



Reflection by Dianne Bergent CSA

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

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Gospel Mt 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

First Reading Is 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Madelaine Lam, Tess Zarb
RECENTLY DECEASED

Rev. Joseph Patrick Hynan PE

ANNIVERSARIES

Ante Stipanich, Bernardo Quattrucci, Joseph Rajakarar, Anthony & Mary Rose Cassat, Vincenzo Simone, Felice Margion, Tony Usai

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF

ADULTS (RCIA) Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or would you like to know more about the Catholic faith? For further information, 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 – 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. A.Smith T/G 500

2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR SALE
Available for purchase before Mass - \$10.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

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

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

Donations for the costs associated with flowers for our Altar at Christmas would be appreciated. Many thanks to those who have already sent in donations. If you prefer to donate online, please see Church Account BSB & A/C No. located above and put reference as 'Church flowers'. Thank you.

2023 BIBLE DIARIES FOR SALE

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.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH RECONCILIATION

Parish Reconciliations will be held Tuesday, 20th December at 7.00pm and 4 priests will be available to take Confessions.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST REQUIRED FOR ST PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are in need of more members for our Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee Teams. If you are capable and willing to offer your expertise and can give some of your precious time to the Parish, please consider joining one of these Committees. Please contact the Parish Office or speak with Fr Sebastian.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 'GIVING TREE' Thank you for all who purchased a gift for a child from cards left on the 'Giving Tree'. If you haven't already done so, please return all gifts by **5.00pm on Sunday 18th December**. The Society will be providing families visited during the year with something extra for Christmas, the members of the Western Cake Decorators have provided Christmas Cakes and parishioners donations to the tree will ensure an opportunity for these families to share in the joy of Christmas. Cash donations are also gratefully accepted and may be left in the St Vincent de Paul box at the back of the Church (next to St Mary MacKillop picture).

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY – VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED We still need volunteers for our Christmas Masses. We need Readers, Ext. Ministers of Communion, Mass Helpers, Greeters, Altar Servers, Musicians and Singers and cleaners for all our Christmas Masses. Please see the clipboard in the narthex or email the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, 20 December.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closing at 4.00pm on Friday 23 December and re-opening on Tuesday 17 January. The final Parish Bulletin for 2022 will be published next weekend. The first Parish Bulletin for 2023 will be published on weekend 28/29 January.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S 2022

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday, 20th December at 7.00pm

Fr Sebastian will be available for Confession on appointment at other times.

Christmas Masses

Saturday 24th December

Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.00pm (Family Mass)
Carols from 5.30pm
Children are encouraged to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds

Christmas Vigil Mass at 9.00pm

Carols from 8.30pm

Christmas Mass at Midnight at 12.00am.

Carols from 11.30pm

Sunday 25th December

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Mass during the Day at 8.30am
(bilingual-English & Italian)

Christmas Mass during the Day at 10.30am

Tuesday 27th December. Wednesday 28th

December, Thursday 29th December

9.15am Morning Mass

Friday 30th December

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
9.15am Morning Mass

Saturday 31 December

New Year's Eve – Morning Mass at 9.15am
6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 1st January 2023

New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
8.30am & 10.30am Masses

Saturday 7th January/Sunday 8th January

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 8.30am & 10.30am Masses

Thereafter Normal Weekday and Weekend

Mass Timetable except

No 5.00pm Sunday Mass during January

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

Parish Office Hours: 8.30am-4.00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: keilorcast@cam.org.au

Website:

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

Facebook:

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

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

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, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction)

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday: 5.30pm Saturday

(Please let the Priest know you would like to make your Confession)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ms Linda Tarran

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email: principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Belinda McPherson, Carmel Peery

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Wishing all students, teachers, admin and support staff and their families a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year. May God bless you all.

2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Tuesday 31/1/23 Years 1-6 commence

Wednesday 1/2/23 Prep students commence

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.