

that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given.

Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentment, vindictiveness and unresolved frustration. When we forgive we truly begin to be healed.

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Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 17 September 2023

First Reading Sir 27:30-28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,

can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;

who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults (R.)

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Maria Pace, Vic & Bernadette Camilleri

RECENTLY DECEASED

Domenica Strangis

ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth Rodrigues, Lola & Pascal Attard, Janina Paradowski, Stella & William Cutayar, Roberta Pavlic, Mladen Glavina, Viktor Glavina, Victor Gherxi

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meets on Tuesday, 19th September 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

Wed 20 Sep Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon,
Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions
Thu 21 Sep St Matthew
Sat 23 Sep St Pius of Pietrelcina

'TRUE NORTH' YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Meets every second Sunday of the month 6:30pm - 8:30pm (after 5:30pm Mass at St Monica's). The night includes food, fellowship, and faith discussion. Location: St Monica's Catholic Church (Symons Centre), 820 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. Ages 18-35 welcome. More questions: please email truenorth90stable@gmail.com True North is for young adults from all our local region, supported by the local parishes.

MINISTERS' ROSTER – 1/11/23-29/2/24

Please contact the Parish Office with your 'away' dates from 1/11/23-29/2/24, no later than **Tuesday, 19th September**, if you don't wish to be rostered (except Christmas masses).

PARISH NEWS

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FEAST DAY – SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER

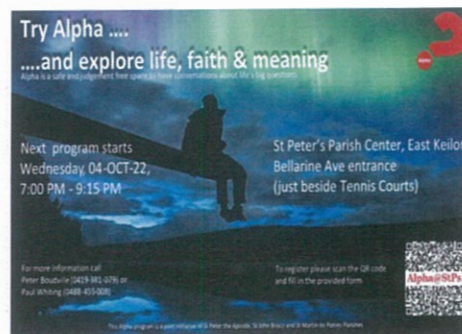
On **Saturday, 7th October**, we will have a Procession with Our Lady's statue, commencing at **5.30pm** (please arrive by **5.15pm**), from St Peter's Church and returning by **6.00pm** for the Vigil Mass. **All Welcome.**

MONTH OF OCTOBER – ROSARY

For the month of October, on weekdays (Tuesday-Friday) and on Saturday mornings commencing at 9.00am, we will pray the Rosary, prior to the 9.15am Morning Mass. Commences Tuesday, 3rd October.

Reminder: Access to car park not available until after 9.00am school days. Please park in street if coming for Rosary.

TRY ALPHA...AND EXPLORE LIFE, FAITH & MEANING



Alpha is a safe and judgement free space to have conversations about life's big questions. The Alpha program is a joint initiative of St Peter the Apostle, Keilor East, St John Bosco's, Niddrie and St Martin de Porres, Avondale Heights Parishes.

The next program starts Wednesday 4th October 2023 through to the 6th December 2023, from 7:00pm to 9:15pm at St Peter's Parish Centre, Keilor East – Bellarine Avenue entrance (gate beside Tennis Courts). All are welcome and there is no cost although donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information or to register, please call Paul Whiting (0488 455 008); or Peter Boudville (0419 381 079). Please see posters in the narthex.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS – MOROCCO/LIBYA

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousand of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals. Donate at www.caritas.org.au

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY

'A day to reflect and give thanks'

Sunday 17 September 2023 marks Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we give thanks to the dedicated work of the thousands of staff and volunteers who serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. We acknowledge with gratitude Catholic Social Service Victoria's 40 member organisations, their 8,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who work together to serve and support over 211,000 people.

ST PETER'S PARISH 'VOLUNTEERS NEEDED'

We need volunteers to serve as Readers, Greeters, Ext. Ministers of Communion, Ext. Ministers of Communion to the Sick & Housebound, Mass Helpers & Altar Servers, Greeters etc for our Weekend Rosters.

Please fill in a Liturgical Ministers Contact & Preference Form, which can be found in the narthex, and email it to Helena at the Parish Office: keiloreast@cam.org.au or leave in the Sacristy. All volunteers require a Working with Children Check. Training will be provided.

NACF AUSTRALIA – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC FAMILIES

'Family Day' We invite you and your families to join us for the first Melbourne NACF Family Day for 2023. Date: Sunday 22nd October 2023. Location: St Peter's Parish Centre, Keilor East (entry via Bellarine Ave, gate, next to the tennis courts). 12pm-1.30pm – Lunch (please bring a plate to share), 1.30pm Rosary, 2.15pm – Talk, 3.00pm-4.00pm Afternoon tea & Socialising. Please see posters in the narthex. Enquiries: Marc Florio: 0412 252 077 or Arlene Smith: 0422 794 182.

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue
Keilor East Vic 3033

Parish Priest: Rev. Arockia Manoharan
Sebastian mofs

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 Tarraran

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email: principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Stephanie Wood, Belinda McPherson, Carmel Perry

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 18th September – Friday 29th September

Wishing all students, along with their families, teachers and admin staff, a safe and relaxing 2 week break.

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.