

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day 25 December

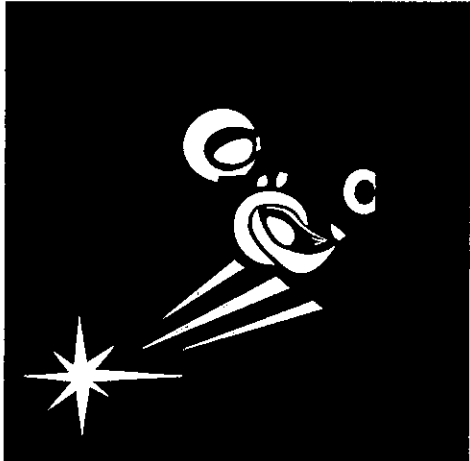
Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

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Gospel Jn 1:1-18

(or Shorter Form Jn 1:1-5, 9-14)

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us. And we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

First Reading Is 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6 R.v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 1:1-6

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord, Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

WELCOME

Welcome to any visitors that are with us this Christmas. Your presence is a great sign to us of the movement of the Holy Spirit in our Church and our parish community. Please know that you are always welcome at St Peter's, and your presence is valued.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED
Theresa Zarb, Georgette Nagm, Jake Stafford.

ANNIVERSARIES
Giovanni Oddo, Zora Ivkovic, Pero Ivkovic, Tony Refalo, Charles & Tessie Mizzi, Luciano Carniato, Francesco Favata, Rocca family, Meraviglia family, Francesca Casalez, John Luca, Bernardo Quattrucci, Sante Quattrucci, Giancarlo Quattrucci, Augusto Fiore, Gaetano Fiore, Sam Ratarunga, Margherita Giaquinta, Pasquale Giaquinta, Dominic Giampino, Joe Ruggieri, Francesco Mercuri, Pasqualina Mercuri, Antonio Mercuri, Antonio Bonadio, Raffaele Bonadio, Nicoletta Bonadio

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) 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. ASmith T/G 500

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



Christmas Greetings

To the parishioners and visitors of St Peter's Parish East Keilor,

Wishing you all a safe, happy and Holy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

*May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill,
And may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.*

With Love From
Fr. Arockia Sebastian and
Helena Meredith

Thank you to St Peter's Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee Members, St Peter's School Principal, staff and school families, St Peter's Parishioners, friends and all the wonderful Parish Volunteers. Without your help throughout the year, this Parish would not exist. There are so many to thank I would prefer not single anyone out but just know that your contributions to St Peter's Parish, in any way, are always appreciated. **Thank You & May God Bless You all.**

Fr. Sebastian

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is now closed and will reopen on Tuesday, 17th January 2023. This is the final Parish Bulletin for 2022. The first Parish Bulletin for 2023 will be published on weekend 28/29 January. You can still leave a message on the phone Messagebank or send an email if you wish to have a loved one prayed for at a weekend Mass.

MASS TIMES

Tuesday 27th December. Wednesday 28th December, Thursday 29th December
9.15am Morning Mass

Friday 30th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

No 9.15am Morning Mass, due to Funeral

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

VALE THERESA BARBARA ZARB

On Friday, 16th December, we lost a pioneer of the Parish, with the passing of Theresa Zarb. Tessie was a much loved and valued parishioner of St Peter's and will be sadly missed. Tessie, along with her late husband Tony, were very active members of the Parish community and were involved in many Committees. They formed the St Peter's Social Club in 1986, which is still going today. Tessie's funeral will be held at St Peter's on Friday, 30th December, commencing with Rosary at 10.00am, followed by Funeral Mass at 10.30am, then onto Fawcner Memorial Park for burial. There will be no 9.15am Morning Mass on Friday. We send our Deepest Condolences to the Zarb family at this sad time.

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 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: keiloreast@cam.org.au

Website:

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

Facebook:

<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 Perry

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.