

# ST RAPHAEL'S PARISH, West Preston



In partnership with St Gabriel's and St Stephen of Hungary,  
Reservoir and Reservoir East

St Raphael's Parish Office: 17 Hardy Street, Preston. 3072

Tel: 9470 2586 Email: prestonwest@cam.org.au

Website: straphaelswestpreston.org.au



## Joint Parish Priests:

Fr Greg Pritchard (Moderator) and  
Rev. Dr Simon Grainger

## Asst Priest:

Fr Aurelio Fragapane

Parish staff: Carol Hawkesford

A School Principal: Rosalba Squarci

School phone: 9478 8374

## MASSES-Weekends:

**Saturday:** 9:00 am, 6:00 pm (vigil),

**Sunday:** 9:00 am (Italian), 10:30 am

## Weekdays:

**Tues, Wed:** 4:00pm **Thurs, Fri:** 8:30 am

† † †

**ROSARY:** every Wednesday at 3:30pm  
Please join us in Our Lady's Chapel.

## LIVE STREAMING of MASS

**Sunday 10:30am Mass** is live streamed  
from St Raphael's Church and will be  
available for live viewing or downloading  
afterwards on:

<https://bit.ly/StRaphaelsMass>

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** 1st Friday of  
every month, the next one being  
Friday 5 April 2024 after the 8:30am Mass.

## LIVING GOSPEL PRAYER GROUP

(LGPG): Wednesdays at 1:30pm.

All Welcome

**BAPTISMS:** please contact parish to  
arrange. Baptisms normally take place  
following the 10:30am parish Mass each  
Sunday.

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 9:30am.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

The parish office is attended by volunteer  
staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays.  
You may contact the office at any time and  
leave a message on **9470 2586** and we  
will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Parish Bulletins

The current Parish bulletin can be viewed  
on the parish website:

[www.straphaelswestpreston.org.au](http://www.straphaelswestpreston.org.au)

Bulletin printed: Thurs 07/03/2024

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

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent [Year B]

10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

*My dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life", Jesus tells Nicodemus, and us, in this Sunday's Gospel reading from St John [3:14-21]. Those words are certainly great cause to rejoice on this Laetare, or Rejoice, Sunday, the midpoint of our Lenten season. The late Pope Benedict XVI told us that "we hear this comforting proclamation at a time when painful armed confrontation threatens the hope of humanity for a better future" and by it are reminded that "the Father's love reaches every human being who lives in the world .... Conscious of such great love, the human being can only open himself to an attitude of fraternal welcome towards his fellow human beings". There is much in the present political situation in the world to cast fear and doubt and alarm over people. But we as Christians are called to "Rejoice" because of this free gift of God's outpouring of love upon us which invites our outpouring of love upon those around us.*

*On many fronts the project of our partner parish relationship with St Gabriel's Reservoir and St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir East is making very good progress. We will shortly announce the details of the online training program for parish volunteers to finalise their Safeguarding credentials. There are still a few active volunteers who do not have Working with Children cards so please sort this out as quickly as possible. We will give you maximum assistance to complete the training program, which I quite acknowledge is a tedious but necessary process.*

*We continue through our Lenten season with actions of prayer and penance and fasting and almsgiving. Remember that Palm Sunday is approaching on 23/24 March. The palm branches for the church are being cut and I ask parishioners to bring olive branches to the church for the Vigil and Sunday Masses on 23/24 March.*

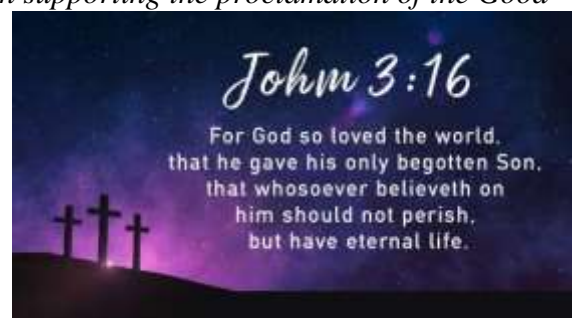
*Father Aurelio Fragapane is doing wonderful work as Chaplain of our St Raphael's Parish Primary School. He is giving weekly classes to the Confirmation candidates as well as doing the monthly First Friday school Masses. We are very fortunate to have been allocated Fr Fragapane and to have his Italian skills and gifts with children at the service of our parish and its school.*

*St Paul tells us in this Sunday's second reading from Ephesians: "God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy" [3:4-10]. Let us in turn be generous in supporting the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ here in West Preston.*

*With every prayer for God's  
richest blessings to be upon  
you and your families.*

*Fr Simon Grainger*

*Pax et Gratia*



	<b>Saturday 6:00PM Mass Ministers of Communion</b>	<b>Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Readers</b>
	<b>9:00AM Italian Mass Ministers of Communion</b>	<b>9:00AM Italian Mass Readers</b>
	<b>10:30AM Mass Ministers of Communion</b>	<b>10:30AM Mass Readers</b>

**WE PRAY FOR:**

*That the Sick may experience the healing touch of God.*

*We pray especially for:*

Giuseppina, Cabrini, Dorothy, Marie, Raffaella, Claudia, Cesarina, Pauline, Graeme, Patrick, Luana, Gitti, Coradina, Angela, Tanya, Narelle, Trish, Grace, Marelle, Peter, Isidoro, Anne, Kevin, Daniella, Aemon, Nelson, Adam, Joseph, Grazie, Frances, Mariana

*We pray for our beloved dead, especially those we love:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Erminio Cicotelli (Died 17/2 Brother of Anna Sissini)

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Sofia Virginia Rosa (1 month Sun 10/3 at 9am Mass)  
Giusepe Paolucci & Feice D'Agostino (Sun 10/3 at 9am Mass)  
*that they may enter joyfully into God's kingdom.*



**ST RAPHAEL'S COMMUNITY LUNCH**

**Parish Luncheon:** Thursday 14 March at 12 noon. This is Fr Simon's last parish luncheon. All are welcome.  
Venue: Darebin RSL, 402 Bell St, Preston..



**LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION:**

**Thanksgiving:** \$631.50

**Presbytery:** \$355.50

Many thanks to all our contributors



**A REMINDER...** The donation box for the decoration of our altar is at the rear of the church. *Many thanks to those who contribute.*



**Piety Stall**

The piety stall stocks small gifts and cards for **all Sacraments** as well as various religious items at reasonable prices. Please take the time to have a look after any of the weekend Masses. Thank you.



**Welcome before Baptism**

The Parish introduces to St Raphael's community **Leonardo Larman & Posie Larman**, in preparation for their Baptisms on 17 March.



**SPECIAL COLLECTION:** There will be a special collection on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March towards a gift for Fr Simon Grainger as he is leaving the Parish. Please give generously. Thank You.



**Parish Prayer:**

Generous God,

We give our thanks to you for the gifts you have given to us – our life, our family and friends – time, talents and material possessions.

Above all we are grateful for the Father's unconditional love, for Jesus Christ our Savior and for the Holy Spirit who nourishes us with every spiritual gift.

All we have comes from you. May we remember this always and rejoice in your generosity.

Sustain us on our Christian journey, so that we may constantly renew our relationship with you and all people of our parish community.

Grant us the strength and courage to become better followers of Jesus: to be disciples and to live the Christian Way of Life. Amen  
St Raphael healer and guide protect us.



**THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS**



*Pride is the 'great queen' of all the vices. Those who give in to this vice are far from God, and it takes time and great effort to correct this evil, more than any other battle to which the Christian is called.*



**Solemnities / Feasts / Memorials of the Week**

**Monday 4 March** St Casimir  
**Thursday 7 March** Sts Felicity & Perpetua, Martyrs  
**Friday 8 March** St John of God, Religious  
**Saturday 9 March** St Frances of Rome, Religious



**MASS & RECONCILIATION**

**9am Weekday Mass** at

**St Gabriel's:** Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

**St Stephen's:** Wednesday 9.30am

**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 and 10.30am Masses

**Weekday Masses:**

**Tuesday & Wednesday:** 4pm

**Thursday & Friday** 8.30am

**Saturday:** 9am

**Holy Rosary:** Wednesday 3.30pm

Reconciliation Saturday 9.30am



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

**Fr Aurelio Fragapane** will be leading Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent as follows:-

**St Raphael's West Preston-Stations of the Cross in English and Italian 7.00pm each Friday of Lent until Palm Sunday then 9.30am on Good Friday.**



**Liturgical Ministers Roster**

The current Liturgical Ministers roster concluded on 25 February and the next roster will be prepared shortly. Please advise if you are able to continue as reader or Minister of Communion.

The next roster will commence 3 March and conclude 28 July.

Please contact - [prestonwest@cam.org.au](mailto:prestonwest@cam.org.au). Thank you.

## LENT 2024

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT: Holy Rosary

St Stephen's Reservoir East 9am

St Raphael's Preston West 3.30 pm

FRIDAYS OF LENT: Way of the Cross / Via Crucis

St Gabriel's Reservoir 8.30am

St Raphael's Preston West 7pm English / Italian

The Scrutinies

Sundays 3, 10, 17 March

10am Mass St Gabriel's

NEW LIFE IN GOD'S SPIRIT

8 week seminar presented by Living Gospel Prayer Group

Wednesdays 1.30pm at St Raphael's Church Preston West

Inquiries: Marijana 0422 340 675

MERCY MELBOURNE PRAYER & CONFESSION

Tuesday 19 March 6pm—9pm

Solemnity of St Joseph: The partnered Parishes offer the following program as our participation in Mercy Melbourne, along with Parishes across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

7pm Mass / Eucharistic Adoration / Reconciliation

St Gabriel's Reservoir & St Raphael's Preston West

4th SUNDAY OF LENT: LAETARE

Fresh Roast Mobile Café :Sunday 10 March 10am Mass at St Gabriel's

## HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Weekend 23-24 March

St Stephen's Reservoir East Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass

St Gabriel's Reservoir Sunday 10am Mass

St Raphael's Preston West Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 9am Italian Mass 10.30am Mass

Includes Blessing of palms and procession

Holy Thursday 28 March

St Gabriel's 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

9.30pm Night Prayer

St Raphael's Preston West

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 29 March

Way of the Cross

St Stephen's Reservoir East 10am

St. Raphael's Preston West 9.30am

The Lord's Passion

St Gabriel's Reservoir 3pm

St Raphael's Preston West 3pm

Holy Saturday 30 March

The Vigil of Easter

St Gabriel's Reservoir 8pm The Vigil of Easter

St Raphael's Preston West 8pm The Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday 31 March

St Gabriel's Reservoir 10am Mass

St Raphael's Preston West

9am Mass Italian 10.30am Mass

† † †

GLORY OF EUROPE TRIP:

We invite you on a remarkable journey to explore the

*Glory of Europe*. Immerse yourself in the rich history and profound spirituality of this

journey as we embark on a tour from Lisbon to Rome.

**Fr Simon Grainger** will be the Chaplain of the tour. The package cost is 5300 AUD exclusive of Airfare. The tour commences on 21 September 2024.

For enquiries or booking, please phone on 0459 726 360 or [nativitytoursau@gmail.com](mailto:nativitytoursau@gmail.com).



## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” - John 3:16. Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.



## The Unbreakable Strength of Women

**“The most powerful person in the world is the mother. She shapes the world in ways that no other force can.” – Marian Wright Edelman, American activist. On International Women’s Day, we honour women who are the backbone of society. They are the doctors, teachers, artists, scientists, mothers, daughters, and sisters who weave the fabric of our world with their strength, compassion, and unwavering spirit. Throughout history, women have defied limitations, broken barriers, and risen above societal constraints to contribute significantly in every field imaginable. But let us not forget the burdens they bear that are often unseen, of unfair expectations, discrimination, and their fight for equality. It is a testament to their resilience that they persevere, their spirits unbreakable, their love undimmed. In the sacred space of the Church, women serve as pillars of faith, leading with grace and nurturing the spirit. They teach us the true meaning of love, a love that is unconditional, selfless, and everlasting.**

**Dear God, we thank you for the women in our lives. Bless them with joy, strength, wisdom, and unwavering faith. May they continue to be the light that guides us and the love that inspires us. Amen\_ Sourced from [www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)**

☺ ☺ SHARE A JOKE ☺ ☺

*If you're not proud of your house, just put it up for sale and listen to the estate agent describe it to possible buyers.*

☺ ☺ ☺

*A woman was talking to one of the friends she played cards with: “For months I couldn’t imagine where my husband spent his evenings!”*

*The friend was itching to know the story and asked excitedly: “And what have you found out?”*

*The woman replied: “Well, one evening I went home and got the shock of my life ... there he was!”*

☺ ☺ ☺

*There once was a man named Mr Odd. He got so tired of people making jokes about his name, he wrote in his will that he did not want his name on his headstone. Years later, when people visited the cemetery where he was buried they saw the blank headstone and would say, “That’s odd!”*

☺ ☺ ☺



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

*And, striking their breast, they say:*  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault; therefore,  
I ask blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, all the  
Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## FIRST READING

*2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 136(137):1-6**

*The Response Is:*

***Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung up our harps.

***Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
‘Sing to us,’ they said,  
‘one of Zion’s songs.’

***Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither!

***Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys!

***Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

## SECOND READING

*Ephesians 2:4-10*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

***Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

## GOSPEL

*John 3:14-21*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:  
‘The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the  
desert, so that everyone who believes may  
have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:  
that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, /  
Creator of heaven and earth, / and in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our lord, / who  
was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born  
of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and  
was buried; / he descended into hell; / on  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
/ he ascended into heaven, / and is seated  
at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty; / from there he will come to  
judge the living and the dead. / I believe in  
the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church,  
/ the communion of saints, / the  
forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of  
the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

## RESPONSE TO PRAYERS OF THE

**FAITHFUL:** Lord, hear our prayer.

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection,  
until you come again.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,  
to praise the name of the Lord.

