



Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

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PARISH OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

KEILOR EAST

10 December 2023

Second Sunday of Advent – Year B

Volume 44, Number 46



Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

10 December 2023

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the
Lord

double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

*(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our
land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from
heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Nicola Cicconi

ANNIVERSARIES

Maria Grazia Augello, Joseph Refalo, Agostino & Innocenza Cutajar, Ante Stipanac, Marcela Stipanac, Don McConville, Sebastiano Valenti, Stephen Michael Sabato

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S PARISH

Sunday, 10th December 2023

Cruz Conidi

Please pray for this child and his family.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

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

Wednesday 13 Dec St Lucy
Thursday 14 Dec St John of the Cross

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS Donations for the costs associated with flowers for our Altar at Christmas would be appreciated.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

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

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY 2023

Please fill in the clipboard in the narthex or email the Parish Office by **Tuesday, 19th December**, if you can volunteer. We need Readers, Ext. Mins. of Communion, Mass Helpers, Greeters, Altar Servers, Musicians and Singers for all our Christmas Masses.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH ADVENT RETREAT

Saturday 16th December

9.15am-1.00pm

Reconciliations

Healing Mass by Fr. Wahid Riad

Talks by AHFI Brothers

ALL WELCOME

END OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS

Friday, 15th December at 9.15am. All Welcome.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION: 9/10 DECEMBER

This weekend we will have the Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal. Please support.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

Christmas Cards & envelopes with details of the Advent Appeal for Ukraine are available in the narthex. Please take one and support where you can.

St Peter's Christmas Spiritual Celebrations 2023

Christmas Masses

Sunday 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

Monday 25th December -

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas "Mass during the Day" at 8.30am

Christmas "Mass during the Day" at 10.30am

No 5.00pm Mass on 24th or 25th December

New Year's Eve

Sunday 31st December 2023

11.00pm Exposition of the blessed

sacrament, Benediction

Mass at Midnight at 12.00am

ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS 2023

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Carols night a great success this year. Thank you to the school children for entertaining us and the teachers for preparing them so well. Thanks to our Parishioner, Lawrie Merrigan for also singing some joyous Christmas songs. Thanks to all the Parish & School volunteers who worked so hard for the event, both in the lead up, on the day, late into the night and again the next day. Thanks to all who donated food, cooked food and volunteered at the various stalls. Thanks to all who baked goodies for our cake stall! Thanks to the 2023 St Peter's Carols Committee for all their organisational work. **Thanks to everyone involved in any way, we couldn't have done it without you. May God bless you all.**

ST PETER'S 2023 CAROLS RAFFLE

RESULTS Congratulations to all raffle prize winners: 1st Prize Ticket No. 0315 Sofia Bergonzo, 2nd Prize Ticket No.4329 Joseph Franco, 3rd Prize Ticket No. 2164 Jadon Prince, 4th Prize Ticket No. 3712 Don Dela Cruz, 5th Prize Ticket No. 1021 Domenic Raco, 6th Prize Ticket No. 1723 Santiago Melo, 7th Prize Ticket No. 1921 Ivana B, 8th Prize Ticket No. 5633 Charles Micallef, 9th Prize Ticket No. 1882 Evie Fernandes, 10th Prize Ticket No. 1058 Isabella Conidi, 11th Prize Ticket No. 4578 T. Russell, 12th Prize Ticket No. 5436 T. Doan. Thanks to all purchased tickets. A huge thank you to all who donated Raffle and Door prizes.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY UPDATE

Arising from discussions with the school, Parish and WorkSafe representatives on 1st December 2023, it was agreed that vehicles, other than those providing essential services (e.g. maintenance, hearse) will not be permitted to enter the grounds during school hours *until such time as barriers that separate children from vehicles have been installed*. To assist parishioners with access difficulties park as close to the pedestrian access gate as possible, school staff will be requested not to park in Parkside Avenue. More detail is contained in the policy document on the parish website.

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue

Keilor East Vic 3033

Administrator: Rev. Anil Mascarenhas

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 VINCENT DE PAUL 'GIVING TREE'

If you are able to, please take a tag and purchase a gift or gift card and return to the tree by next **Sunday, 17th December**. Please choose appropriate gifts for the age shown on the gift card e.g. Toys etc for the younger ones, Gift Card for teenagers. Unwrapped (open Gift Bags) would be appreciated. Gifts will be distributed by Vinnies to those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you.

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.