

Processional Hymn AOV 128

Refrain: Everlasting your love.
Everlasting your love.
From age to age your covenant endures.

Who alone does wonders
with compassion and mercy?
The God above ev'ry other pow'r:
to you alone give glory! *Refrain*

Who created the heavens,
planting earth on the waters?
Who made the moon to rule over night;
Who made the sun to rule the day? *Refrain*

Who exalts the lowly;
who releases the captive,
so those oppressed find justice at last,
and those in chains find liberty? *Refrain*

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Psalm Response

My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring
Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. With the prophet Isaiah, we exult for joy in the Lord. With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our saviour. We do not deny the pain and evil that exist in the world, but we rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus.

Preparation of the Gifts AOV 31

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away shamed and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.

Holy Communion 1 AOV 185

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Take of my life and live, branch of my vine.
Let me befriend you now; eat, take your fill.
Don't be afraid to dream; love has its will.

Take up your burden now, walk 'til you find
just what the journey means;
walk while there's time.
Food for the journey will answer your need.
Don't be afraid to walk; love, my love will lead.

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Be a sweet nourishment to good friends of mine.
Let me befriend you now; eat, take your fill.
Share with your people, that love has its will.

Take of my bread and eat, drink my new wine.
Take of my life and live, branch of my vine.

Holy Communion 2 AOV 174

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 thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

Recessional Hymn AOV 57

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

Refrain: Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
has turned the night into day!

We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The One who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
a light for his people to set their hearts free. *Refrain*

God is light; in him there is no darkness.
Let us walk in his light, his children, one and all.
O comfort my people; make gentle your words.
Proclaim to my city the day of her birth. *Refrain*

One Licence: A-640406

Partnered Parishes

St Gabriel & St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir—Reservoir East
and St Raphael Preston West

Clergy: Fr G Pritchard, Fr S Grainger, Fr A Fragapane

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

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

3rd Sunday of Advent


Yr B 17.12.2023

MASS & RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 9am Mass *St Gabriel's*
Wednesday 9.30am Mass *St Stephen's*
Thursday 9am Mass *St Gabriel's*
Friday 9am Mass *St Gabriel's*
Saturday *St Stephen's*
5pm Reconciliation 6pm Vigil Mass
Sunday *St Gabriel's*
9am Reconciliation 10am Mass
St Raphael's Preston West
Weekend Masses
Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 9am *Italian* 10.30am Masses
Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Wednesday 4pm
Thursday & Friday 8.30am
Reconciliation Saturday 9.30am

Thanksgiving & Clergy
support by direct debit

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



Our Parish is committed
to providing a safe environment for
everyone. Please make sure children
are supervised at all times
within church buildings
and on church grounds.

Parishioners and visitors to
St Gabriel's Church and parish office
may like to park their cars
in the church car park.

GAUDETE! REJOICE!

We take hold of the joy of Christmas today. Rose—coloured vestments. The song of Mary. The abundant anointing of the Holy Spirit. "Be happy at all times, pray constantly; and for all through give thanks to God" (1Thess 5:16).

We give thanks to God for Diane Yuri who is accepted into the the Order of Catechumens (Sunday 10am Mass).

We share the joy of our candidates prepare for Our Eucharist, Confirmation and and Reconciliation: Gabriel Borg, Joseph Gutterres, Lucas Gutterres, Mathese Gutterres, Giuseppe Saia.

Together we enjoy coffee and cakes after weekend Masses. Thanks to Liz Ferronato, Preethi Saldanha, Fresh Roast Mobile Cafe, Lucy Lia, Gianna Spina, Ofelia Braysha.

SAFEGUARDING

Parish Volunteers must have a current WWCC. All volunteers are invited to a briefing on the policy document on Saturday 17 February 2024 2pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre.

Parish volunteers will sign the *Code of Conduct Declaration* and receive a blessing on their service amongst us at Commitment Masses weekend 24 & 25 February 2024:

St Stephen's Reservoir East Saturday 6pm
St Gabriel's Reservoir Sunday 10am
St Raphael's Preston West
Saturday 6pm Sunday 9am *Italian* and 10.30am

PARISH OFFICE

Closes Friday 22 December 9am –3pm
Opens Friday 19 January 2024
9am—12noon
Phone and email checked regularly

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
St Gabriel's and St Stephen's churches.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023

HOLY ROSARY

Wednesday 9am St Stephen's Reservoir East
Wednesday 3.30pm St Raphael's West Preston

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Sunday 17 December
6.30 Free Barbeque
7.30pm Songs & Stories

Reservoir Presbyterian Church
cnr Edwardes & Ashley Sts Reservoir
reservoirpc.org.au

ADVENT TALKS

Presented by the Caroline Chisholm Library

Monday 18 December 6pm

Christmas—an Eastern Catholic Perspective
St Michael's Church

456 Dryburgh St North Melbourne

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Stephen's Reservoir East
Saturdays 5pm December 16, 23
Wednesday December 20 10am

St Gabriel's Reservoir
Sundays 9am December 17, 24
Tuesday 19, Thursday 21, Friday 22 December
9.30am, 7pm

St Raphael's Preston West
Saturdays 9.30am December 16, 23



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday 24 December
St Stephen's Reservoir East 6pm Mass
St Gabriel's Reservoir 7.30pm Carols 8pm Mass
St Raphael's Preston West
5pm Mass; 7pm Mass;
11.30pm Carols; 12 midnight Mass

Monday 25 December
St Gabriel's Reservoir 10am Mass
St Raphael's Preston West
9am Italian 10.30am Mass

NEW YEARS DAY

Monday 1 January 2024
St Gabriel's Reservoir 10am Mass
St Raphael's Preston West 10am Mass

CHRISTMAS SEASON BLESSING OF HOMES

Register: Parish Office reservoir@cam.org.au



ST MONICA'S COLLEGE EPPING

St Monica's College is a Catholic coeducational faith community. The school values the sacredness and wellbeing of all students, staff and parents and is committed to serving the young people of the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

We promote the truths and values of Jesus Christ and fidelity to the message of the Gospels. Through prayer and perseverance, we nurture genuine and harmonious relationships based on restorative principles.

Our teaching and learning approach is contemporary, global in perspective and aims to inspire life-long learning. We seek to stimulate and develop academic learning and students' personal world view through critical thought, whilst always being respectful of students' abilities and learning styles. We encourage and assist each Monican to reach full potential.

Student-centred educational programs and extra-curricular offerings foster respect of self, others and the environment. The College provides extensive well maintained facilities, resources and technologies which reflect an ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation.

St Monica's College celebrates its cultural diversity and draws strong identity from its past. We endeavour to empower Monicans to flourish and contribute positively to Australia and the world, now and in the future.

St Monica's College is a School of Educational Enterprise. The College is committed to adopting international perspectives focussing on global citizenship and social justice for all. There is an ongoing commitment to the development of programs and facilities including a Trade Skills Centre. The College aims to be a leader in innovation, the use of Information and Communication Technology, with state of the art resources and encouraging digital leadership. The College will continue to expand the repertoire of effective teaching practices and use of data, in order to strengthen curriculum pathways and achievement. Contemporary learning opportunities will be provided for all community members, including students, staff and parents.

St Monica's has an outstanding reputation for providing co-education, a 1st class curriculum, and religious education. St Monica's retains an active association with the Good Samaritan Sisters who founded the college in 1964. St Monica's was one of the first regional Colleges, founded on the initiative of local Parish Priests, including Fr Nowlan (Reservoir), Fr Sullivan (Reservoir East), Fr Chamberlin (Epping).

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

*After the Sign of the Cross and Greeting all sit.
The candidate steps forward and formally requests
life in the Catholic Church and the Gospel. Diane's
sponsor and parish family affirm her request:*

Celebrant:

Jen, you now present Diane to us; are you, and all who are gathered here with us, ready to help her find and follow Christ?

All: We are.

Celebrant:

Father of mercy, we thank you for your servant. You have sought and summoned her in many ways and she has turned to seek you. You have called her today and she has answered in your presence: we praise you, Lord, and we bless you.

All: We praise you, Lord, and we bless you.

Diane is then marked with the Sign of the Cross.

Celebrant:

Receive the cross on your forehead. It is Christ himself who now strengthens you with this sign of his love. Learn to know him and follow him.

All: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



*After the Homily, the new catechumen
and candidates receive a book containing
the Holy Gospels (Sunday Missal).*

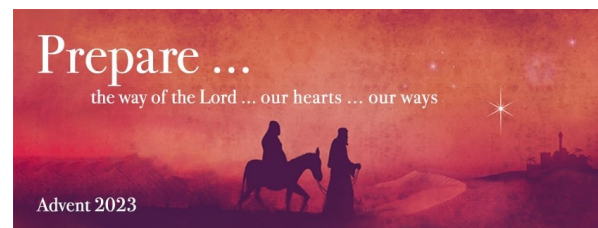
Celebrant:

Diane, Joseph, Lucas, Marthese, Giuseppe: Receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Each is presented with a Sunday Missal

Celebrant:

Diane, Joseph, Lucas, Marthese, Giuseppe: although you cannot yet participate in the Lord's Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with the Holy Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.



When St Paul tells us to rejoice always, it might seem that he is asking the impossible. How can we always feel joyful? Isn't this too much to ask, even today, on Gaudete (or Rejoice) Sunday?

Not according to St Thomas Aquinas! As we experience God's love for us, we grow in love for him—and this exchange of love is what produces joy in us. St Paul also knew that God's love was the secret to joy, which is why he follows up his exhortation to 'rejoice always' with specific steps that we can take to experience his love more deeply:

First, pray without ceasing. When we open our heart to God throughout the day, he fills it with his very self. The experience of his unconditional love and unending ignites our love in return.

Second, in all circumstances give thanks. Gratitude also deepens our love for God, especially when we reflect on who he is and what he has done for us. And in this Advent season, whatever our circumstances, we can thank God for sending his Son to earth to become one of us.

Finally, do not quench the Spirit. In his Letter to the Romans, St Paul tells us that 'the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit'. If we want more joy in our lives, we can ask the Spirit to stir up the love of God in our hearts. And when he does, we can express it by praising him—which will, in turn, increase our joy.

Joy is not just for Gaudete Sunday: it's for every day. So each day, follow Paul's advice: turn to the Lord in prayer, thank him for all he has done for you, and ask him to fill you with more of his Spirit. Then praise him—and let your spirit soar! WAU.org

May our dead enjoy light, pardon and peace

Elias Taouk RIP
Ceserina Zanatta RIP
Salam Saood RIP

Anniversaries & Rememberance

Frank Napolitano, Domenica Minuti
Vienna & Francesco Di Giantomaso,
Michele & Luigina Tenace,
Augusto Da Silva, Luigi Marasco

Next weekend 4th Sunday of Advent Year B

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16:

Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38