



as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through  
him.

He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness.  
When the Jews sent priests and Levites  
from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'  
he not only declared, but he declared quite  
openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they  
asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said.  
'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.'  
So they said to him, 'Who are you?' We must  
take back an answer to those who sent us.  
What have you to say about yourself?' So  
John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the  
Pharisees, and they put this further  
question to him, 'Why are you baptising if  
you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and  
not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise  
with water; but there stands among you –  
unknown to you – the one who is coming  
after me; and I am not fit to undo his  
sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany,  
on the far side of the Jordan, where John  
was baptising.

### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the  
Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a  
witness to speak for the Light'. We  
discover in this Gospel that this light is  
embodied in Jesus Christ, most  
graphically portrayed in the  
Transfiguration when Christ's body is  
radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
the One who came to liberate human  
beings from the many dark captivities  
which imprison them, the One who  
vanquished the inky blackness of the  
tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of  
this Divine Light. At baptism, this is  
symbolised by the lighting of a small  
candle from the great Easter candle  
which is sung into the church on the  
Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the  
Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to  
'The Light' is not to be a private matter  
between 'me and God'. No, like John,  
we must bear witness to 'The Light' by  
being instruments of His power to  
dispel the darkness which can  
enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to  
commit ourselves to fulfil the promise  
of our baptismal candle so that we  
might more authentically celebrate the  
birth of the Divine Light come into  
human history.

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### Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

13 December 2020

#### First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the  
poor,

to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,

freedom to those in prison;

to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,

my soul rejoices in my God,

for he has clothed me in the garments of  
salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,

like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,

like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,

as a garden makes seeds spring up,

so will the Lord make both integrity and

praise

spring up in the sight of the nations.'

#### Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) *My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her  
nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me  
blessed. (R.)

2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)

3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

#### Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and  
for all things give thanks to God, because  
this is what God expects you to do in Christ  
Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the  
gift of prophecy with contempt; think before  
you do anything – hold on to what is good  
and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect  
and holy; and may you all be kept safe and  
blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the  
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has  
called you and he will not fail you.

#### Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the  
poor.*

*Alleluia!*

#### Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,

### IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### SICK

We pray for all who are sick in our Parish community.

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Tran Thi Tam, John Allen (in Ireland)

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Don McConville, Joseph Grbac, Francesco Favata, Tony Park, Felice Mangion, Elena & Antonio Banifach, Mary & Frank Falzon, Tony Park, Ante Stipanac

### BAPTISM AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*James Nguyen*

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*Lucia Maio*

We welcome these children into our Parish Community. Please pray for them and their families.

### PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you all for your support. For those who prefer to, online donations can be made as follows:-

#### Presbytery Collection – 1<sup>st</sup> Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C BSB: 083 347 Account No. 66541 7521 Reference as your first initial then surname, or remain anonymous

#### Church Collection – 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 53530 4676 Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

### BIBLE DIARIES 2021 'JOY OF THE GOSPEL'

Reflections on the Daily Gospel, easy to read layout, full texts of lectionary readings for all days, daily saints, prayers for various occasions. For sale in the narthex - \$15 each.

### NEW BOOK BY ADRIAN COMMADEUR

Adrian has a new book out "Faith for Today – Catholic Faith for a New Generation". We congratulate Adrian on his wonderful achievement. If you wish to purchase a copy for \$10, please speak with Adrian.

### CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Envelopes are available in the current set of Thanksgiving Envelopes and in the narthex.

### PARISH NEWS

Numbers at Masses are now subject only to the density quotient and distancing requirements which means we can now welcome 162 people inside our Church at each Mass. Prior bookings are essential. On entry to the narthex, your name will be confirmed.

Face coverings/masks are no longer mandatory but must be carried if the 1.5m social distancing cannot be maintained. *If possible, please continue wearing your mask inside the Church.*

Please sanitise your hands before entering the narthex.

Weekend Mass will continue to be streamed until the end of 2020.

Reconciliation will be held Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.00pm and 4 priests will be available to take Confessions.

### MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS ANNUAL APPEAL – 12/13 DECEMBER 2020

Thank you for your support which has, over the years, made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has been provided in clean water, health, education and improved living standards to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating. **A collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend.** Please visit <https://mom.org.au>

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL 'GIVING TREE'

If you can, please take a tag and purchase a gift or gift card and return to the tree by next weekend. Gifts will be distributed by Vinnies to those less fortunate than ourselves.

### CHRISTMAS MASS VOLUNTEERS

If you can volunteer, please contact the Parish Office by Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. We will need Altar Servers, Greeters/Door Attendees, Ushers, Cleaners and Readers for all our Christmas Masses.

### CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

Donations for the purchase of flowers for our Altar at Christmas would be appreciated.



### CHRISTMAS AT ST PETER'S 2020 The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.00pm  
(No need to pre-register but you will be required to leave your contact details)

*Confessions by appointment at other times.*

### Christmas Masses

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil Family Mass at 5.00pm  
with Carols from 4.30pm

Christmas Vigil Family Mass at 7.00pm  
with Carols from 6.30pm

*Encouraging all children to come dressed as Angels  
or Shepherds*

Christmas Vigil Mass at 9.00pm with Carols  
from 8.30pm

Christmas Mass at Midnight at 12.00am  
with Carols from 11.30pm

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Mass during the Day at 8.30am

Christmas Mass during the Day at 10.30am

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December**  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
**Normal Weekend Timetable**

**New Year's Day – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January**  
2021 - Morning Mass at 9.15am

### CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKINGS

A booking is required for each person attending a Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day Mass to ensure seating availability, and if required, details to assist with contact tracing. Bookings open Tue, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNOYS> and close Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm or when capacity is reached for each Mass. If you don't have computer access, please call the Parish Office from Wednesday to register your place.

### ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue

Keilor East Vic 3033

Parish Priest: Rev. Arockia Manoharan  
Sebastian msfs

Parish Secretary: Helena Meredith

Phone: 03 9337 4141

Email: [keiloreast@cam.org.au](mailto:keiloreast@cam.org.au)

Website:

<http://pol.org.au/keiloreast/Home.asp>

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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

### ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ms Linda Tarraran

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email:

[principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au)

Administration: Ms Belinda McPherson &  
Mrs Sherrill Johnson

### CONFIRMATION AT ST PETER'S

We congratulate the Grade 6 children who were Confirmed on Friday and to the Candidates who will be Confirmed on Monday. May they be empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**ST PETER'S COMMUNITY VIRTUAL ART SHOW 2020** Art Show is now available to view on the school website <http://www.spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au/>

Thank you to all who entered their artwork.

### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Wishing all students, teachers and families a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year. May God Bless You All.

*The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.*