



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

9-10 September 2023

Dear Parishioners of St Gabriel and St Stephen of Hungary, Reservoir/Reservoir East and St Raphael Preston West,

My prayerful greetings to you in the Lord.

As you may be aware, the Parish Priest of St Raphael's Preston West, Fr Simon Grainger PP, is approaching retirement over the next 12 months.

Over recent months Fr Grainger and Fr Pritchard have worked closely together, and in consultation with you, to develop a plan as to how your respective parishes may operate together into the future. Their work together has been very much in the spirit of "Take the Way of the Gospel", the movement to revitalise parish life across the broader Archdiocese.

They have approached the Archdiocese with a proposal that the two parishes, St Gabriel and St Stephen of Hungary, Reservoir/Reservoir East, and St Raphael Preston West, work even more closely as twinned parishes. Under this arrangement, Fr Pritchard and Fr Grainger will jointly be the Parish Priests of both Parishes (what is called Pastors in solidum), with Fr Pritchard appointed the Moderator of the twinned parishes, until Fr Grainger's eventual retirement.

I am very pleased to endorse this new arrangement which will be launched with a concelebrated Mass in both parishes on 29 September.

The aim of this new arrangement is for the two parishes to work collaboratively with each other to reimagine your present way of doing things in the face of the changing circumstances in which we now live in order that:

- The mission of the Gospel is at the heart of our life, worship and outreach;
- Your local faith communities are arranged to allow them to flourish;
- Your faith communities are effectively resourced spiritually, ministerially and materially.

Please be assured of my prayers. I wish you every blessing in the works of your Parishes and entrust your ongoing efforts towards parish renewal into the hands of the Lord, as we together walk our journey of faith.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne