

**Gospel Jn 3:14-21**

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world

not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light

because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it,

for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth

comes out into the light,

so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

How does God picture us? St Paul reveals one of God's favourite ways of regarding us.

'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life as from the beginning He had intended us to live it.'

Just as an artist respects the medium he or she is working in, whether it be oils or crayon, so too God respects us as human beings with free will. Which is why His works of art don't always look the way He intended!

Now, if one has a work of art in the house, a picture or print that means a lot to you, or perhaps the first sketch by a child, do you put it in the darkest corner of the room? Or do you allow just enough light to fall on it so as to reveal how terrific it is, why it gives you pleasure? Of course, the latter.

Now, if you and I are God's work of art, God wants exactly the same. He wants us to be revealed in the light. What sort of light? Christ our Light.

Of course, it might be necessary for the Light to dispel some darkness, some shadow dimension of our lives. In this regard Christ is a healing Light, but this is so that he might illuminate us in a way which more clearly reveals the love which the Divine Artist has for His creation.

We might take a moment to pray for the courage to expose ourselves to Christ's healing light this Lent to be more beautifully illuminated at Easter.

mtate@bigpond.com

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Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B**14 March 2021****First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23**

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke: through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

*(R.) Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I forget you!*

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;

on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)

2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us
his only Son,*

*that all who believe in him might have
eternal life.*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Marie Jonas

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maryanne Spitezi, Ted Mahony

ANNIVERSARIES

John Debono, Joseph Grbac, Vincenzo Pierorazio, Rita Rajakariar, Amal Raj, John Galea, Joseph & Carmen Galea, Santo & Angela Sciacchitano, Eileen & Michael Tomlin

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

Caritas Australia Lenten Prayer

God of all peoples and nations,
As you accompany us on our Lenten journey,

May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity,
Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and
Our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.

Through living simply and loving generously,

May we care for our global family and our common home, as we

*"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."**

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

** Saint Oscar Romero*

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 17 March St Patrick

Friday 19 March St Joseph

PARISH NEWS

LENTEN SCRIPTURE JOURNEY WITH ST JOSEPH AT ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, 15th March** at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre, then return back to Tuesdays from 23rd March. All Welcome.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD – Commencing Friday 19th March

We will commence our 24 Hours for the Lord Eucharistic Adoration on **Friday, 19th March** after the 9.15am Mass from 10.00am and end with the 9.15am Mass on Saturday, 20th March. Come for 30 minutes, an hour or longer if you wish. Bring your family and friends. All are welcome. (at least 2 people are required each hour). **There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to add your name, contact number, and the time you will be attending.** Tea & coffee will be available.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday during Lent from 7.00pm.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: PROJECT COMPASSION 2021 'BE MORE'

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes from the basket in the narthex.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Asrad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Asrad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets.

PALMS

If anyone has Palms for Palm Sunday (28th March), please contact the Parish Office.

REGISTERING FOR A WEEKEND MASS

All online bookings for weekend Masses 20/21 March open Monday morning, 15th March at 9.30am and close Saturday 20 March at 3.00pm. The link to book is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BPHYP>

2021 LENTEN CALENDAR

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 28 March

Normal weekend timetable (Blessing of the Palms, Procession & Mass)

HOLY WEEK

Monday of Holy Week – 29 March

Tuesday of Holy Week – 30 March

9.15am - Mass.

Evening: Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. Time to be confirmed.

Wednesday of Holy Week – 31 March

9.15am Morning Mass

7.00pm – Lenten Penance with Eucharistic Adoration – no Mass (*Priests will be available for individual Confessions*)

HOLY THURSDAY – 1 April

7.00pm – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

8.30pm – Altar of Repose & Eucharistic Adoration until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY – 2 April

10.30 am - Way of the Cross

3.00pm - Solemn celebration of The Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY – 3 April

7.00pm The Easter Vigil Mass – Blessing of Fire, Paschal Candle & Baptismal Water followed by solemn Mass of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY – 4 April

8.30am Mass (Bilingual)

10.30am Mass (English)

No 5.00pm Mass on Easter Sunday however there will be 7.00pm Divine Mercy Novena followed by Mass on Easter Sunday

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

There are still some boxes in the narthex as well as letters and receipts to be collected. If you have not received your receipts or envelopes, please look in the narthex or call the Parish Office on Tuesday if not received.

EASTER OFFERINGS

Envelopes are available in the narthex or with the new set of Thanksgiving Envelopes.

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

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Sebastian msfs

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

Facebook:

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MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm Sunday Masses

Weekday Mass Times:

9.15am Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction)

7.00pm Wednesday (followed by Benediction & Devotion to two hearts)

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday; 5.30pm Saturday

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 NEWS

AGM SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday 18th March at 7.00pm

YEAR 4 - 1ST HOLY COMMUNION COMMITMENT MASSES

Saturday, 20 March at 6.00pm and Sunday, 21st March at 10.30am

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.