

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

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

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 Joseph the Worker Church
79 Wilson Blvd Reservoir North 3073

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Yr A 7 December 2025

Our Parish program for Advent and Christmas is included in today's bulletin.

Each of us is also invited to support the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal, and their outreach to needy families.

An Examination of Conscience in English is provided today and in Italian next weekend.

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Gabriel's Church

9am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

St Joseph the Worker Church

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

No weekday Mass at St Stephen's until February 2026

HOLY ROSARY EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION RECONCILIATION

See Advent & Christmas program p3

WEEKEND MASSES

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

Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass
Reservoir East

Sunday 9am Mass English *Reservoir*

Sunday 10.30am Mass *Reservoir North*
English/Italian

Thanksgiving & Clergy support by direct debit

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

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



Founded in 1925, the **Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary** of the Philippines, inspired by foundress Mother Rosario de la Visitacion's love for the Eucharist devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and concern for the poor respond to God's call to sanctify themselves and others. Enlivened by the spirit of truth, simplicity, joy and compassion, the Sisters serve the Church by transforming lives through education and socio-pastoral ministries.

Our community of Dominican Sisters includes:

Sr Jessica Cobrador OP:

teacher, parish collaborator, Italian speaker.

Sr Josefina Capatan OP:

religious education teacher, evangelization.

Sr May Flor Gedalanga OP:

teacher, musician, IT.

The Sisters offer our partnered parishes:

- Clear religious witness: religious habit, common life, regular prayer eg daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Rosary, contemplation
- The Dominican Sisters will provide Sacramental Journey, preparation for Confirmation (22 May), First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (12 September). Classes commence March 2026. Families who wish their children to receive these Sacraments must register at St Gabriel's Parish office reservoir@cam.org.au
- Sr May Flor is engaged 4 days per week at St Monica's College Epping
- Srs Jessica and Josefina will offer ministry to families, the sick and house bound, aged care homes, outreach to baptism and funeral families, *Lamps Alight* for women
- Srs Jessica and Josefina are members of the Legion of Mary Reservoir
- The Sisters have attended CWL events, Bethany Way. The Dominican Sisters and parish staff attended Women's Breakfast *Croissants with Maggie Craig*, hosted by the Catholic Women's League Thursday 6 December.
- The Sisters provide retreats and reflections, Holy Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration; they attend first Sunday young parishioners events.
- The Sisters enjoy days out with parish ladies eg Bacchus Marsh strawberry festival, Ballarat begonia festival, Tessellar tulip festival, Melbourne flower & garden show, etc.

The Nativity window and one other at **St Gabriel's church** were damaged by vandals during November. A report prepared by Reservoir Police has been passed on to our insurance company.

We give thanks to God for the blessing of men and women who seek life in the Catholic Church. Our **RCIA** group meets Thursday 11 December 7pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre. Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and welcome to candidates next Sunday 14 December 9am Mass St Gabriel's Reservoir.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

- Our Parish conference concludes a busy year of active charity and home visits to families in need on Monday 15 December. Conference meetings resume Monday 16 February 7.30pm Emmaus Room St Gabriel's Parish Centre.
- Emergency Assistance 1800 305 330

LEGION OF MARY

Final meeting of our Parish praesidium (group), dedicated to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Monday 22 December 1.30pm Bethany Room St Gabriel's Parish Centre. The praesidium resumes weekly meetings Monday 19 January.

- 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

Columban Calendar 2026 \$10
Majellan Christmas Cards \$8

ADVENT PARISH MISSION

St Francis of Assisi Parish 290 Childs Rd Mill Park celebrates Advent with Fire Up Ministries co-founder Simon Carrington
Wednesday 10 December 6.30pm
The Good News: Why God Became Man
Thursday 11 December 6.30pm
Mary Mother of God:
How this Dogma Safeguards the Real Jesus
Friday 12 December 8pm
True Repentance: Avoiding the 3 Nooses of Satan
millpark@cam.org.au

ADVENT RETREAT

She was conceived by the Holy Spirit
Saturday 13 December
St Dominic's Parish 816 Riversdale Rd Camberwell
9am Mass, 4-5pm Adoration, Confession and Benediction
\$20 includes morning/afternoon tea and lunch.
trybooking.com/DHPYF

51st ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne
Sunday 21 December 3pm.

St Patrick's Cathedral choir will sing traditional Advent carols 'Es ist ein Ros entsprungen' ('Lo, how a rose e'er blooming') and 'The angel Gabriel' (arr. David Wilcocks), and some of the most beautiful and stunning Advent motets in the repertoire, including John Tavener's 'God is with us', Richard Marlow's 'Advent Responsory', based on the hymn 'Wachet auf!' ('Sleeper's, wake') and Richard's 'Drop down ye heavens from above'. Traditional congregational carols include 'O come, O come Emmanuel', 'Eternal God, who made the stars' ('Conditor alme siderum'), 'Of the Father's love begotten'.

Advent *Examination of Conscience*

*This Advent,
Jesus wants you to know the joy of saying yes.
He is ready to remove every barrier in your heart,
big or small,
that keeps you from living a deeper yes
and receiving his life more fully.
And so he invites you to come to him
in the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

How am I loving and serving God? Where could I do better? Am I seeking his presence through daily prayer? Am I learning to listen to him in his word? Have I sought him through faithful Mass attendance?

Have I used my gift of speech in a way that honours God and builds up his people? Is there anything that needs cleaning up: foul language, gossip, complaining, verbal abuse?

Is Jesus the Lord of my time, money, and other resources? Have I been using these gifts to build his kingdom?

Has desire or anxiety over money or possessions affected my decisions and distracted me from God? Can I honestly say I trust God with every part of my life?

How are my relationships with family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, parishioners? Have I caused disunity in any way? Am harbouring anger, resentment, or hatred toward someone? Is there anyone I need to forgive or whose forgiveness I need to ask?

Do I give appropriate respect to parents, teachers, employers, and all legitimate authority? Do I accept correction from them or from others, or have I sometimes pridefully insisted on my own way?

Have I treated anyone with disrespect or done violence to anyone? Have I used or taken advantage of anyone? Am I helping to build a world where every human being is valued?

Am I more focused on building a comfortable life for myself than on caring for others? Is God inviting me to say yes to some service to people in need? How am I working for the coming of Christ's kingdom of justice and peace?

*Holy Mary,
help me to surrender my whole life to God
with confidence in his love.
May my life reflect your total gift of self:
Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word.*

Advent & Christmas 2025

God prepared for the coming of his Son over the centuries. He awakened in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming and he prepared for it specifically through the Old Testament, culminating with John the Baptist who was the last and greatest of the prophets. We relive this long period of expectancy in the annual liturgical celebration of the season of Advent. *Compendium 102*

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & HOLY ROSARY

Wednesdays December 3,10,17 8.30am
St Gabriel's & St Joseph the Worker

ADVENT REFLECTION

Presented by the Dominican Sisters
Thursday 11 December
9.15am Mass 10am Advent Reflection
St Joseph the Worker

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

Sunday 14 December 9am Mass *St Gabriel's*

WEEKEND 13-14 DECEMBER GAUDETE Coffee & Cake

St Stephen of Hungary Saturday 6.30pm

Fresh Roast Mobile Café

Sunday 9am Mass St Gabriel's

Panettone & Coffee

St Joseph the Worker Sunday 10.30am

CAROLS ON THE LAWN

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church 81 Edwardes St
Reservoir 6.30pm BBQ 7.30pm songs & stories

SCHOOLS END OF YEAR MASS

Tuesday 9 December 5pm *St Gabriel's*
Thursday 11 December 9.15am,5pm
St Joseph the Worker
Friday 12 December 9am *St Gabriel's*

NORTH WEST RESERVOIR ITALIAN CITIZENS PENSIONERS CLUB

Thursday 18 December 10.30am Mass, Luncheon
St Joseph the Worker
***Please note NO 9.15am Mass**

CHRISTMAS MASSES Wednesday 24 December

St Stephen's Reservoir East 6pm Vigil Mass

*St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North
5.30pm Carols 6pm Vigil Mass*

St Gabriel's Reservoir 7.30pm Carols 8pm Mass

Thursday 25 December

St Gabriel's Reservoir 10am Mass

*St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North
10am Mass English/Italian*

PARISH OFFICE

Close of business
Tuesday 16 December 3pm
Reopen
Tuesday 27 January 2026 9am

NEW YEARS DAY Thursday 1 January 2026 9am Mass St Gabriel's

CHRISTMAS SEASON BLESSING OF HOMES

The Christmas season is a traditional time for families to welcome their pastor for the blessing of family members and the household

Register: Parish Office
reservoir@cam.org.au

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

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 each church: St Gabriel's, St Stephen's and St Joseph the Worker.



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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir East
Saturdays 6,13,20 December 7.15pm

St Gabriel's Reservoir
Sundays 7,14 December 8am
Sunday 21 December 8am, 3pm
Tuesday 23 December 9.30am and 7pm

St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North
Fridays 12,19 December 7.30pm
Saturdays 13,20 December 4pm

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

***R: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever***

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **R**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River
to earth's bounds. **R**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **R**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **R**

SECOND READING *Romans 15: 4-9*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you.

The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: *For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.*

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL *Matthew 3: 1-12*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: *A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.* This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God

Recently Deceased

Fr Michael Shadbolt, Maria Daniele

Anniversaries & Remembrance

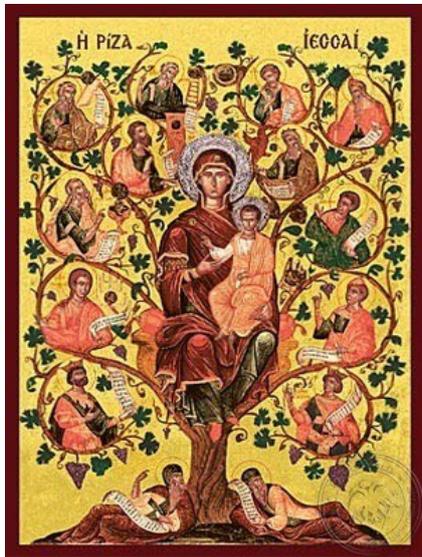
Donald La Fontaine,
Giuseppa D'Amico Colosimo, Michael Butera,
Barbara Kelly-Cavedon

Next weekend 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



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 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

Psalm Response

Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

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Preparation of the Gifts CWB 257

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.

Holy Communion CWB 587

Refrain: Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
you are the Word who leads us into light;
you are the Word who brings us through the desert;
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Refrain*

You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;
you are the one who speaks to us today;
you are the one who leads us to our future:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Refrain*

You are the Word who calls us to be servants;
you are the Word whose only law is love;
you are the Word made flesh who lives among us:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Refrain*

You are the Word who binds us and unites us;
you are the Word who calls us to be one;
you are the Word who teaches us forgiveness:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ! *Refrain*

Recessional Hymn CWB 232

Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
in your heart our rest shall be.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope to all you shall impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born, your people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now your gracious kingdom bring:

By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.

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