

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 Correya

St Gabriel's & St Joseph the Worker Parish Offices closed.
Reopen Tuesday 27 January 9am-3pm

St Gabriel's Reservoir 0487 116 154 reservoir@cam.org.au
St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North 9460 3013 reservoir@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

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT Yr A 21 December 2025

TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER

9am Mass *St Gabriel's*
9.15am Mass *St Joseph the Worker*

FRIDAY 26 & SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER

9am Mass *St Luke's Church*
1A David St, Lalor

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4pm Reconciliation
5pm Vigil Mass

Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass
Reservoir East
Reconciliation on request

Sunday 8am Reconciliation *Reservoir*
9am Mass English

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

**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 of our churches.**



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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir East
Saturday 20 December 7.15pm

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

St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North
Saturday 20 December 4pm

After Christmas and during January the priests will take some time off and Deacon Correya will take annual leave. Daily Mass will be available at St Gabriel's and at St Joseph the Worker Tuesday to Friday. Mass times will be advertised in the bulletin and posted at church doors. The full weekend Mass program at our churches remains the same.

The Parish offices at Reservoir and Reservoir North are closed and will reopen Tuesday 27 January 2026. January is a quieter time in Australia and in Parish life. We recharge our batteries for the New Year which includes the festas and active Parish life.



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

14 December 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent

Announcement: Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod

Dear friends in Christ, the faithful of Melbourne,

On this Third Sunday of Advent, in the days following the *Australian Catholic Youth Festival*, and as we ready our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, I write to share with you an important moment in the life of our local Church in Melbourne.

This Jubilee Year of Hope has been a time of great grace for us. Throughout the year, I have been meeting with clergy and lay leaders, listening to them, and discerning with them as to how the Archdiocese of Melbourne might respond to the call to hold an Archdiocesan Synod.

From this time of prayer, grace and reflection, I now wish to share that I have initiated preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026. I have asked Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ to assist me in leading this process, drawing on the *Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod 2025–2028*, endorsed by Pope Leo XIV. I have also appointed Ms Cathy Jenkins as Synod Program Lead.

Over recent years, the whole Church has been invited into a renewed way of walking together. This way—*synodality*—is rooted in our baptism and asks each of us, whether lay, religious, or ordained, to listen deeply to the Holy Spirit and to one another. This is to be “the ordinary way in which the Church seeks to live and work in our time.” (International Theological Commission)

Here in Australia, this journey has been unfolding for many years. The Fifth Plenary Council (2021–2022) arose from a nationwide effort of prayerful listening and discernment. We then contributed to the global Synod (2021–2024), which invited us to reflect on how we live communion, foster participation, and carry out Christ’s mission in the Church.

I am grateful for the many people across the Archdiocese who took part in these consultations. You have offered insights filled with faith in Christ, love for the Church, and hope for our future. The fruits of *Take the Way of the Gospel*, the development of parish formation through the *Bethany Way*, and the vibrant witness of young people at the recent *Australian Catholic Youth Festival* likewise continue to shape our discernment.

Three themes will be taken up in the Synod process:

- **Young Discipleship**
- **Missionary Leadership**
- **Formation and Participation**

These three themes have not arisen in isolation. They have emerged consistently and clearly through all the listening, discernment, and consultation undertaken in recent years across the Archdiocese, including the Plenary Council process, the global Synod, and our local pastoral initiatives. Together, they will now form the foundational focus of our Archdiocesan Synod. They are vital to the missionary endeavours of the people of God in Melbourne because they speak directly to how faith is awakened, how leadership is exercised in service, and how every baptised person is formed and enabled to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church. When these three are alive and flourishing, they bring life, vitality, and vibrancy to the heart of the Gospel as it is lived and proclaimed in our parishes, families, schools, and communities throughout our world.

The first step in our journey toward the Synod will be the establishment of a Synod Commission. Following prayerful discernment and consultation—including with the Council of Priests—I will invite the Commission to help us explore the three foundational themes and prepare us for the journey ahead.

More information about the Archdiocesan Synod process will be shared with you in early 2026. For now, I simply ask for your prayers and your openness to journey together as the Church in Melbourne—across our parishes, apostolates, works and communities.

May this Advent season renew within us a spirit of hope and a desire to welcome the Lord who comes to dwell among us.

With every grace and blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 7: 10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23(24): 1-6

***R: Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.***

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R**

Who shall climb
the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R**

SECOND READING *Romans 1: 1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

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



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 1: 18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Anniversary of Remembrance

Julienne Cendron

Next weekend The Holy Family

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

Colossians 3:12-17

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Processional 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.



Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 35:1-6,10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Psalm Response

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
His name will be Emmanuel:
God is with us. Alleluia!

Next weekend

The Holy Family

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

Colossians 3:12-17

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Preparation of the Gifts CWB 497

Go to Joseph, son of David,
all your needs to him entrust.
God the Son did once obey him,
his protector, pure and just.
Now in Heaven, O what glory!
Close to Mary, Virgin blest.
Intercede for us, St. Joseph,
your compassion manifest.

At the birth of our Redeemer
songs of glory filled the night.
Shepherds went with haste to worship
Christ the Lord, the source of light.
And they found God's greatest treasures,
his own Son and Heaven's Queen,
in the loving care of Joseph
where the Church has ever been.

In the Gospel he is silent,
from St Joseph not a word.
In his heart would he consider,
no complaint was ever heard.
Wise and faithful, humble, gentle
preaching loud without a sound,
may we learn from his example,
may his way in us be found.

Holy Communion 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, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *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*

Recessional Hymn

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

How blest is the birth of her heavenly child
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
The Lord of creation and Saviour of all
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.