

# 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 29/02/2024**

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

## *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent [Year B]*

*3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024*

*My dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*"God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength", St Paul tells us in this week's reading from 1 Corinthians [1:22-25]. As we journey through this serene season of Lent, doing our best to offer up works of prayer and penance and fasting and almsgiving, let us meditate on God's wisdom and his strength. As so many parishioners face difficult situations and difficult decisions about health and home and family let us have the good sense and humility to turn to our God who loves us and ask Him for His help and His healing.*

*This week the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary have announced the team of three Sisters who are to come and establish a convent here in our midst in St Raphael's Parish. Their leader will be Sister Jessica who speaks fluent Italian. All are qualified teachers and will bring great energy and skills and prayerfulness to their work among us. They will come to join us as soon as their visas have been granted. The St Raphael's presbytery will, from Easter, be undergoing a complete clean and repainting and modification inside to prepare it for occupation by the Dominican Sisters when they arrive. Arrangements are in hand to house Fr Aurelio Fragapane close by St Raphael's Parish Church. An announcement can be expected very soon on a new parish secretary for our partner parishes, working three days each week at Reservoir and one day at West Preston. The parish office for St Raphael's will continue to be in the front portion of the presbytery.*

*I am moving rapidly towards my retirement, with my last Mass officially being Easter Sunday 31 March. Between now and then I have a great deal to do to move my possessions out of the presbytery and place my affairs in order. However, I am doing as much visiting of the sick and homebound parishioners as I can whilst I am still here with you. If you would like a visit from me in the next four weeks, please ring to let me know.*

*Let us all work to proclaim the good news of Jesus, the "Christ who is the power and wisdom of God" [1 Corinthians 1:22-25].*

*Congratulations to dear Joseph Camilleri who celebrates his 90th birthday on Wednesday 6 March at the 4.00pm Mass that day.*

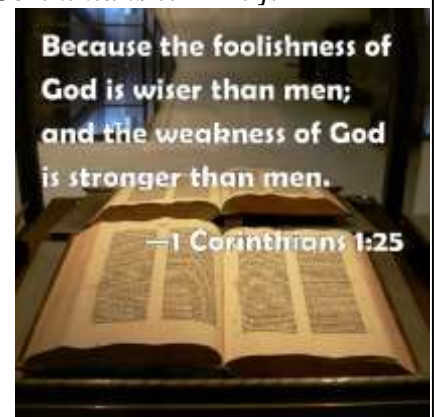
*With every prayer for God's richest blessings to be upon you and your families.*

*Fr Simon Grainger*

*Pax et Gratia*

**Because the foolishness of  
God is wiser than men;  
and the weakness of God  
is stronger than men.**

**—1 Corinthians 1:25**



	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:

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

Lucia Pane (1 Month, Thur 7/3 at 8.30am Mass)

Sofia Rosa (1 Month, Sun 10/3 at 9.00am 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:** \$571

**Presbytery:** \$401

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.

† † †

### Happy Birthday

We wish *Joseph Camilleri* a Happy 90th Birthday for

Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 4pm Mass

May God continue to bless you with all the wonderful things in life!



### 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



*Here is a good resolution for #Lent. Let us cultivate open outlooks and become "seekers of light," searching for the light of Jesus in prayer and other people*

† † †

### 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.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..." - Exodus 20:4*

*How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel.*

*Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God's help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.*

† † †  
**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



## A World Woven Together

**"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28, NRSV)**

**On World Day of Social Justice, we're invited to contemplate the beautiful tapestry of humanity. Each thread, unique in its colour and texture, contributes to the richness of the whole. Yet, sometimes threads fray, and discrimination tears at the very fabric of our communities. Today, let's mend those tears with kindness and understanding. Let's celebrate the vibrant colours of our differences, appreciating the strength and beauty each thread brings. By embracing inclusivity, we weave a world where everyone feels valued, respected, and safe to shine brightly. Remember, even the smallest act of compassion can mend a broken thread, fostering a world where everyone feels woven into the warmth of belonging. Loving God, grant strength to those facing hate. Surround them with compassion, and guide them towards a future filled with acceptance and peace. Amen.**

Sourced from [www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)

## ☺ ☺ SHARE A JOKE ☺ ☺

*A priest requested quotes from local painters to repaint the exterior of the parish hall. All the quotes were within a few dollars of one another, with the exception of one by a parishioner who had been in business for years and had an excellent reputation in the community. His quote was about half of his competitors, so naturally the priest gave him the job.*

*On the day he was to begin, the painter realised that he had miscalculated badly. Not wanting to lose face and the job, he decided to thin the paint with water. That way, he decided, he would be able to complete the job for the quoted price.*

*A week later he received a phone call from the priest, complaining that after recent rain half the paint had washed off. Being an honourable man (most of the time) and being a good Catholic, the painter went inside the church to pray about his dilemma, knowing that his business reputation was on the line.*

*"What can I possibly do, Lord?" prayed the disheartened painter.*

*In a loud voice God replied, "Repaint! Repaint and thin no more!"*





## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

## 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

*Exodus 20:1-17*

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 18(19):8-11**

*The Response Is:*

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb.

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

## SECOND READING

*1 Corinthians 1:22-25*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

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

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

## GOSPEL

*John 2:13-25*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you

going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

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

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King  
and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

