

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 1 March 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

Bulletin printed: **Thurs 22/02/2024**

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

2nd Sunday of Lent [Year B]

25th February 2024

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

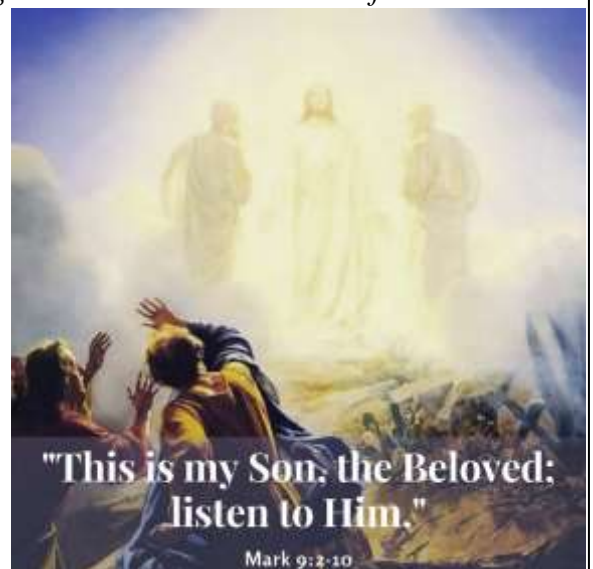
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him," God the Father tells us in this Sunday's Gospel reading from St Mark [9:2-10]. Pope Benedict XVI urged us, during Lent especially, "to listen to Christ, like Mary. To listen to him in his Word, contained in sacred scripture. To listen to him in the events of our lives...Finally, to listen to him in our brothers and sisters, especially in the lowly and the poor, for whom Jesus himself demands our concrete love". In our actions of prayer and penance and fasting and almsgiving we should listen to the voice of Jesus and allow Him to guide us on our way forward to the great celebration of the Resurrection at Easter.

We have three adults being confirmed at the Easter Vigil this year and at least three children making their First Eucharist on Easter Sunday at the 10.30am Parish Mass. In addition, some 40 children are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 16 March. Please keep all these people in your prayers as they take these important steps in their journey of faith in Jesus Christ.

This week the parish received the invoice for the new insurance arrangements for our church and presbytery following the closure of Catholic Insurances. Our bill for insuring our beloved parish church and the presbytery and covering all the necessary liabilities has now increased by 25% to \$16000. Fortunately, our very careful protection of our resources has enabled us to make this payment immediately. However, we can expect further increases next year and this highlights the need for our parishioners to take the issue of their contributions to the parish very seriously. If contributions do not increase, then we will soon use up all our savings in paying such accounts as these. St Paul tells us in this Sunday's reading from Romans [8:31-34] "With God on our side who can be against us". Let us take heart from those words and move confidently forward through this beautiful Season of Lent/Quaresima.

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

*Fr Simon Grainger
Pax et Gratia*



	Saturday 6:00PM Mass Ministers of Communion	Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Readers
10-Feb-24	Melvin Thomas	Kinga Harding
17-Feb-24	Angela De Fazio	Josephine Knight
24-Feb-24	Lucy Triulcio	Maureen O'Dwyer
	9:00AM Italian Mass Ministers of Communion	9:00AM Italian Mass Readers
11-Feb-24	Bruna D'Alessandro Carmel Colosimo	Maria Sanciole-Bell
18-Feb-24	Carmel Colosimo Carmela Molinaro	Vince Colosimo
25-Feb-24	Bruna D'Alessandro Carmela Molinaro	Anna Sisinni
	10:30AM Mass Ministers of Communion	10:30AM Mass Readers
11-Feb-24	Jennifer Singam Parker Maloney	Liza Powell
18-Feb-24	Parker Maloney	Vilay Khautakoun
25-Feb-24	Katalina To'oto'o Parker Maloney	Dean La Fontaine

† † †

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 17/2/24)

ANNIVERSARIES:

that they may enter joyfully into God's kingdom.

† † †

Please Note: Names on the Sick List

From now on, names of loved ones that are on the Sick List will remain on that list for 1 month only. The current names will remain on the Sick List until Sunday 3 March. If you wish your loved ones to remain on this list for another month, **you must tell Fr Aurelio before Tuesday 5 March 2024.** Thank you.

† † †

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION:

Thanksgiving: \$832

Presbytery: \$477

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.

† † †

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL • Our Parish conference meets on the 3rd Monday of the month 7.30pm Emmaus Room Final meeting. 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

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



In this season of #Lent, let us retreat into the "desert." May we dedicate time to silence to allow the voice of the Lord to speak to our heart and keep it in goodness.

† † †

† Solemnities / Feasts / Memorials of the Week †

Tuesday 27 February St Gregory Narek, Abbot, Doctor

Friday 1 March Autumn Ember Day – special day of prayer and penance

† † †

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 will conclude 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

Thank you.

A VOCATION VIEW: If you need an example of a person responding to a vocational call, look at Abraham - called in old age to leave his country, father a child, then asked to sacrifice the child. What faith! Vocation is a risky response to a unique call from God.

† † †

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Here I am!" he answered. - Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say "Here I am, Lord," when a neighbor needs our help, or when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support?

Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us.

Discipleship is not easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

† † †

Envelopes for requests for Masses to be offered for deceased / unwell loved ones

Please note: Written requests for Masses to be offered must be given to Fr Simon at least 4 days before the Mass is requested to be offered.

Those who have requested a Mass to be offered will need to speak with Fr Simon at least 5 minutes before the commencement of that Mass so that Fr Simon knows that they are present.

Please find at the back of the Church, envelopes for your use when requesting a Mass to be offered for deceased/unwell family members. Envelopes may be placed in the collection baskets.

† † †

DCchildren's activity pages

Please find in the foyer of the Church activity pages and pencils for young children to use quietly during Mass.



† † †

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

- Members of the Safeguarding Committee will soon contact all parishioners who serve as volunteers in Church ministries to confirm current WWCC registration. They will offer help to those who need to obtain WWCC or update their details.
- Parish volunteers eg: adult altar servers, readers, ministers of Holy Communion, music ministry as well as church employees must have a current WWCC card or equivalent.
- WWCC holders must complete a mandatory module online. Help will be provided to those that do not have a computer or for whom this may be difficult. If needs be, we will have a face to face session at St Gabriel's Parish Centre. The certificate is valid for 3 years.
- Please note that the proposed weekend Masses for signing of Safeguarding policies are now cancelled.
- The Safeguarding committee will provide a formal report on Safeguarding policies, activities and updates in the bulletin twice a year, along with notes from regular Safeguarding Committee meetings.
- Safeguarding policies will be added to Parish websites.

† † †

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.



♥ Loving thy neighbour ♥

"When Jesus said "love your neighbour," He knew your neighbour would act, look, believe and love differently than you. It's kind of the whole point.

While abstaining from meat on Fridays is a well-known practice, Lenten fasting encompasses a broader spectrum of sacrifices aimed at personal growth and spiritual discipline. This can include giving up daily indulgences such as your favourite coffee, refraining from gossip, or even choosing silence over music during car rides to allow for prayer and contemplation. Fasting during Lent is not just about personal sacrifice; it's a journey towards a closer relationship with God and a way to practice self-control and empathy. Meanwhile, almsgiving extends the Lenten spirit of sacrifice outward, reminding us of Jesus's call to serve others. It fosters a sense of solidarity with those in need, encouraging acts of kindness and generosity. Through these practices, Lent offers a meaningful path to reflect on our lives, deepen our faith, and connect with the broader community in a spirit of compassion and service.

Heavenly Father, melt my walls, break down my pride, Open my eyes to see the neighbours at my side. Let kindness bloom where differences divide, and fill my heart with love, like an overflowing tide. Amen Sourced from www.majellan.media

☺☺ SHARE A JOKE☺☺

One morning one of the residents of a local nursing home didn't show up for breakfast so my wife and I went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was okay. He said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so we went back to the dining area.

An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so my wife went back to his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the staircase but it was hard going for him. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work in unison. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him down the stairs and he ate his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, however, he was unable to get up the first step of the stairs, so an ambulance was called.

A couple of hours later we called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist began to giggle but said he was fine. He simply had trouble walking because he had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

☺☺☺

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

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.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you

have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 115(116):10,15-19

The Response Is:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and pr

aise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves.

There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

