



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel reading is the second in a series of three quite lengthy readings from the gospel of John that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A of the liturgical cycle. The three readings address three significant themes and images: water; light; and new life. Although today's passage is about the healing of a blind man, the event takes place as part of a longer section of the gospel dealing with the image of light and specifically the image of Jesus as Light of the World.

The question asked by the disciples at the opening of this event is an interesting one. They ask, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' In Jewish culture at the time, any physical affliction was deemed to be punishment from God for sinful behaviour. As the man had been born blind, the suspicion falls on his parents as having committed such a terrible offence against God that their son is born blind. Jesus immediately rejects this interpretation of the man's affliction. Physical and mental illnesses or disabilities are in no way punishment from God.

Although the man's physical sight is restored by Jesus simply enough, his journey from darkness into light is a more complicated affair. He faces disbelief, ridicule and even abuse from the Jewish authorities as they try to discredit Jesus and diminish the impact of the miracle. In fact, their treatment of the man is what drives him along the road from recipient of an act of mercy to a confirmed believer. Furthermore, the Jewish authorities, despite their physical capacity for sight, are shown to be the ones who are truly blind and trapped in darkness because they deny the light that is before their very eyes.

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Gospel Jn 9:1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

First Reading 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22 R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
My cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

We pray for all the sick of our parish community.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maurice Hammett

ANNIVERSARIES

Giuseppe D'Agostino, Rita Rajakariar, John Debono, Maryanne & Charles Spiteri, Joseph Grbac

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meet on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre Meeting Room.

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12 noon – Sunday, 15th March 2026

Esmac Catherine Ogilvie

Elizabeth & Victoria Stanley

Please pray for these children and their families.

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 PATRICK ORATION

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will celebrate the **St Patrick's Day Mass** at **6.00pm** on **Tuesday 17 March 2026** at **St Patrick's Cathedral**. The evening will include: **7.15pm:** the Patrick Oration delivered by the Archbishop. **8.00pm:** Refreshments will be served in the Cathedral grounds. As part of this year's Patrick Oration, Archbishop Peter will launch Light into the City. To book: <https://www.trybooking.com/DINKI>.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026 Please support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes, by calling 1800 024 413 or online: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

PARISH NEWS



PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

The Parish Lenten Retreat will be held on **Saturday, 21st March, 9.15 AM – 12.00 PM, preached by Fr. Mathew OFM Cap.** Join us for Holy Mass, a Lenten reflection, confession, and Adoration with **Benediction**. All are welcome to this time of prayer and spiritual renewal.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & HOLY MASS

Continue to be prayed every **Friday** at **7.00pm, followed by Holy Mass**. All parishioners are warmly invited to take part in these Lenten devotions as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

JOELLE MARYN: "Become the Fire" – Australian Tour

Join Joelle Maryn, an actress and author, who has inspired over half a billion people globally with her story of conversion and the message of God's healing love!

Where: St Peter's Parish, 2A Parkside Avenue, Keilor East

When: Sunday 22nd March

Time: 10.30am Holy Mass, followed by **11.45am** talk at the Parish Centre – hall opposite Church.

All welcome. See flyers in the narthex.

YEAR 1 STUDENTS' FAMILY MASS

At the 10.30am Mass this weekend, we welcome our Year 1 students, their families and teachers for the Prep Family Mass. Thank you for being a part of our Parish community.

WORKING BEE – SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 10.00AM-12NOON

We will have a Working Bee on **Saturday, 28th March** after the 9.15am Morning Mass for a general clean up and to prepare the Church for our Easter Services. Please volunteer some of your time between **10.00am-12noon**. Thank You.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE 2026

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 28/29 MARCH

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass;

Sunday at 8.30am & 10.30am

(No 5.00pm Mass on Palm Sunday)

HOLY WEEK

Monday 30th March & Wednesday 1st April

– Morning Mass at 9.15am

Tuesday 31st March – Mass of the Holy

Oils (Chrism Mass) at St Patrick's

Cathedral at 10.00am (All welcome to attend)

HOLY THURSDAY – 2nd April

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm.

Altar of Repose & Eucharistic Adoration until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY – 3rd April

Divine Mercy Novena at 10.00am

Way of the Cross at 10.30am

Solemn celebration of The Lord's

Passion at 3.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY – 4th April

Divine Mercy Novena at 10.00am

The Easter Vigil Mass at 7.00pm

(Blessing of Fire, Paschal Candle & Baptismal Water)

EASTER SUNDAY – 5th April

Masses at 8.30am and 10.30am

Divine Mercy Novena at 10.00am, followed by Mass at 10.30am

(No 5.00pm Mass on Easter Sunday)

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA - Preparation for

Feast of Mercy

Monday 6th-Friday 10th April: Divine Mercy Novena at 7.00pm followed by Mass

Saturday 11th April: 5.30pm Divine Mercy Novena, followed by 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 12th April – Divine Mercy Celebration: 1.30pm: Adoration, Confessions, Rosary, Litany, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction, followed by 3.00pm: Holy Mass & Blessing of Divine Mercy Image (no 5.00pm Mass)

PALMS If anyone has Palms for Palm Sunday (29 March), please bring them to the Church on Friday, 27 March, or contact the Parish Office if they need to be collected from your garden.

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.melbrcatholic.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: Kate Wilson

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

*7.00pm Fridays After Stations of the Cross

(*No 9.15am Friday Morning Mass during Lent)

RECONCILIATION

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

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

We would like to thank the school families for their generous support of the Parish Thanksgiving Program for 2026. May God bless you all.

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.