



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel passages of the second and third weeks of Advent this year featured John the Baptist in his role of preparing the way for the coming of Jesus; the one who announces the arrival of the Christ. In this week's passage, which goes back to an earlier point in the gospel of Luke, we might say that the as yet unborn John is already recognising the presence of the Christ. When Mary goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, the child within Elizabeth's womb – John – leaps for joy. At the time of the Annunciation, when Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she was to give birth to a child, Mary is also told that Elizabeth and Zechariah, although very old, were to also give birth to a child. Mary rushes to visit Elizabeth, not to make sure that the angel was telling her the truth but because the fact that Elizabeth was also pregnant was a sign of confirmation to Mary that she had indeed made the right decision. Elizabeth's unlikely pregnancy confirms for Mary the even greater truth of her own pregnancy. These two women, separated by age and distance, share a common experience of God acting in their lives to bring about unlikely events. The lives of their two children will be inextricably linked such that the one who leapt for joy in his mother's womb will eventually baptise the other and announce the arrival of his ministry to the people of Israel.

The joy expressed by Elizabeth and her child reflects the joy of all people of faith as we draw so close to the celebration of Christmas and the greatest expression of God's love – to enter into the world as one just like us and share our experience.



Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C 22 December 2024

First Reading MI 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back

to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power

to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;

then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

*(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Sr Pasqualina Attard(in Malta)

RECENTLY DECEASED

Fr Leonard Thomas P[
ANNIVERSARIES

Venerando Scavo(1 month), Francesco Nesci, Joseph Rajakariar, Bernardo Quattrucci, Ante Stipanac, Marcela Stipanac, Tess Zarb

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Resumes Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7pm 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. 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

2025 COLUMBAN CALENDAR
Selling fast – last few available to purchase after Mass - \$10 each.

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

PARISH OFFICE
The Parish Office has closed and re-opens on Tuesday 21st January 2025. This is the final Parish Bulletin for 2024. The first Bulletin for 2025 will be published on weekend 25/26 January. Any urgent matters during this period, please leave a voice message, or email the parish.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Last chance to buy your tickets for the raffle. \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Please add your name and contact number. Raffle drawn 22/12, straight after the Christmas Carols.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS: SPECIAL COLLECTION A special collection will be held at Masses this weekend for our Christmas Flowers.

PARISH NEWS



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Wishing all our parishioners and visitors of St Peter's Parish, Keilor East a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year 2025

With a grateful heart
Fr Anil Mascarenhas

THANK YOU

As the end of the year draws to a close, I would like to thank all the volunteers of the Parish who contribute their time and talent in so many ways. To our Maintenance Workers, Office Staff and Volunteers, Counters, Collectors, Church Flower ministry, our Sacristans and all who help them, our Music Co-ordinator, Musicians, Singers and Audio-Visual Operators, our Altar Servers, all involved in Ministry - Readers, Ext. Ministers of Communion, Ext Ministers of Communion to the Sick & Housebound, Greeters. Our Parish Committees - the Parish Finance Committee & Pastoral Council, Safeguarding Committee, Baptism Team, representatives of the St Vincent de Paul Society, St Peter's Social Group, Gospel Discussion Group, R.C.I.A Team, and all our parish family members. We thank you all sincerely for your support.

Blessings & Merry Christmas to you all.

A special thanks to those who helped decorate the Church for Christmas celebrations, especially Laurie Mizzi, for preparing the Crib. God bless you all for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER Commences straight after the 10.30am Sunday Mass (approx. 11.30am). Please join in singing Christmas Carols, followed by a BBQ from 12noon, near the gazeboes. All welcome. Thanks to those who have brought a plate to share.



St Peter's Christmas Spiritual Celebrations 2024

Christmas Masses

Tuesday 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

Wednesday 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 Christmas Day

New Year's Eve

Tuesday 31st December 2024

Mass at 9.15am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

New Year's Day

Wednesday 1st January 2025

Mass at 9.15am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

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

6PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS – 24/12/24

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

Website:

<https://www.melb.catholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook:

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

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, Christine Torrance

CHRISTMAS MASSES - VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all who have volunteered for Christmas Ministry. We still need some more Ext. Ministers of Communion, Altar Servers, musicians and singers. Please see clipboard in the narthex

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.