



he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy.

No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence.

This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.

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PARISH OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

EAST KEILOR

27 December 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – Year B

Volume 41, Number 49



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B

27 December 2020

First Reading Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! (R.)
2. Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. (R.)
3. Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)
4. He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

*In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Lk 2:22-40

(or Shorter form Lk 2:22. 39-40)

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Alberto Bordignon

ANNIVERSARIES

John Chalabi, Zora Ivkovic, Pero Ivkovic, Antonina & Costantino Bergonzo, Favata family, Rocca family, Meraviglia family

PARISH SUPPORT

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

Presbytery Collection – 1st 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 – 2nd 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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL 'GIVING TREE'

Thank you to all who took a tag and purchased a gift for a child this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated towards our Christmas Altar Flowers.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES

Many thanks to all the volunteers who delivered our Parish Christmas Cards to many letter boxes in East Keilor.

New Year's Blessings

Happy New Year to all St Peter's Parishioners, their families and friends.

May 2021 be a year full of faith, love, peace and good health.

May God bless you all.

Fr Arockia Sebastian

CHRISTMAS 'THANK YOU'

Our parish is built on, and is sustained by, many thousands of hours of volunteered time. Volunteers are the lifeblood of parish life and we are more than grateful for the contribution of all our generous and committed volunteers. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers at St Peter's Parish.

On a personal note, I am very grateful to all parishioners who remembered me at Christmas and who sent greeting cards or gifts. A big thanks to each and every one of you. I will keep you all in my prayers.

Fr Arockia Sebastian

MASS TIMES AT ST PETER'S FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:

Friday 1st January 2021 – New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9.15am Mass

7.00pm Mass and Adoration.

Weekdays: Tuesday-Friday at 9.15am. Please note there will be no morning Mass on Tuesday, 29th December due to a funeral in our Church. There will be Morning Mass on Wednesday 30th & Thursday 31st December.

From Monday, 4th January until Friday, 8th January there will be no morning Mass. Weekday Masses resume Tuesday, 12th January 2021 at 9.15am.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass, 8.30am & 10.30am Sundays.

Sunday 5.00pm Mass resumes Sunday, 7th February.

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

www.melbournecatholic.org

PARISH OFFICE will be open Tuesday, 29 December and Tuesday 5th January.

Parish Office will then be closed from Wednesday 6th January and reopens on Wednesday, 27th January 2021. This is the last Parish Bulletin for 2020. Next Bulletin will be printed on 31/01/21.

MASS BOOKINGS

Weekend Mass bookings are still required. If you do not have computer access, during the month of January only, you may add your name and contact details on arrival at the Church.

Please bring your mask with you and keep a physical distance of at least 1.5 metres.

Please do not come to Mass if you are feeling unwell.

All online bookings for weekend Masses 2/3 January until 23/24 January open the Monday prior to the weekend of the Mass.

Bookings for Masses for the 2/3 January 2021 close at 3.00pm on Saturday, 2nd January. The link to book in is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNTPB>

Bookings for Masses for the 9/10 January 2021 close at 3.00pm on Saturday, 9th January. The link to book in is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNTPC>

Bookings for Masses for the 16/17 January 2021 close at 3.00pm on Saturday, 16th January. The link to book in is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNTPE>

Bookings for Masses for the 23/24 January 2021 close at 3.00pm on Saturday, 23rd January. The link to book in is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNTPG>

LITURGICAL MINISTERS CONTACT & PREFERENCE FORMS

Please return your form as soon as possible. The next Roster will commence in February. If you have any away dates in the first half of 2021, please contact Helena at the Parish Office by email.

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x

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

Administration: Ms Belinda McPherson & Mrs Sherrill Johnson

SCHOOL RESUMES FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY 2021

Years 1 – 6 Return

ST PETER'S COMMUNITY VIRTUAL ART SHOW 2020

The Art Show is now available to view on the school website. Click on the Home page and press enter to view the Show. Please be patient as it takes a little while to download and is well worth viewing:

<http://www.spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.a/>

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.