

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

Clergy: Fr G Pritchard, Fr Josy Kizhakkethalackal, Dcn F Correya

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 Raphael's Church
17 Hardy St Preston West 3072**

**St Joseph the Worker Church
79 Wilson Blvd Reservoir North 3073**

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Yr C 7 September 2025**

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Gabriel's Church

9am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

St Stephen of Hungary Church

9.30am Tuesday

St Joseph the Worker Church

9.15am Wednesday & Thursday

St Raphael's Church

9.15am Friday

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays 8.30am

St Gabriel's & St Joseph the Worker Churches

Fridays 8.30am

St Raphael's Church

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday **4pm Reconciliation**
5pm Vigil Mass
1st Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass
Maltese Reservoir North

Saturday **6.30pm Vigil Mass**
Reservoir East
Reconciliation on request

Saturday **6.30pm Vigil Mass**
Preston West

Sunday **9am Mass English/Italian**
Reservoir North

Sunday **8am Reconciliation Reservoir**
9am Mass Reservoir

Sunday **10.30am Mass Preston West**
English/Italian

**Thanksgiving & Clergy support
by direct debit**

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

**St Raphael's Church
BSB: 083-347 Account: 643968007**

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



Our Partnered Parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of everyone including children and vulnerable adults. Please make sure children are supervised at all times within church buildings and on church grounds.



*May God bless all
fathers and
grandfathers
in our parish!*

Young Parishioners meets TODAY Sunday 7 September St Gabriel's Parish Centre 10.30am—12noon lunch included \$10 working \$5 non working / student. Anna Krohn ANIMA Education introduces Jubilee Saints Carlo Acutis & Pier Giorgio Frassati, canonised by Pope Leo XIV in Rome on that day.

Partnered Parishes Finance Report January-June 2025 for St Gabriel's, St Stephen of Hungary and St Joseph the Worker attached to today's bulletin. Major outlays this year have included preparation of St Raphael's Presbytery to welcome the Dominican Sisters; \$6500 for Fr Bonello's funeral; \$1800 to replace fence at St Joseph the Worker; painting, carpets, bathroom St Joseph the Worker Presbytery to accommodate our assistant priest.

Work is being done in the narthex of **St Joseph the Worker Church**, removing the notice board, painting the walls, and installing photo portraits of parish priests and other memorials.

Quotes are being assembled and assessed to replace the fence St Gabriel's Church car park.

The Melbourne **Syro-Malankara community** is based at St Stephen of Hungary Church Reservoir East for 9.30am Sunday Mass and their Parish activities. The Melbourne community does not have its own church, and is building itself up, led by Fr Philip Mathew Vettikatt and parish committee. Fr Philip invites members of the partnered parishes to participate in 10.30am Sunday Liturgy celebrated in English on the 2nd Sunday of the month.



On weekend 27-28 September we celebrate the feasts of Sts Gabriel and Raphael. Parishioners are invited to host morning tea/sausage sizzle at St Gabriel's Church Reservoir (Sunday 9am Mass) and St Raphael's Church West Preston (Sunday 10.30am Mass).

**If you would like to help,
please contact the Parish Office
0487 116 154 reservoir@cam.org.au**

ST GABRIEL'S THEATRE GROUP

Hello Dolly

Rehearsals Sundays 6pm

St Gabriel's Parish Hall Reservoir

Enquiries: Judy judeome@hotmail.com

STELLA MARIS FESTA

Friday 17 October 7pm Mass & refreshments

St Joseph the Worker Church Reservoir North

Saturday 18 October 6pm Dinner Dance

Le Grande Reception Epping.

Members \$85, non members \$90, children \$40

Sunday 19 October

St Joseph the Worker Church & Hall Reservoir North

2.30pm Mass 4pm procession 6pm MMG Concert Band

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.

Members of our Partnered Parishes are warmly invited to join the Society in its mission of charity and outreach.

Contact Conference president Andrew Dos Santos reservoir.conf.pres@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*

LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP

20th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 11 October

6pm Praise & Worship

6.30pm Mass, Refreshments

Wednesdays 1.30pm

St Raphael's Church Preston West

Enquiries: Marijana 0422 340 675

CATHOLIC MEN FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne 10am

melbournemensrosarycrusade.com

MULTICULTURAL DEMENTIA

CARE & SUPPORT

amcservices.org.au 9689 9170

Srs Josefina and May Flor provide **Sacramental Journey**, preparation for the Sacraments for 9 children. St Gabriel's Parish Centre (rear St Gabriel's Church) Mondays 4.30-5.30pm. Fr Pritchard and Fr Jossy are glad to visit each family at home.

The Sisters also provide support to the **Parish Office**: preparing and collating the parish bulletin and completing entries in the Register of Deaths. Bernadette Harris is looking after Parish archives.

10 enquirers are registered with **Parish RCIA**. The group meets Thursdays 7pm St Gabriel's Parish Centre. Anna Krohn ANIMA Education is providing a 5-week introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Weekly meetings continue from Thursday 11 September until Easter 2026. RCIA leaders are invited to attend Regional Network Gathering St Francis of Assisi Parish Mill Park Wednesday 8 October.

Growing Good Men

Friday 12 – Sunday 14 September

CYC Forest Edge 405 McKenzie Rd Neerim East

familycamps@cyccministries.org.au

Experientially based program for fathers and sons to strengthen their relationships and to explore important issues of growing into manhood. Men Alive and CYC Forest Edge offer a program designed for fathers or significant male role models and teenage boys in high school years 7-10. The weekend experience explores: the importance of the father-son bond for both generations; the journey of adolescence; becoming a man; dealing with anger; friendship with girls and women; the quest for identity; rite of passage. \$280.

Christus Rex Pilgrimage

Thursday 23– Sunday 26 October.

St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat
to Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo.
Information/register: crex.org

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

Available at Piety Stall
St Gabriel's & St Raphael's

It's full steam ahead to this year's **Australian Catholic Youth Festival**, with the event now less than 100 days out. Thousands of young people are expected to descend on Melbourne for the three-day festival, which will have more than 100 workshops on offer. Pilgrims will be encouraged to 'choose their own adventure' by selecting from workshops exploring how to pray, how to live our faith authentically and how to wrestle with the big questions of life, while hearing from passionate experts, inspiring young leaders and Australia's bishops. acyf.org.au

Ordination to the Priesthood

Deacons Joshua McDermid, Tuong Nguyen, Ian Vergal
Saturday 20 September 10am
St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne

Anniversary of Ordination

Fr Jossy Kizhakkethalackal
11 September 2010
Congratulations!

WITNESS: The Future Catholic Church in Australia Philippa Martyr Connor Court Publishing

Catholic academic, author and journalist Dr Philippa Martyr has produced a timely, no-holds barred analysis of the current state of the Catholic Church in Australia and what is needed if it is to survive in any meaningful form beyond 2050. She has drawn on a vast array of surveys, research findings and interviews to document her concerns and underpin her recommendations.

By 2050, if no effective remedial measures are taken, the current Mass attendance rate of 8 per cent (down from 15 per cent in 2001) will be at least halved, with just small pockets of practicing Catholics remaining.

In recent decades, as governments across the country continue to legislate anti-religious policies, Australia's Catholic leaders seem largely invisible. Long gone are the days of the outspoken Daniel Mannix, while the vicious persecution of the late Cardinal George Pell highlighted what can befall any Catholic leader who dares speak out against the anti-Christian narrative.

Dr Martyr writes: "The Church in Australia is in real crisis, but no one seems very concerned about this. The Catholic schools are full, the hospitals are financially solvent, and we're getting good returns from the diocesan real estate portfolios. But we're also showing a massive decline in the area that really matters – actual human beings going to Mass, which is the most robust external measure of our relationship with God as a pilgrim people. Our last national count of Sunday Mass attendance in 2021 turned up a figure of just 417,000 [out of over five million nominal Catholics]." She adds: "There's a widespread lassitude in the Church in Australia today that was identified as long ago as 1999 by Archbishop (later Cardinal) George Pell. When asked, 'What is the biggest threat, in your opinion, to the Catholic Church today?', he replied, 'Oh, that we'll just merge into the background ... take on the colours of our society, and ... become the bland leading the bland.'"

According to Martyr, the future of the Catholic Church in Australia will depend on its ability to witness – hence her book's title. For Australian Catholics, surviving as a Church most likely will mean "increasingly looking different and acting differently from the culture around us ... turning off the tap of government money ... enduring an increasing rate of soft and perhaps hard persecution from the State".

The underlying cause of the crisis, she believes, has been "a crisis of faith" with nominal Catholics not attending Mass because they no longer see this as obligatory, nor do they accept or even know about many of the Church's teachings. Much of this is a legacy of decades of dumbed-down catechetics and liturgies. Even when I was involved in Catholic teacher education back in the 1980s, it was evident that most applicants were ignorant of basic Church teachings and had no idea of the distinctiveness of Catholicism or the fundamental purpose of Catholic schools.

It's not surprising that generations of Catholics since the 1970s have been mostly indistinguishable on their moral outlook from their opposite numbers from state and non-Catholic schools.

Martyr emphasises that faithful Catholic family life has to be fostered: "A firmly on-side family environment can also give the children protection against the ill effects of lukewarm Catholic schools and cringe-making youth Masses."

This prospect is not helped by the sharp decline in Catholic marriages. In 1970, there were about 31,000 involving Cath-

olics; in 2021 there were only 5,460.

Martyr concludes that if we are to have a future Catholic Church in Australia made up largely of practising Catholics, then the best place to start is with young married Catholics who are "on the same page about religion".

They are more likely to raise their children to go to Mass and Confession, and to believe and live like Catholics. Martyr offers other suggestions, such as redrawing diocesan and parish boundaries for a proper distribution of priests in accord with the locations of the few remaining Mass attendees.

This, she concludes, "protects our core business, which should be to provide the sacraments to the Catholics who want them and need them. Then we can recatechise our flock and equip them for effective evangelization ... The bishops in Australia need to identify these and invest in them if they want the Church to have a future beyond 2050."

Michael Gilchrist NewsWeekly 17/5/25

Faithful Manhood I

A Lutheran minister before entering the Catholic Church, Dr Peter Holmes now works in counselling and teaching. He has lectured in Scripture and Theology and recently completed his PhD on the theology of masculinity. Peter is married with eight children, and lives in Sydney, Australia.

*Dr Holmes, tell us about your book,
Redeeming Masculinity:
A Catholic Theology of Masculinity.*

The book began with a question I encountered years ago, which made me realize there were gaps in my Christian formation. I noticed that masculinity is often misunderstood or dismissed in today's culture.

When I looked for clear Catholic teaching on masculinity, I was surprised by how little had been said.

There's a common assumption that theology is inherently patriarchal, yet explicit reflection on masculinity is scarce. When I couldn't find what I was looking for, someone suggested, *Why don't you write it?* This book aims to start a Catholic conversation on masculinity. It outlines what the Church has already said - especially through Pope St. John Paul II - then highlights what's missing, and finally offers a reasoned proposal for further reflection. My goal isn't to share personal opinions, but to build on Church teaching through a rational and faithful approach. Even if readers don't agree with all my conclusions, I hope it encourages deeper dialogue.

*How has your understanding
of this topic evolved over time?*

Some fundamentals have stayed the same - like the truth that all masculinity, like all humanity, ultimately points back to God, and that masculinity and femininity are central to understanding the human person.

What has changed is my awareness of how far-reaching the topic is. It touches every part of life - not just marriage or workplace dynamics, but all relationships. If we reduce it to moral or sociological issues, we miss its deeper significance.

Genesis introduces humanity through masculinity and femininity and their relationship. These are key to how we image God and reflect the love of the Trinity. Every relationship draws on that spousal, self-giving love we're created for. St John Paul II said our bodies are prophetic - they proclaim God's love.

Our relationships should reveal that God is loving, forgiving, and self-giving. People should see in us a reflection of the Trinity.

Messenger of St Anthony September 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord,
and your judgement is right;
treat your servant
in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 9:13-18

What man indeed can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89(90):3-6,12-14,17

**R: In every age, O Lord,
you have been our refuge**

You turn men back to dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

R

You sweep men away like a dream,
like the grass which
springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.

R

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

R

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

R

SECOND READING

Philemon 9-10,12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. Howev-

er, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Luke 14: 25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son, is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the light of the world,
says the Lord;
whoever follows
me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

Recently Deceased

Fr Sebastian Thundathil CST,
Dominic Tanti, Lucy Tombino,
Annibale Girolami, Caterine Cerra

Anniversaries & Remembrance

Joseph & Lorenza Deguara,
Arturo Tomasiello, Carmelo Pino,
Antonio Dimasi, Ferdinando Gigliotti,
Antonio Amore, Giuseppe Zappone,
Nicola Annetta, Domenico Piccone,
Giuseppe Bolzon, Famiglia Brunetti,
Frank & Bartolo Rando, Bartolomeo
Lagreca, Janez & Matteo Zele,
Antonio Grahor, Cavedon Family,
Valmorbida Family, Di Toro Family,
Antonio & Achille Di Guglielmo,
Maria, Domenico & Sigismondo Romano,
Pasquale Diritto, Ashely Abuthan,
Michele, Francesco & Teresa Butera
Saverio & Rosa Nicolazzo

Next weekend

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Processional Hymn AOV 184

Chorus: All the earth proclaim the Lord,
Sing your praise to God.

Serve you the Lord, heart filled with gladness.
Come into his presence singing for joy! *Chorus*

Know that the Lord is our creator.
Yes, he is our Father; we are his own. *Chorus*

We are the sheep of the green pasture,
For we are his people; he is our God. *Chorus*

Enter his gates bringing thanksgiving,
O enter his courts while singing in praise. *Chorus*

Our Lord is good, his love enduring;
His word is abiding now with us all. *Chorus*

Honour and praise be to the Father,
The Son, and the Spirit, world without end. *Chorus*

Liturgy of the Word

Wisdom 9:13-18 Philemon 9-10,12-17 Luke 14:25-33

Psalm Response

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws. Alleluia!



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Giuseppe Zappone, Nicola Annetta, Domenico Piccone,
Giuseppe Bolzon, Famiglia Brunetti, Saverio & Rosa Nicolazzo,
Frank & Bartolo Rando, Bartolomeo Lagrega,
Janez & Matteo Zele, Pasquale Diritto, Ashley Abuthan,
Antonio Grahor, Cavedon Family, Antonio & Achille Di Guglielmo,
Valmorbida Family, Famiglia Di Toro,
Maria, Domenico & Sigismondo Romano,
Michele, Francesco & Teresa Butera

Next weekend Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4-9 Philippians 2:6-11 John 3:13-17

Preparation of the Gifts AOV 74

Chorus: Come to the water,
you who are thirsty!
Though you have nothing,
I bid you come and be filled
with the goodness I have to offer!
Come! Listen! Live!

Why spend your money on what cannot fill
the emptiness deep in your heart?
Listen to my word and you will enjoy
goodness and peace in your heart! *Chorus*

Just as the heavens are high above earth,
my ways and thoughts beyond you!
Call me your Father and know I am near!
I will be Father to you! *Chorus*

Just as the rain falls to water the earth,
just as a seed becomes bread.
my word upon you can never return
until my longing is filled! *Chorus*

Holy Communion AOV 125

Chorus: Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

I am the bread of life,
the true bread sent from the Father. *Chorus*

Your ancestors ate manna in the desert
but this is the bread come down from heaven. *Chorus*

Eat my flesh and drink my blood,
and I will raise you up on the last day. *Chorus*

Anyone who eats this bread,
will live forever. *Chorus*

Recessional Hymn AOV 131

Sing of the Lord's goodness,
Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us,
his love is forever,
faithful to the end of days.

Chorus: Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.

Praise him with your singing,
praise him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp;
praise him with the cymbals,
praise him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days. *Chorus*