

**Gospel Mt 15:21-28**

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

God's embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God's plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**20 August 2023****First Reading** Is 56:1.6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R). O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. *(R.)*
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. *(R.)*
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr. Joseph Pulickal
ANNIVERSARIES
Giuseppina Celata

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S PARISH

Sunday, 20th August 2023

Harvey Hudson

Thomas James Damian

Flynn William Dowden

Please pray for these children and their families.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) - ENQUIRY PERIOD

It is not too late to join us on **Tuesday, 22nd August at 7.30pm** in the **St Peter's Parish Centre Meeting Room**. Enquiries: 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 you may 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

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 21 Aug	Pope Pius X
Tue 22 Aug	The Queenship of Mary
Wed 23 Aug	St Rose of Lima
Thu 24 Aug	St Bartholomew
Fri 25 Aug	Sts Louis & Joseph Calasanz

ALPHA IS COMING SOON TO ST PETER'S
Wednesdays from 4th October. Stay tuned!

PARISH NEWS

SPECIAL PARISH EVENT - 'FATHER'S DAY' DINNER – Friday, 1st September

Everyone is invited to attend a special 'Father's Day' Dinner on **Friday, 1st September** commencing at **6.00pm** (pre-dinner drinks) in the **Parish Centre**. You will be treated to a delicious **3 Course Dinner** (choice between 2 mains) from **6.30pm**. Adults \$25pp (*children under 12, \$20*). BYO alcohol, soft drinks, tea/coffee supplied! We will have music, singing, jokes and a raffle. Ask your relatives, neighbours and friends to join you, or come along on your own and make new friends. This is sure to be a fun night! *RSVP & payment by Tuesday, 29th August*. See sign-up sheet in the narthex (must include contact number) or email the Parish Office. *Please advise any food allergies.*

Donations of suitable items to use for the raffle e.g. wine, chocolates, nuts, gift vouchers etc, would be very much appreciated.

SILENCE IN CHURCH

A reminder that we should make every effort to keep the Church quiet in order that people have the opportunity to spend time in quiet prayer. A useful maxim to remember is *Speak to God before Mass; speak to friends after Mass*. If you need to have a conversation with someone prior to the beginning of Mass, please use the Narthex – that is its proper role and the proper place in which conversation may take place.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office is currently closed and will re-open on Wednesday 23rd August and with limited hours on Friday 25th August. Please leave a voice message or email the Parish Office. Your request will be answered as soon as possible.

YEAR 3 STUDENTS' 1ST RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASSES – SATURDAY 6PM & SUNDAY 10.30AM MASSES 19/20 AUGUST

The Year 3 students are preparing to make their 1st Confessions in October. They will join us this weekend for their Commitment Mass. Please keep them in your prayers.



THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY TUESDAY, 22ND AUGUST MASS AT 9.15AM

Prayer to Our Lady

Mary, guide us to serve in the ways of your son.

Give us the strength that you so often displayed

and help us to be living examples of his message and to carry it to the world.

In our daily lives, help us to act with the courage that you have modelled for us and to face our challenges and obstacles with the same faith.

In you, we see a shining example that all will be well through your son.

Amen

HEART OF LIFE CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL AND PASTORAL FORMATION Reflection Day

Enneagram Day – Saturday, 9 September 2023, 9 am – 4.30 pm (in-person event)

This one-day practical workshop offers a transformational experience where you will gain invaluable insight into the unique way in which we relate and respond to the people with whom we share our lives, and the world around us. Facilitated by our Program Director Dr Lynn Moresi, she will dwell into topics of discovering your Enneagram Type; identifying your pathways of strength and challenge; understanding/interacting with other Types; handling conflict; and effective communication. Join this small group setting for a day of fun, laughter, challenge and insight. Places limited. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/enneagram-day/> or email info@heartoflife.melbourne. Cost: \$80 including notes (BYO lunch)

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

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Sebastian msfs

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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 Tarraran

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email: principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Stephanie Wood, Belinda McPherson, Carmel Perry

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

YEAR 3 STUDENTS' 1ST RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT MASSES

Saturday, 19th August - 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 20th August - 10.30am Mass

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.