



Gospel Jn 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth

comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin.

Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God.

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Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

10 March 2024

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke: through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

*(R.) Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I forget you!*

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;

on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)

2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,*

that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Angelina Di Stefano, Carmelo Di Stefano

ANNIVERSARIES

Leonarda Di Gregorio, Joseph Grbac, Charles & Maryanne Spiteri, Matthew Sesto, Fortunata Miranda

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12 noon – Sunday, 17th March 2024

Duke Lumsden

Alyssa Diaco

Charlie McGeown

Chelsea McGeown

Please pray for these children and their families.

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

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: PROJECT COMPASSION 2024 "For all Future Generations"

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, **Memory** faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

PARISH NEWS

MERCY MELBOURNE:

This Lent, Archbishop Comensoli has invited and encourages all parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to participate in 'Mercy Melbourne' on **Tuesday 19 March (6-9pm)**. Mercy Melbourne is an initiative that invites parishes to open their doors in welcome for a special evening of prayer and Confessions. This is a great opportunity to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Please join us. Program for St Peter's as follows:-

- Exposition of the blessed Sacrament
- Reflection on God's Mercy and Graces through the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Sacrament of Confessions(6pm-8pm) followed by
- Holy Mass of the Solemnity of St Joseph and Consecration to St Joseph

INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 25TH MELBOURNE PASSION PLAY

Invitation to attend a **free** performance of the Annual Passion Play event on **Palm Sunday 24th March at 1.30pm**. Performed at the Holy Cross Centre, Templestowe with Free entry. Duration: 2 hours. We will have a **free** bus, **departing St Peter's at 11.45am**. If you are interested in coming along, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact the Parish Office.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & LENTEN REFLECTION

Continues each Friday during Lent from 7.00pm, followed by Lenten Reflection. *All welcome.*

PALMS

If anyone has Palms for Palm Sunday (24th March), please bring them to the Church on Friday, 22nd March or contact the Parish Office if they need to be collected from your house.

EASTER TRIDUUM ROSTERS – Holy Thursday - 28th March, Good Friday - 29th March & Holy Saturday - 30th March "Volunteers Needed" Please see sign-up sheets on clipboards in the narthex.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO TA PINU SHRINE

Last Saturday we made our Lenten Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Ta Pinu in Bacchus Marsh. Thank **you** to the St Peter's parishioners who came along. It was wonderful to share the day with Holy Family Parish, Mount Waverley parishioners. It was a great day of prayer and community for all. A special thanks to our bus driver, Frank Simone for getting us there and back home again safely.

ST PETER'S ALTAR SERVERS

On Tuesday 5th March, St Peter's Primary school children engaged in a day of spirituality and learning as they continue to serve God and the St Peter's School & Parish community on the Altar. Guided by Fr. Anil, Br. Louis and Br. Basil, the students learnt more about the meaning of the rituals, actions and responses during the celebration of Mass and shared in a lunch together in the Parish Centre. We wish to acknowledge the students for having the courage to respond to God's call and wish them many blessings in this special vocation. A special thank you to Seona Martin for her planning of the day.

WORKING BEE – SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 10.00AM-12NOON

We will have a Working Bee on **Saturday, 23rd March** after the 9.15am Morning Mass for a general clean up and to prepare the Church for our Easter Services. Please volunteer some time from **10.00am-12noon**. Any time you can spare would be much appreciated. Thank You.

2024 PATRICK ORATION: MONDAY 18TH MARCH – 7.30PM-8.30PM

Join us on the feast day of St Patrick, the patron saint of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, for the **fifth** annual Patrick Oration to be delivered by the Most Rev. Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne.

Watch the live broadcast on TV or online:

- On TV via C31 (digital channel 44)
- Archdiocesan YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/archmelb)

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: Jemma McVeigh

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email: principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Stephanie Wood, Belinda McPherson

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 11 March – Labour Day

2025 PREP ENROLMENT

Enrolment Applications for 2025 close on:

Tuesday, 26th March at 9.00am

Please contact the school on 9337 4111 for any enquiries.

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.