

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

Clergy: Fr G Pritchard, Dcn F Corroya

Parish Office *Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm*

1 Viola St Reservoir 3073 0487 116 154 reservoir@cam.org.au

Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary

79 Wilson Blvd Reservoir North 3073 dominicansistersopmolo@gmail.com

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

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YR A 15 FEBRUARY 2026

WEEKEND MASSES & RECONCILIATION

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

*St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir East
Tuesday 9.30am*

*St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North
Thursday, Friday 9.15am*

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



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

ASH WEDNESDAY 18 February

*Masses & distribution of ashes
9.15am St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North
7pm St Gabriel's Reservoir
Ash Wednesday & Good Friday
are days of fasting and abstinence from meat*

The parish program for Lent can be found on page 3.

Way of the Cross/ Via Crucis

commences this Friday 20 February.

Next Sunday 22 February

our parish RCIA candidates participate in the
Rite of Election 3pm St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne.

Project Compassion boxes available at each of our churches. A Project Compassion envelope for 1-off donations is included with today's parish bulletin. Project Compassion unites thousands of Australians each Lent in a powerful movement of generosity and hope.



Parishes across Australia are invited to begin a renewed journey of prayer, formation and mission as the Church in Australia prepares to host the International Eucharistic Congress Sydney 2028 Eucharist28.

The official Eucharist28 website eucharist28.org is now live and offers a growing collection of catechetical and devotional resources.

Eucharist28 offers an opportunity for every parish to contribute to a shared national journey of faith, as we prepare to come together as a Church and welcome Pope Leo and the world to Australia in October 2028.

**Nationwide Holy Hour & Benediction
to prepare for
the International Eucharistic Congress
Sydney 2028**

**Sunday 1 March 2026 3pm
St Gabriel's Church Reservoir**



PARISH RCIA
Thursday 7pm
St Gabriel's Parish Centre
Reservoir

Rite of Election Sunday 22 February
3pm St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne
Scrutinies I, II, III Sundays March 8, 15, 22
St Gabriel's Church Reservoir

ST GABRIEL'S PIETY STALL

St Paul's Sunday Missal \$35
St Paul's Weekday Missal \$90
Daily Mass Book \$25
Australian Children's Mass Book \$8
New Community Catholic Bible \$35



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

- 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

CATHOLIC MEN FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne 10am
melbournemensrosarycrusade.com

ST GABRIEL'S THEATRE GROUP

Auditions: Sunday 30 August 6pm
Rehearsals commence 6 September
Enquiries: Judy.judeome@hotmail.com

YOUNG PARISHIONERS

Our next get together Sunday 1 March St Gabriel's Parish Centre Reservoir 10.30am including light lunch. We welcome Deacon Correya who will share some ideas on making a good Lent. \$10 working \$5 non working/student.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Tuesday 17 March 7.30pm St Joseph the Worker church Reservoir North. We hope to have a Mass for parish volunteers early this year.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Preparation for Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Classes commence March 2026. Families who wish their children to receive these Sacraments must register at St Gabriel's Parish office.
reservoir@cam.org.au

**DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY**

Srs Jessica and Josefina offer ministry to families, the sick and housebound, aged care homes, outreach to Baptism and Funeral families, women, Legion of Mary, Catholic Women's League, outings, retreats, reflections, first Sunday young parishioners. Sr May Flor is engaged 4 days per week at St Monica's College Epping.

**VENERABLE MARY OF
THE SACRED HEART GLOWREY
Friday 13 March**

The Catholic Women's League and Mary Glowrey Museum, present a celebration of
Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey,
5pm Mass of Thanksgiving
St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne.
6pm presentation and reflections
on the faith, courage and legacy
of this remarkable Australian woman.
Cathedral Hall 22 Brunswick St Fitzroy
Register: trybooking.com/DIWCI by 10 March 2026.

**TRUE, GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL:
PASSING ON THE FAITH**

Dr Andy Mullins Catholic Educator & Author
Friday 20 February 6.30pm

Parish Hall St Francis of Assisi Mill Park
The Catholic faith has been successfully passed from generation to generation for nearly 2000 years but suddenly, in the modern West, it seems so hard. Why has it become so challenging and how can we pass on the faith to our children? How can families, schools and the Church cooperate with the Holy Spirit to evangelize and catechize?
Tickets: classicalschoolmelbourne.com.au \$10 light dinner

**8th CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**



The Holy See has announced that plenary indulgences are granted to those who participate in a pilgrimage to any Franciscan church or any church named after St Francis. This includes St Francis church 326 Lonsdale St Melbourne and St Francis of Assisi church 290 Childs Rd Mill Park.

WAY OF THE CROSS / VIA CRUCIS Fridays of Lent

St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North
8.30am February 20, March 6, 20
7pm February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27
English / Italian

St Gabriel's Reservoir
8.30am February 27, March 13, 27

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Wednesdays of Lent

St Gabriel's Reservoir
8.30am February 25, March 11, 25

St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North
8.30am March 4, 18, April 1

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & NIGHT PRAYER Wednesdays of Lent

7pm *St Gabriel's Reservoir*

SISTERS OF ST ELIZABETH

Tuesday & Wednesday 10-11 March
St Gabriel's Parish Centre Reservoir
Morning coffee

Display of beautiful handmade religious items

4th SUNDAY OF LENT LAETARE

We celebrate the joyful Sunday of Lent
at weekend Masses 14-15 March

St Joseph the Worker
Coffee and cake

St Stephen of Hungary
Coffee and cake

St Gabriel's
Fresh Roast Mobile Café

REFLECTION MORNING

Presented by the Dominican Sisters
Thursday 19 March 9.15am Mass
St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North

LENT 2026 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Be inspired. Be refreshed! Be renewed!

For 40 days receive a short, practical and inspiring video
in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten
journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is free.
brucedownes.org/lent-2026-sign-up/



SOLEMNITIES

Tuesday 17 March
St Patrick

Thursday 19 March
St Joseph

Wednesday 25 March
Annunciation of the Lord

The ties that bind Jews and Christians II

Christians believe the Old Testament is scripture, inspired by God. When in his life and teaching Jesus discloses the new creation, he builds on everything in the Old Testament. Old Testament passages are constantly on his lips. Christians must regard the Old Testament with respect and reverence. Too often even Christians have absorbed a kind of insane caricature, that the God of the Old Testament is wrathful and unforgiving.

Of course, God is the same in the Old and the New Testament. God doesn't change. God can't change. From about the 4th century some Christians deceived themselves into believing the Jews had killed Christ, which is plainly un-true. Jesus was put to death by Roman authorities. They also convinced themselves that Jews were uniquely wicked because they rejected Jesus. This too is unjustified.

Christians and Jews believe many things in common. but also some different things. Believing Christians believe Jesus is the son of the living God, the second person of the triune Godhead the messiah, saviour of all humanity. Jews still await the messiah.

I believe Christianity has been overwhelmingly beneficial for humanity throughout history, but nothing more shames the Christian conscience than the spasmodic history of anti-Semitism. Adolf Hitler and the Nazis were violently anti-Christian and anti-church, but the long tradition of Christian anti-Semitism provided some of the backdrop for Nazi demonisation of Jews. Of course, throughout the war, many Christians did everything they could to help Jews. But for more than a century now, predating the Nazis, Christians have been coming to a fuller appreciation of everything they owe to the Jewish tradition. The Catholic Church definitively changed its emphasis, indeed even "developing" doctrine, at the second Vatican Council. *Nostra Aetate - In Our Time* - is perhaps the most beautiful document the council produced. Issued in October 1965, it concerns the relationship of Catholicism to non-Christian religions and declares that the Church "reveres the work of God in all the major religious traditions". This is not what is sometimes called religious indifference, the idea it doesn't matter what you believe. But it recognises God is generous in his gifts. All salvation comes through Christ, but this can be available to those who don't know that Christ is the son of God. but nonetheless move towards God, towards goodness, in their lives. It's a baptism of implicit desire. Christians spread the gospel because people are entitled to the truth. Christianity offers unique intimacy with God and roads to salvation. But God has made a compact with all his creation. Specifically, Catholic theology, in a position now widely shared among Christians, believes that God's specific compact with the Jewish people has never been broken, that God's promises to the Jewish people have never been withdrawn. In the words of *Nostra Aetate*, the Jewish people are "the good olive tree on to which the wild shoot of the Gentiles has been grafted". There is quite wide scriptural basis for this theological position.

In his letter to the Romans, St Paul, while lamenting that his fellow Jews have not chosen to follow Jesus, writes: "They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship and the promises." As with many things, Pope John Paul II defined and elaborated the evolving understanding of the Jewish role in human history, and in Christian history. During a visit to Australia in 1986, he famously declared: "The Catholic faith is rooted in the eternal truths of the Hebrew Scriptures and in the irrevocable covenant made with Abraham. We too faithfully hold these same truths of our Jewish heritage and look upon you as our brothers and sisters".

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING *Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

**R: Happy are they
who follow the law of the Lord!**

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **R**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may see
the wonders of your law. **R**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **R**

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 2: 6-10*

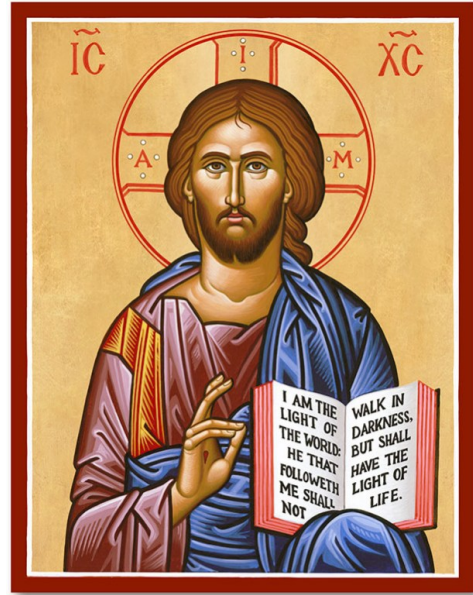
We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

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

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!



GOSPEL *Matthew 5:20-22,27-28,33-34,37*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Next weekend

1st Sunday of Lent Yr A

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Recently Deceased

Sr Claire Skehan RSM,
Nunziata La Greca, Areti Panopoulos
Nicolina Calabrese

Anniversary & Remembrance

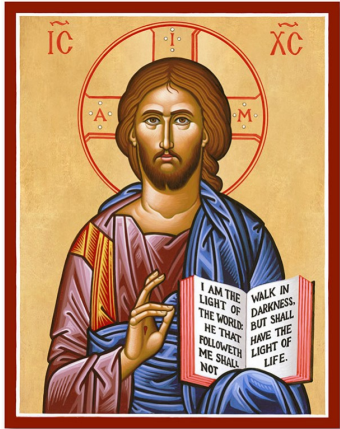
Domenica Cacciotti, Emilio Meco,
Morabito Family:
Pasquale, Giuseppe, Maria, Antonio, Gregorio,
Franco, Nicola, Teresa, Giovanni, Sarina,
Pietro, Serafina, Domenico
Mary Mercieca, Lina Vescio,
Irma & Agostino Covello

Processional Hymn CWB 543

Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfill.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses man's knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your Word.



Liturgy of the Word

Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21
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!

Jesus says, "If you would enter life, keep the commandments". Then he adds, "and come, follow me". Christianity is more than a correct life and keeping the commandments. Being a Christian is a living relationship to Jesus. A Christian unites himself deeply and personally with the Lord and with him sets out on the way that leads to true life. YOUCAT 348

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. IF I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him We does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.
St John Henry Newman +1890

Preparation of the Gifts GA 324

Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Living charity and steadfast love,
Living charity shows the heart of God.

Holy Communion CWB 291

Refrain: Grant to us, O Lord, a heart renewed;
Recreate in us your own Spirit, Lord!

Behold, the days are coming,
says the Lord our God,
when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel. Refrain

Deep within their being I will implant my law;
I will write it in their hearts. Refrain

I will be their God,
and they shall be my people. Refrain

And for all their faults I will grant forgiveness;
nevermore will I remember their sins. Refrain

Recessional Hymn CWB 101

This is a joyous, happy day;
we celebrate your gift of life.
Christ is with us, joy surrounds us.
Christ takes our sin and sets us free;
he fills our lives with endless life.
Christ is with us; Christ unites us.
Praise our Maker, praise the Spirit,
praise Christ Jesus.



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Mary Mercieca, Lina Vescio, Irma & Agostino Covello