

**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 A Fragapane, Dcn F Correya

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

**Please note: both Parish Offices are closed.**

*St Gabriel's reopens Wednesday 15 January 2025 9am-1pm*

*St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North*

*reopens Wednesday 29 January 2025 9am –5pm*

**HOLY FAMILY & EPIPHANY**  
**29. 12.2024 - 05.01.2025**

**NEW YEARS DAY**  
**Wednesday 1 January 2025**

St Gabriel's Reservoir  
9am Mass

St Joseph the Worker Reservoir North  
9am Mass

St Raphael's Preston West  
10.30am Mass

**TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY**  
9am Mass *St Gabriel's*

**NO MORNING MASS ON SATURDAY**

- 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 8am Reconciliation  
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.*

*No one, whether shepherd or wise man,  
can approach God here below  
except by kneeling before  
the manger at Bethlehem  
and adoring him  
hidden in the weakness of a new-born child.*

*Mary  
"remained a virgin in conceiving her Son,  
a virgin in giving birth to him,  
a virgin in carrying him,  
a virgin in nursing him at her breast,  
always a virgin" (St. Augustine):  
with her whole being  
she is "the handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38).*

**THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO ST LUKE I**

St Luke was not an Apostle but a missionary companion of St. Paul. The "beloved physician" is the only Gentile author in the New Testament and is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles, a continuation of his Gospel.

Since the Acts of the Apostles closes while St. Paul is under house arrest in Rome awaiting trial, it can be concluded that it was completed no later than AD 62, and likewise, the Gospel of St. Luke must have been composed before that time. St Luke also makes no mention of the widespread persecutions of Christians that took place in Rome after AD 64, nor does he refer to the destruction of Jerusalem AD70. These events could not reasonably have escaped mention had St. Luke, such a careful chronicler, known of them at the time that he wrote his Gospel.

St Luke addressed his Gospel to "Theophilus," which means "beloved of God." It is not clear whether this Theophilus was an individual or simply a fictitious figure used as a literary device to indicate all of God's faithful. The skillful narrative appears written to appeal to both Gentile and Jewish converts, often using Greek instead of Hebrew or Aramaic terms and making more allusions rather than direct citations of the Old Testament.

It is a Gospel for all Christians, whether in Judea or Samaria or dispersed throughout the Roman Empire.

# HOLY FAMILY

## FIRST READING

1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.' When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 83(84):2-3,5-6,9-10

**Response:** They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

## SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-2,21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Pass-over. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

# EPIPHANY

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; every one in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

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

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

**Response:** Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2: 1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**  
**All: Praise to you,  
Lord Jesus Christ**