



Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

7 December 2025

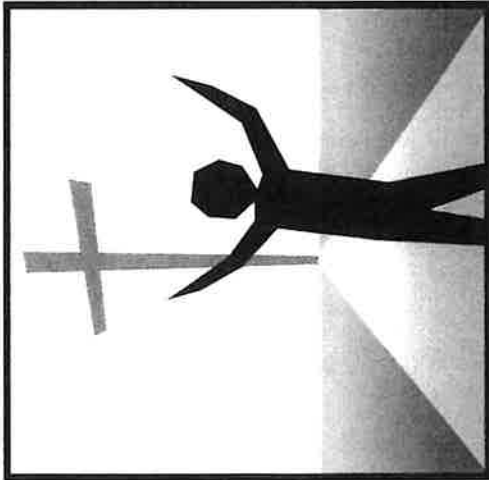
Reflection by Greg Sunter

When John the Baptist performed baptism it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action. It was not a baptism of initiation into community that is the case today. John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: repent and prepare. His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. His call for preparation is in the long line of prophets that includes the great prophet Isaiah from whom we take today's first reading. All of the prophets urged the people towards hope in the future. Isaiah and others spoke specifically of a person – a Messiah – who would bring that hope to reality. But the tradition demanded a readiness for the Messiah and that was the call to preparation that John the Baptist echoed at the beginning of the public life of Jesus.

John's taunting of the Pharisees and Sadducees is an indication of this need for preparation and readiness. He accuses them of being too confident of their own rightness. He demands proof from them of their honest repentance: 'but if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit'. Rather, he suspects that they think that salvation is assured for them by virtue of being a Jew; a son of Abraham. He warns them that an axe hangs poised to cut down any part of the Jewish tradition that is failing to produce good fruit. This is a theme that is picked up later by Jesus himself; you can't be complacent about your own position, you have to welcome the new truth revealed by Jesus and give yourself wholeheartedly to God.

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Gospel Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

First Reading Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loin-cloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 8 Dec The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Miriam Coco

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for the souls of all the recently deceased

ANNIVERSARIES

Vincenzo & Olimpia Gasbarro, Guiseppe Patane, Joseph & Barbara Refalo, Dominic Tran Dat, Maria Nguyen Mai, Peter Tran Hanh, Theresa Tran Vinh, Anthony Doan Trung, Stephen Michael Sabato, Felix Mangrion

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12noon – Sunday, 7th December 2025

Nyla Patrao

Please pray for this child and her family.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meeting this Tuesday, 9th December, in the Parish Centre Meeting Room.

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. 665417521 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. 535304676. Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

2026 COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR SALE
Only a few Calendars are available for purchase - \$10 each. Once they're gone, they're gone.

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY 2025 – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Please fill in the clipboard in the narthex or email the Parish Office by **Tuesday 16th December**. We need Readers, Ext. Mins. of Communion, Mass Helpers, Greeters, Altar Servers, Musicians and Singers for all our Christmas Masses.

PARISH NEWS



MEMORIAL MASS FOR DECEASED LOVED ONES: 13TH – 6.00PM VIGIL & 14TH DECEMBER– 10.30AM MASS

As we prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas, we also pause to lovingly remember those who have gone before us. As a parish family, we will pray for our departed loved ones and for all whose funerals were held at St Peter's during the past year.

You are invited to bring a photo of your loved one to place in the designated area—an expression of their lasting presence in our lives. Please feel welcome to invite your family to share in this time of prayer and remembrance. **All are warmly welcome.**

St Peter's Advent & Christmas Timetable

Sunday, 7th December 2025: 4.45PM

Parish Advent Retreat: Retreat Preacher Fr. Rojan George V.C

Saturday, 13th 6.00pm & Sunday 14th 10.30am

December 2025: Parish Memorial Mass

Saturday, 20th December 2025; 9.15AM: Holy

Mass followed by Parish Reconciliation

Wednesday, 24th December 2025

5.00PM Christmas Carols

5.30PM Family Mass

8.00PM Christmas Carols

8.30PM Family Mass

11.30PM Christmas Carols

12.00 AM Midnight Mass

Thursday, 25th DECEMBER 2025

8.30AM Christmas Day Mass

10.30AM Christmas Day Mass

5.00PM Christmas Day Mass

27/28 December, Feast of the Holy

SATURDAY 6.00PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY 8.30AM & 10.30AM

(No 5pm Mass)

Wednesday, 31st December 2025

9.15AM Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Thursday, 1st January 2026 New Year's Day

9.15AM Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS 2025

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. We were delighted to see the Mini Mozarts on stage performing too! They are all so talented. Thanks to all the Parish & School staff and family 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 items, cooked food and volunteered at the various stalls. Thanks to all who baked goodies for the cake stall! Thanks to the 2025 St Peter's Carols Committee for all their organisational work behind the scenes. **Thanks to everyone involved in any way, we couldn't have done it without you. May God bless you all.**

ST PETER'S 2025 CAROLS RAFFLE

RESULTS Congratulations to all raffle prize winners: 1st Prize Ticket No. 0980 Gabriel Farah, 2nd Prize Ticket No. 5024 Isabel Finocchiaro, 3rd Prize Ticket No. 9970 Alyssa Dumic, 4th Prize Ticket No. 3237 Rose Cassar, 5th Prize Ticket No. 0578 Clara Marijanovic. 6th-15th Prizes-Pick Your Own Minor Prize Draws – Ticket No's: 0869, 4196, 6960, 4857, 9938, 0522, 5948, 1271, 1800, 6902, 9942, 3177, 2920, 2553, 6709. Prize winners have been notified. Thanks to all who purchased tickets. A huge thank you to the generous people and businesses who donated Raffle and Door prizes.

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 weekend, **Saturday, 20th December**. Please choose appropriate gifts for the age shown on the tag e.g. Toys etc for the younger ones, Gift Cards for teenagers. *Unwrapped* (open Gift Bags or supermarket bags) would be appreciated. Gifts will be distributed by Vinnies to those less fortunate than ourselves. *Cash donations and gift cards can be left in the metal box located on the back wall of the church (next to the picture of St Mary Mackillop) or in an envelope marked "SVDP – Giving Tree" and left in a collection basket during mass.*

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

**2a Parkside Avenue
Keilor East Vic 3033**

Administrator: Rev. Anil Mascarenhas

Parish Secretary: Helena Mercedith

Phone: 03 9337 4141

Parish Office Hours: 8.30am-4.00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: keiloreast@cam.org.au

Website:

<https://www.melbeatholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acting Principal: Anne Tadinac

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email:

principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Christine Torrance

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

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon request of Parish Priest)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Tuesday 16th December

End of year Mass @ 9.15am – all Welcome to attend

End of Term @12.00noon

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.