

# Take the Way of the Gospel

Parish Forum, including consultation, took place at St Joseph the Worker Church Sunday 14 June. Archdiocese of Melbourne representatives Suzette Diaz and Judeline Wadhvani are helping us through the process towards amalgamation, step by step. Around 30 parishioners participated in the Forum. The partnered parishes *Take the Way of the Gospel* Committee includes

Andrew Dos Santos Liliana Keating  
Bernadette Harris  
Christopher Chua Georgia Tan  
Tony Chiodo Franca Pascuzzi  
Sr Jessica OP Sr Josefina OP Sr May Flor OP

Committee members made several presentations. Bernadette Harris presented a brief history of the Reservoir parishes. Our history has been celebrated with a photo display (weekend 14/15 March, and a series in the parish bulletin. Chris Chua presented a snapshot of current parish life and activities. Suzette and Judeline led the Forum through activities looking at we are today (2026) and hopes and dreams (2030).

Feedback channels include email [reservoir@cam.org.au](mailto:reservoir@cam.org.au) and suggestion boxes at each of our churches. Regular updates are included in the parish bulletin.

*Archbishop Comensoli's vision  
through Take the Way of the Gospel  
invites parishes to become:*

*vibrant*

*vital*

*viable*

*Communities focused on*

*evangelisation*

*discipleship*

*service*

*outreach*

**Parish amalgamation  
is the process by which  
two or more existing parishes  
are canonically united to form  
one new parish.**

**The focus is on creating a stronger,  
more sustainable parish community  
for the future.**

**This means:**

one Parish Priest  
one Parish Finance Committee  
one Parish Pastoral Council  
one set of governance and administrative structures  
one shared mission and vision

**Amalgamation is not:**

erasing local history or traditions  
taking something away from parishioners  
a judgement on the success or failure of a parish  
solely a financial exercise

**Amalgamation is an opportunity to:**

strengthen mission  
share resource  
reduce duplication  
build leadership capacity  
create sustainable structures for future generations

**Benefits of Amalgamation are:**

stronger mission  
shared leadership  
better stewardship  
support for priests  
long-term sustainability

**Why consider Amalgamation:**

demographic changes  
growing complexity  
mission opportunity



## Vibrant Parishes

Vibrant parishes are life-giving communities that foster holiness and discipleship among their members, joyfully desiring to share the gift of faith in Jesus Christ with those they encounter.

Understanding each person is uniquely called and gifted, vibrant parishes help form and equip them to live that call. They know people are searching for a deeper spiritual connection in their lives, where their hopes, joys and anxieties can be expressed, and they embrace new opportunities for service.

## Vital Parishes

Vital parishes read the signs of the times with hope and missionary vision. They understand their local neighbourhoods, culture, and history. Having been shaped by the past, they are nevertheless filled with hope for their future. This may involve openness to new ideas, acknowledging that past methods no longer fit where God is calling the parish today. They have clear direction, purpose, and collaborate effectively with others to further the kingdom of God.

## Viable Parishes

Viable parishes have the financial, people and property resources, and are able to mobilise those resources, for their common vision and mission. They have sufficient income streams to resource and grow their mission and to provide and maintain buildings to support the needs of their mission and ministries.

Their diverse sources of income enable them to serve their local communities in a sustainable way. They openly share their spiritual, ministerial and material resources with others for the benefit of the whole of the Archdiocese.

## What does parish like look / feel like in 2026?

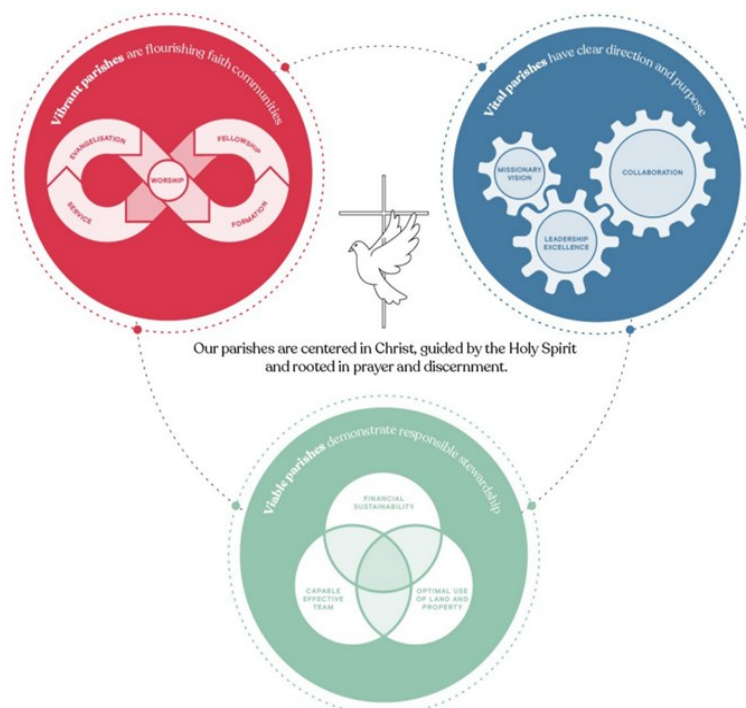
Warm Welcoming Christ-centred  
Supportive Collaboration Faithful  
Joyful Sharing Hope filled Encouraging

## What will parish like look / feel like in 2030?

Welcoming Youthful spirit Bold & Active  
Family Participation Growth Liturgy  
Vibrant Friendly Potential and open to change  
Growing younger parishioners  
More younger parishioners  
Family participation in church and parish life  
Collaboration Participation

## How will we get to where we want to be in 2030?

Involvement/Participation  
Modelling active participation/setting an example  
Encouragement, listening and openness to change  
Parish activities that provide opportunities for education in faith/faith formation  
Communication of Testimonies/ Sharing faith stories/  
Witness Do=Act Lead by example  
Prayer Ministry/Increase our efforts for prayer  
Support & Collaboration  
Put Jesus' teachings at the centre  
Pray to the Holy Spirit  
Unity Encouragement  
More activities involving community  
Embrace the change  
Make connection with young people  
Be more accountable  
Pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood and the Dominican Sisters



*A collaborative journey  
between parishes  
rooted in faith  
mission  
shared responsibility  
strengthening each community  
through unity  
and mutual support  
creating communities of faith  
that are  
Vibrant  
Viable  
Vital*

## PARISH CLERGY

Archbishop Comensoli has blessed our Partnered Parishes with the ministry of a priest and a permanent deacon. Deacon Correya's duties include Parish RCIA, St Vincent de Paul chaplaincy to local and regional conferences, young parishioners, preaching at weekend Masses, baptisms, men's ministry, etc. He is available for 10 hours Parish ministry per week.

## DOMINICAN SISTERS OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

The Sisters conduct Sacramental Journey for children who attend non-Catholic schools. They attend Young Parishioners get together each first Sunday of the month. The Sisters associate with their Melbourne Dominican family. Sr May Flor OP is employed 4 days per week at St Monica's College. Her stipend supports the Sisters' community.

## PARISH FACILITIES

**St Gabriel's Parish Hall** is inspected by Parish Finance Committee members and St Gabriel's school leaders each quarter. The hall receives professional clean each quarter. St Gabriel's Hall is home to St Gabriel's Theatre Group, and the local Alcohol Anonymous. RVDA - Riga Victoria Dance Academy hires St Gabriel's parish hall every Saturday morning. External security lights are being replaced with LEDs.

Recent works at **St Joseph the Worker Church and Hall** have included installation of LED lights and electrical work, servicing of heaters, progressive work on gardens and grounds, cleaning and repair of Via Crucis. 3 electric candle stands are now beyond service and repair. We have placed a deposit on a current model candle stand for St Anthony's Shrine. St Joseph the Worker Parish Hall is used by a number of groups. The Parish Finance Committee will prepare an application for a Commonwealth grant to refurbish St Joseph the Worker Hall.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*Good Friday / Holy Places*

St Gabriel / St Stephen of Hungary \$1099

St Joseph the Worker \$412

*Caritas Project Compassion*

St Gabriel / St Stephen of Hungary \$1346

St Joseph the Worker \$1234

## TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

The partnership of St Gabriel's Reservoir and St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North has many benefits. There are good facilities at both St Gabriel's Reservoir and St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North. The Syro Malankara community uses St Stephen's Church for Sunday Mass, \$6000 per annum. About 30 parishioners attended *Take the Way of the Gospel* Forum (14/6). Fr Pritchard, the Sisters and parishioners will attend Proclaim26 Conference (26,27/6).

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

The parish office prepares the parish bulletin, and responds to enquiries for the Sacraments, RCIA, funerals, sick & emergency calls, certificates. It also manages Safeguarding, compliance, accounts, halls rental, collating statistics, diocesan requirements, parishioner requests and enquiries, registers. The parish office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-3pm.

## MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LTD (MACS)

**St Gabriel's School** provides \$1500 per annum for use of St Gabriel's Parish Hall. St Gabriel's School Reservoir has an enrolment of 163 students.

**St Joseph the Worker School** Reservoir North has an enrolment of 238 students.

**St Monica's College** conducts a Year 8 Campus at St Stephen's Reservoir East. The College looks after all utilities. CAM Property & Infrastructure is helping with best use of St Stephen of Hungary Presbytery.

## PARISH QUOTA

This diocesan tax is levied on all parishes. It supports the missionary work of the Archdiocese including local communities, marriage and families, youth and young adults, the poor and the broken.



## PARTNERED PARISHES FINANCE COMMITTEE

*Members:*

Fr G Pritchard

*Reservoir-Reservoir East:* Gary O'Dwyer

*Reservoir North:* Bruce Nadenbousch,  
Frank Piperno

*Parish Accountant:* Maurizio Mazza

*Parish Finance Officer:* Liz Pistoni

## PARISH THANKSGIVING

St Gabriel's & St Stephen's 100 subscribers

St Joseph the Worker 70 subscribers

In 2025, Parish Thanksgiving contributed \$94,298 from our 3 churches. Other income is derived from donations, rental, investments. Outgoings include staff, utilities, repairs and maintenance, insurance, diocesan levies, mission and evangelisation, operations. We are looking at a Thanksgiving renewal after amalgamation.

## CLERGY SUPPORT

We support Archbishop Comensoli, the bishops, our own pastors and retired priests with the presbytery offering, the second half of the Thanksgiving envelope. Since Covid-19 this support has dropped by 50%. Parishioners are asked to consider doubling their weekly contribution. This collection is distributed:

12.5% priests in needy parishes

12.5% sick and retired priests

5% Archbishop Comensoli and bishops

**PARTNERED PARISHES FINANCE REPORT**  
**OCTOBER 2025 - MARCH 2026**  
**ST GABRIEL'S RESERVOIR**  
**ST STEPHEN OF HUNGARY RESERVOIR EAST**  
**ST JOSEPH THE WORKER RESERVOIR NORTH**

<b>PARISH THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>ST GABRIEL'S ST STEPHEN'S</b>	<b>ST JOSEPH THE WORKER</b>
<b>OCT 25</b>	<b>\$4558</b>	<b>\$1597</b>
<b>NOV 25</b>	<b>\$3789</b>	<b>\$1288</b>
<b>DEC 25</b>	<b>\$4849</b>	<b>\$2125</b>
<b>JAN 26</b>	<b>\$2006</b>	<b>\$895</b>
<b>FEB 26</b>	<b>\$5246</b>	<b>\$1745</b>
<b>MAR 26</b>	<b>\$3956</b>	<b>\$1711</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>ST GABRIEL'S ST STEPHEN'S</b>	<b>ST JOSEPH THE WORKER</b>
<b>PARISH QUOTA (PER QUARTER)</b>	<b>\$6688</b>	<b>\$2862</b>
<b>YARRA VALLEY WATER</b>	<b>\$3264</b>	<b>\$757</b>
<b>CITY OF DAREBIN - RATES</b>	<b>\$4387</b>	<b>\$294</b>
<b>ELECTRICITY / GAS</b>	<b>\$6159</b>	<b>\$6110</b>
<b>PHOTOCOPY/STATIONERY/ POSTAGE</b>	<b>\$6030</b>	<b>\$2333</b>
<b>SECURITY &amp; FIRE SERVICE</b>	<b>\$1843</b>	<b>\$758</b>
<b>CLEANING / GARDENS / GROUNDS</b>	<b>\$11,323</b>	<b>\$11,113</b>
<b>TELEPHONE / INTERNET</b>	<b>\$1409</b>	<b>\$808</b>
<b>REPAIRS &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$11,554</b>	<b>\$24,673</b>
<b>SALARIES / SUPER / WORKCOVER</b>	<b>\$36,408</b>	<b>\$32,865</b>
<b>ACCOUNTING FEES</b>	<b>\$4356</b>	<b>\$3180</b>