



as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing. As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist. John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world.

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## PARISH OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

KEILOR EAST

17 December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent – Year B

Volume 44, Number 47



Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

17 December 2023

### First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,

to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,

freedom to those in prison;

to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,

my soul rejoices in my God,

for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,

like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,

like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,

as a garden makes seeds spring up,

so will the Lord make both integrity and

praise

spring up in the sight of the nations.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) *My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)

3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

### Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

### Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;*

*he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel Jn1:6-8.19-28

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

*Maureen Jongbloed*

Celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday this month

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU MAUREEN**

**IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**SICK**

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Josephine Spicuglia

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Tess Zarb, Joseph Rajakariar, Anthony Cassar, Felix Mangion, Chris Portelli, Tony Refalo, Maria Grazia Ruberto, Josephine D'Mello, Bernardo Quattrucci

**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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**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 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.

**PARISH NEWS**

**WORKING BEE: SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER - 10.00AM-12NOON**

We will have a Working Bee next Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December after the 9.15am Morning Mass to prepare the Church for our Christmas Services. Please volunteer some time from 10.00am-12noon. Thank You.

**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, for all our Christmas Masses. Please see the clipboard in the narthex or email the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 'GIVING TREE'**

Thank you to 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 17<sup>th</sup> December**. The Society will be providing families visited during the year with something extra and ensure they have an opportunity 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).

**PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will be closing at 4.00pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and re-opening on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January. The final Parish Bulletin for 2023 will be published next weekend. The first Parish Bulletin for 2023 will be published on weekend 27/28 January.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE**

3 great prizes to be won! Tickets will be available before/after all Masses from this weekend. \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. Please add your name and contact number and keep your ticket handy. *The raffle will be drawn after the 10.30am Mass on Christmas Day.*

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSIONS APPEAL** - Many thanks for your kind donations - \$988.85 was raised last weekend



**St Peter's Christmas Spiritual Celebrations 2023**

**Christmas Masses**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> December - The Nativity of the Lord**

Christmas "Mass during the Day" at **8.30am**

Christmas "Mass during the Day" at **10.30am**

**New Year's Eve**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**11.00pm** Exposition of the blessed

sacrament, Benediction

Mass at Midnight at **12.00am**

**New Year's Day**

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Mass at 9.15am

Thereafter Normal Weekday and Weekend Mass Timetable **except No 5.00pm Sunday Mass during January**

**6PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS – 24/12/23**

Encouraging all children who attend the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds.

**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](mailto:keiloreast@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 Tarraran

**Phone:** 03 9337 4111

**Email:** [principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au)

**Administration:** Stephanie Wood, 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.*

**2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 Years 1-6 commence 8.40am-3.15pm

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 Prep students commence 8.40am-1.00pm

***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.***