



**Gospel Acclamation See Jn 6:63. 68**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel Jn 6:60-69**

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.*

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.  
The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

**Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of Jesus had to decide if he was the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose?

The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer.

If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, 'to whom shall we go?' Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.

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**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**22 August 2021**

**First Reading Jos 24:1-2, 15-18**

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9**

*(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from  
the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)

4. Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)

5. Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be  
condemned. (R.)

**Second Reading Eph 5:21-32**

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

## 'CONGRATULATIONS'

*Con & Sofia Pitruzzello*

Celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
19.08.1961 – 19.08.2021  
May God continue to bless you both

### IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### SICK

Davorka Stevanja

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Norman Remedios (in Canada)

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Vinn Beasley, Simone Bateman, Wladyslawa,  
Piotr, Peter, Henry & Maria Wolff

#### BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S PARISH

Please pray for all the families waiting for to have their children baptised in our Church.

#### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Classes will commence once we can reopen. For enquiries, please contact Teresa Paradowski 9337 3103.

#### PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued 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

#### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 24 Aug St Bartholomew  
Friday 27 Aug St Monica  
Saturday 28 Aug St Augustine

#### HOME GROTTOS

The Media Department of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is doing a story on Home Grottos and would love to receive photos. If you or someone you know has a home grotto, please send details and photos to [Melissa.parkinson@cam.org.au](mailto:Melissa.parkinson@cam.org.au)

## PARISH NEWS

### YOU ARE MISSED

We are missing all our wonderful parishioners and praying that this extended lockdown can end as soon as it is safe to do so.

This weekend, for parishioners with internet access, the Mass for the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time will be available online via our Parish Website, Facebook or YouTube from approximately 5pm on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> August.

For parishioners without internet access, please watch TV Channel 31 (44 on digital tv) at 11am on Sunday for the St Patrick's Cathedral Mass.

### ST PETER'S 'COMMUNITY AT HOME TIME'

As lockdowns continue and we are unable to meet as a community, our Parish is looking to try a new way to build a community online. Last Wednesday evening we commenced our catch ups via Zoom, which was attended by a good amount of parishioners. We had a friendly, relaxed chat and it was a good way to catch up when we can't be together. We will have our next Zoom get together next **Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> August, from 8-9pm**. The link to attend is: Topic: St Peter's Community at Home Time: This is a recurring meeting each week between 8-9pm. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6279668391?pwd=TTJlVY1R0dThxaHM5WEQzQ3FjeXlzMz09> Meeting ID: 627 966 8391 Passcode: 7774040



### MAJOR EARTHQUAKE HITS HAITI

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that more than 30,000 families have been left homeless.

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...from previous column

The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground. To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal. Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

### HUMANITARIAN CRISES UNFOLDING IN AFGHANISTAN AND LEBANON

As the situations in Afghanistan and Lebanon deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises. In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection. In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights. Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit [caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/lebanon) or [www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan](http://www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide support.

### Prayer for Peace

Almighty God and Creator,  
You are the Father of all people on earth.  
I beseech You to guide all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred.

Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war.

Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression.

Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honour and praise.

**Amen** (St. Ephraim the Syrian)

## ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

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Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277)

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

Administration: Ms Belinda McPherson & Mrs Sherrill Johnson

### SCHOOL NEWS

We continue to pray for the teachers, students and their families during these difficult times.

*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.*