of great piety and strong faith, seems in every way the equal of martyrdom."

It might seem that Dionysius is talking up Christian commitment. But it's almost inconceivable that a Christian leader could write a public letter to his people about an event they were all living through, and watching friends and relatives die in, and fundamentally misrepresent the truth. If he'd been lying, everyone would have known.

In any event, Christians helped each other, helped pagan neighbours, and suffered proportionately fewer deaths. When the plague ended, Christians thus made up a bigger proportion of the society. They earned the gratitude of neighbours they helped to survive. Their whole experience seemed miraculous.

But pagan Rome wasn't willing to give up big gains to Christians without a fight, which brings us to the savage business of the intermittent but at times murderous and sadistic persecutions that Christians endured. The plagues, which so enhanced the reputation of Christians, came in the middle of the second and third centuries. The persecution of Christians had its most gruesome episodes in the first century, though it persisted spasmodically up the fourth century.

LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP

20th Anniversary Celebration St Raphael's Church West Preston

Saturday 11 October
6pm Praise & Worship
6.30pm Mass, Refreshments
Enquiries: Marijana 0422 340 675

ANNIVERSARY OF CONSECRATION

St Gabriel's Reservoir (2000)

Sunday 26 October
9am Mass, Morning Tea / Sausage Sizzle

St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne (1897)

Monday 27 October

Sacred buildings are the houses of God, a symbol of the Church that lives in that place as well as of the heavenly Jerusalem. Above all they are places of prayer in which the Church celebrates the Eucharist and worships Christ who is truly present in the tabernacle.

Compendium 245

A **new lectionary** based on the *Revised New Jerusalem Bible* is to be introduced in Australian Catholic churches. Rev Dr Trevor Tibbertsma presents online *Exploring the New Translation of the Lectionary* Tuesday 14 October 7–8.30pm. Parish readers are invited to participate in this presentation.

Parish men are invited to attend **National menALIVE gathering MAX2025** Edmund Rice Centre Lower Plenty 10-12 October. The theme for MAX2025 is "MOUNTAINS" – a strong image of the challenges men face, and the heights to which God calls us in life and faith. Participants will be inspired and encouraged through: engaging talks and real-life stories; honest panel discussions and small group sharing; quiet times of prayer and reflection; genuine fellowship with other men of faith. Unique opportunity for men to step away from daily pressures, rediscover God's call, and return home renewed in their mission as husbands, fathers, and men of faith. menalivevic.au/max-25

PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL: GREECE, EPHESUS, MALTA, ROME

14 October - 2 November 2026
olivetreetravel.com.au 1300 550 830

Interfaith Memorial Service honouring fallen Police Officers Neal Thompson & Vadim De Waart Darebin North West Uniting Church 399a Murray Rd Preston Wednesday 22 October 7pm. Faith leaders from various traditions will lead us in prayer, remembrance, and hope. Let us honour their lives, support their families, stand as one. admcroxchurchdnw@gmail.com

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord,
all things are established,
and there is none
that can resist your will.
For you have made all things,
the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held
within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING

Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4

How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, 'Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

**R: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R**

Come in;
let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel
before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R**

O that today
you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me,
though they saw my work.' **R**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God. Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever;
it is the word given to you,
the Good News. Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Luke 17: 5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you. 'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'

The Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son, is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good
to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.



Recently Deceased

Fr Francis (Ted) Burns,
Angelo Teklic, Giovanna Caruso,
Enrico Sinapi, Augusto Rigoni,

Anniversaries & Remembrance

Ally Powell

Next weekend 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:14-17
2 Timothy 2:8-13
Luke 17:11-19

Processional Hymn AOV 90

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who make the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send? *Chorus*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Chorus*

Liturgy of the Word

Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14 Luke 17:5-10



Psalm Response

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross
you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

* * *

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2 Kings 5:14-17
2 Timothy 2:8-13
Luke 17:11-19

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Preparation of the Gifts AOV 63

We walk by faith, and not by sight:
no gracious words we hear of
him who spoke as none e'er spoke
but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice and cry
"My Lord and God"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found.

That when our life of faith is done
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.

We walk by faith, and not by sight:
no gracious words we hear of him
who spoke as none e'er
spoke but we believe him near.

Holy Communion AOV 49

I am the bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger;
you who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons. *Chorus*

Chorus: And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up
on the last day.

The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world
and you who eat of this bread
you shall live forever
you shall live forever. *Chorus*

I am the resurrection I am the life.
You who believe in me,
even if you die,
you shall live for ever. *Chorus*



Recessional Hymn CWB 494

Go now, you are sent forth to live what you proclaim;
to show the world you follow Christ in fact, not just in name.

Go now, you are sent forth to walk this troubled earth,
to share your faith with everyone and prove your real worth.

Go now, you are sent forth as God's ambassador;
by serving him in those we meet, we love him more and more.

Go now, you are sent forth and Christ goes with you too.
Today you help his kingdom come in everything you do.