

Processional Hymn AOV 12

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness, vanished away,
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion,
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place, the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Liturgy of the Word

Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

Psalm Response

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones
the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Preparation of the Gifts AOV 166

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

I live within you, Deep in your heart, O Love.
I live within you. Rest now in me.

One Licence: A-640406

Holy Communion AOV 164

Refrain: Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.

As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again. *Refrain*

The bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain:
just as now it is gathered,
make your people one. *Refrain*

We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love. *Refrain*

Hold us in unity,
in love for all to see;
that the world may believe in you,
God of all who live. *Refrain*

AOV 68

The Lord is the God of my salvation:
I trust in him and have no fear.
I sing of the joy which his love gives to me,
And I draw deeply from the springs of his great kindness.

Open our eyes to the wonder of each moment,
the beginning of another day. *Refrain*

Be with us, Lord, as we break through with each other,
to find the truth and beauty of each friend. *Refrain*

When ev'ning comes and our day of toil is over,
give us rest, O Lord, in the joy of many friends. *Refrain*

Recessional Hymn AOV 158

Create a new heart, Holy Lord,
beckon our lives through your word,
open our eyes to your call,
united as one for your world.
Heighten our minds to your thoughts,
heal us of pride and of hurt,
may we go forth in your name
we pray our hearts change.

The heart of the cross, lowly and poor, calls us on.
Lord, it is you promising hope, promising truth. *Refrain*

Restless the hearts who yearn for your peace in this land.
Deepen the dream justice brings life, justice redeems.
Refrain

**May our dead behold the things
no eye has seen and no ear has heard.**

Maureen Maher, *recently deceased*
Emilio Meco, *anniversary of death*

**Next weekend
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:38-48



**Parish of St Gabriel
& St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir—Reservoir East**

Parish Priest: Fr Gregory Pritchard
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

**St. Gabriel's Church
1 Viola St Reservoir 3073**



**St Stephen's Church
71 Whitelaw St Reservoir East 3073**

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
12.02.2023**

MASS & RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 9am *St Gabriel's*
Wednesday 9.30am *St Stephen's*
Thursday 9am *St Gabriel's*
Friday 9am *St Gabriel's*

Saturday *St Stephen's*
5pm Reconciliation 6pm Vigil Mass
Sunday *St Gabriel's*
9am Reconciliation 10am Mass

**22 February
Masses
9.30am St Stephen's
12 noon, 7pm
St Gabriel's**



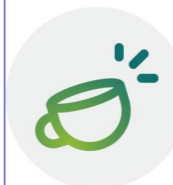
*Lent precedes and prepares for Easter.
It is a time to hear the Word of God,
to convert, to prepare for and remember Baptism,
to be reconciled with God and one's neighbour,
and of more frequent recourse to the arms of
Christian penance: prayer, fasting and good works.*

**Thanksgiving and Clergy support
offering by direct debit to
St Gabriel & St Stephen Parish**

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



***Our Parish is committed
to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children and vulnerable adults***



COFFEE TRUCK

Sunday 19 February
after 10am Mass *St Gabriel's*
Fresh Roast Mobile Café
offers hot coffee after Mass
*Parishioners, are invited
to bring slices, cannoli,
to coffee after 10am Mass next Sunday.*



PARISH RCIA

Thursdays 7pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre
Our 4 catechumens, sponsors and group
attend the Rite of Election
St Patrick's Cathedral
Sunday 26 February 3pm



MENS DINNER WITH ROBERT FALZON

Tuesday 7 March 7pm Reservoir RSL
Robert Falzon is founder of menAlive,
a national movement of Catholic men.
Join him for dinner and hear about menAlive,
promoting Catholic manhood, fatherhood,
spirituality and parish life.
Register: Tim 0412 799 845
timrebbechi@gmail.com



WORLD YOUTH DAY PORTUGAL 2023 PREPARATION PROGRAM

Sunday 5 March 11.30am-1pm
St Gabriel's Parish Centre

**Contribution \$10 (working)
\$5 (non-working, students)**

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

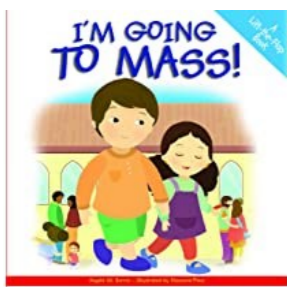
- Our Parish conference meets on the 3rd Monday of the month 7.30pm Emmaus Room St Gabriel's Parish Centre.
New members are always welcome.
Emergency Assistance 1800 305 330
- Donation boxes are below statue of St Joseph in St Gabriel's Church, and near baptismal font in St Stephen's Church.
- **Vinnies Reservoir 10 Edwardes St Reservoir**
1300 736 933 vinnies.org.au/getinvolved
volunteer@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*

ST GABRIEL'S PIETY STALL

St Paul's Sunday Missal \$35
St Paul's Weekday Missal \$90
Statue of St Gabriel's \$17
St Gabriel's Charm \$6



Here is a book that will help young children join in the celebration of Mass! Little hands will enjoy lifting the flaps to discover what happens next, whether its singing with the choir or shaking hands at the Sign of Peace. At home or at Mass, *I'm Going to Mass* will engage toddlers and preschoolers with its colourful illustrations and simple language. For ages 2 to 5. \$15

LOURDES DAY MASS

Saturday 18 February 10.30am
St Patrick's Cathedral
Melbourne

LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP

St Raphael's Parish
17 Hardy St, Preston West
Wednesdays 1.30pm
Contact: Marijana Jurjevic 0422 340 675

What would our world be like if everyone lived out the teachings that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel? It would be a world where people work out their differences peacefully. Where husbands and wives are always faithful to one another. Where no one tells a lie or engages in dishonest deals.

Such a world might seem impossible, but this is the world that God has always intended for his people. It's the kingdom that Jesus announced was "at hand" at the beginning of his ministry (Mt 3:2). It's the kingdom that he ushered in by his death and resurrection. If it seems hidden in some ways, that's because it's still under construction! We won't experience it fully until Jesus comes again.

But that doesn't mean we can't at least begin to experience God's kingdom today. In fact, God is calling us to build the kingdom. How? We can begin by taking Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as a blueprint for our lives. He calls us to pray and not worry about our daily needs. To care for the poor. To forgive as God has forgiven us. To love our enemies. To turn the other cheek. When we do these things, we make God's kingdom visible.

Because Jesus' teachings can be challenging, we might try to make excuses for ourselves or think that only the saints can obey them. But the more we try to live out Jesus' words, the more his Spirit fills our efforts with his divine grace - and the more we come to realize that it doesn't depend only on us, but also on God's power within us.

Today at Mass, ask the Lord how you might bring God's kingdom to the places where you live and work. Rely on his teachings to guide you and the Spirit to empower you. Above all, stay alert, because opportunities to build the kingdom of God will surely come your way!

wau.org

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST MATTHEW II

Matthew begins his careful account of Jesus' life and death by giving his genealogy and then beginning with his miraculous birth and infancy. Along the way he cites the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah. When Jesus appears as an adult of about thirty years of age at the Jordan, he is baptized by John the Baptist and then is tempted in the wilderness by the devil. He begins to proclaim the imminent coming of the heavenly Kingdom (concretely realized for Matthew in the Church).

On the Mount of Beatitude, like a New Moses, Jesus sketches the Kingdom's constitution and describes it as a more interior reality than the religion of the Old Testament. He performs many miracles as a sign of his divine power, and the crowds flock to him. Next, Jesus chooses the Twelve to help him in the work of evangelization; he gives them power to perform miracles and sends them on a tour of the Galilean villages.

In short order he encounters strong opposition from the religious and intellectual leaders of Judaism, while the crowds do not understand him. He begins to teach them in parables in order to stir up their curiosity. The Scribes and Pharisees become more hostile and demand a miracle from him as proof of his claims. He rebukes them sharply but still promises the future sign of his redemptive death and Resurrection.

From this point on, Jesus concentrates on the formation of his disciples. He is always on the move—an itinerant preacher—and even goes north to the pagan lands near Tyre and Sidon. He has compassion on the crowds and the infirm, but he no longer speaks to them at length. The faith and devotion of the disciples grow until a climax is reached with Peter's profession of faith at Caesarea Philippi.

When he arrives in Jerusalem to give his life for the salvation of all, Jesus condemns the religious leaders. They in turn are determined to see that he is put to death. In a reserved and dispassionate way, Matthew tells the story of Jesus' Passion—condemnation, scourging, carrying of the Cross, and crucifixion on Calvary. He then gives a glimpse of the joyful meeting of the disciples with the risen Christ (chap. 28) and concludes his Gospel with Jesus' command to his disciples to convert the whole world (28:16-20).

Kenneth Baker SJ Inside the Bible

BOOK REVIEW

CONFESSIONS OF A CAFETERIA CATHOLIC:

by Peter Kreeft and Nat Whilk
Ignatius Press, San Francisco
Paperback: 154 pages
Price: AUD\$34.95

SUPPER'S READY

If you would like to recommend a book to the many self-proclaimed Catholics of today who live by the secular philosophy of the left, *Confessions of a Cafeteria Catholic* is a great place to start.

This is not your conventional book. It is a personal letter written by renowned Catholic apologist Peter Kreeft in response to another letter of the same name, published by the pseudonymous Nat Whilk. Kreeft's letter is meant both to touch the heart and examine it.

Nat's manifesto outlines his reasons for labelling himself as, and encouraging the notion that it is OK to be, a "cafeteria Catholic" – someone who picks and chooses which Church teachings to follow, much like at a scrumptious cafeteria buffet.

While Nat respects some aspects of the Church, he questions her authority, her staunch teachings on contraception and abortion, the priest abuse scandal, the "legalism" of natural law, among many other items. He explains: "Religion itself is a cafeteria, and I want the right to concoct my own supper."

Dr Kreeft, on the other hand, describes himself as an "eat all the food Mommy puts on your plate" Catholic. He responds to each of Nat's points through many "aha!" moments that not only give food for thought to non-believers and cafeteria Catholics, but can also help eat-all-the-food Catholics comprehend the intricacies of Church teaching when juxtaposed with modern beliefs.

For example, when discussing abortion versus the Holocaust, Dr Kreeft writes: "The objective evils are the same, even though the subjective motives are not." And, when covering the topic of natural law, he affirms that the rules of life are meant to be discovered, not

invented: "Saints never 'create their own values'. Who does? Sociopaths."

Eat-all-the-food Catholics (I shall shorten this phrase to just "Catholics") do not blindly obey church teachings inasmuch as they recognise that there is a Creator Who has the authority to establish objective truth: what is good and what is evil, and so on. If God gave us free will to choose whether or not to follow Him, and if we then choose to follow Him, should we not do so wholeheartedly? Should we not eat everything on the plate?

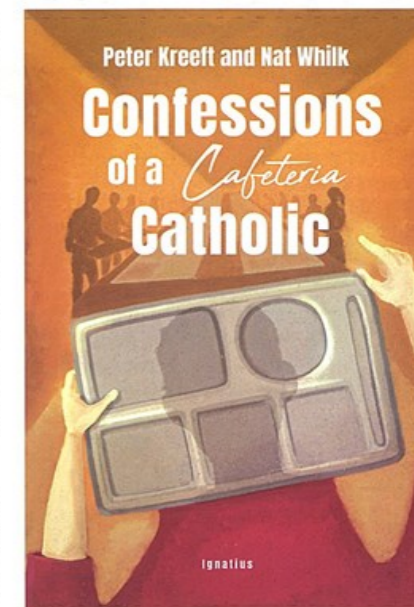
As for the priest abuse scandal, the Catholic Church has withstood the test of time despite the flaws of her members. The sins of evil clergy throughout the Church's 2,000 years should not elicit a blanket assumption that the Church and all her followers are just as corrupt.

Dr Kreeft says: "The Church is a ship of fools, but she is not a foolish ship." A few drunk sailors aboard does not mean that the ship is sinking.

As for almost every other one of Nat's concerns, Dr Kreeft argues that they come down to placing the subjective over the objective – an obsession with oneself, an obsession with what you feel and desire in the moment, and subsequently the notion that you have the "right" to rearrange truth and morality according to those subjective measures.

Abortion and contraception emerged from an obsession with sex: Christians take and ignore certain teachings and scriptures to conform to a personal gospel; the destruction of the family and sexuality is the removal of the self-sacrificial element of love; "freedom" by modern definition means being able to do whatever you want, regardless of the consequences. The list goes on and on in a society made up of people who already think they are the best version of themselves.

Confessions is packed with nuggets of wisdom and offers philosophical but practical arguments for virtually all of today's



controversial issues. Dr Kreeft's bite-size approach helps readers more easily understand the Catechism and its modern-day relevance, yet simultaneously highlights the depth, beauty and mystery of the Faith.

While he acknowledges that it is not inherently wrong to question and critique, rejecting Church teaching and identifying as a Catholic must be mutually exclusive. It is not a walk in the park to be a "non-cafeteria Catholic", yet Catholics are called to "hate the sin, love the sinner", not "love the sinner, love the sin".

Catholics are called to follow resolutely the tenets and teachings of the Church as established by God Himself and in a faith made perfect in Christ Jesus in their journey to sainthood in Heaven.

Ultimately, truth is a full-meal-package deal, not an array of ingredients from which one can make personal, multiple versions of truth. Truth cannot be seasoned to taste. And if God established truth, just as He established faith, His teachings cannot be cherry-picked either.

So, as Dr Kreeft continues the metaphor: "The Church does not give us a cafeteria; she gives us a banquet."

Reviewed by Nicole Yap