



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The wilderness, or desert, is used repeatedly throughout the Bible as a place of special encounter with God and preparation for a new direction or a new ministry. The 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness immediately followed his baptism in the Jordan where his status as the beloved of God was confirmed. He is led by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness for a period of fasting, prayer and preparation before entering into his public ministry. In fact, the event that immediately follows this passage is the episode in Nazareth where Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and declares the intent of his ministry. It is presented as if, having spent his time in preparation and overcoming the temptations before him, Jesus strode out of the wilderness and laid out what he had decided.

The episode of the temptations is a clear indicator of the humanity of Jesus – he experienced doubt, uncertainty and fear just as we do. If the gospel intended to emphasise the divinity of Jesus, none of these temptations would have been an issue. We are told that Jesus was indeed tempted, not just pestered by the devil. The opportunities laid before Jesus were actually tempting to him. They challenged his resolve. They made Jesus question the sort of Messiah that he was to be: the all-conquering, powerful Messiah that the people expected; or the servant to the poor who will be tortured and put to death. Jesus is tempted to use his power to make his task easier or to display his authority to others. Had he chosen to do this, surely it would have been easier to get people's attention – and that was the temptation: to take the easier path or stick to the more subtle, more personal, more difficult path.



Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again:

They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading Dt 26:4-10

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R.)
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)

9 March 2025

4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 10:8-13

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Lk 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Bernard Jongebloed, Danielle Healey, Charlie Abela (in Malta), Luisa Anne Robles Villanueva, Philomina D'Souza

ANNIVERSARIES

Antonio Catalano (1 month), Fortunata Miranda, Matthew Sesto, Giuseppe D'Agostino,

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12 noon – Sunday, 16th March 2025

Lucas & Anthony Said

Please pray for these children and their family.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meeting Tuesday 11th March 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 – to

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. A-Smith T/G 500

ALPHA MASTERCLASS – SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH FROM 10AM-4.30PM

Flyers with information on an upcoming Alpha Masterclass are available in the narthex. The Masterclass will be held at Good Shepherd Parish Hall, Gladstone Park from 10.00am-4.30pm. *If you are interested in attending, please contact the Parish Office.*

PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

Envelopes and receipts are available for collection from the narthex. Please note: These envelopes will still be used for the new "Offertory Program" for the Church Collection. (2nd collection).

PARISH NEWS

NEW PARISH OFFERTORY PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we begin the Offertory Giving Program, which will take place over the next four weeks. Previous campaigns have spoken of Sacrificial Offertory, Thanksgiving Program, or Stewardship Campaign. Each name expresses something equally true about what we are undertaking. We have not had a giving campaign at St Peter's since 2018.

The call to generosity is God's invitation for us to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christians.

You are encouraged to prayerfully engage with this time of reflection and discernment. We look forward to growing deeper in our relationship with Christ through this process. God Bless.



FRIDAYS DURING LENT – MASS TIME

During the Fridays of Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm, followed by Mass and Benediction. No 9.15am Mass Fridays. *All welcome.*

PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE – In the Footsteps of our Beloved Saints

All are invited to join our Great Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrimage. From September 17th to October 4th, we will visit the holy sites of beloved Saints: Paris, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Lanciano, Loreto, Venice, Padua, and Medjugorje. Fr Anil looks forward to walking this sacred path with you. Details: 18 days, fully escorted. Package Price per person (twin share) AUD\$9,590. Optional single room supplement: AUD\$1,925. Online Information Session – Tuesday, 18th March from 7.00pm. Deposit of AUD\$750pp due 21st March. Please speak with Fr Anil if you are interested. *Itinerary and information, available in the narthex.*

RCIA RITE OF ELECTION

This weekend we pray for our Candidate, Sarah Trower, who will attend the Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, in preparation for being received into the Church at Easter.



LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO TA' PINU MARIAN SHRINE, BACCHUS MARSH – Saturday 5th April 2025

As part of our Lenten journey, we will have a Pilgrimage to Our Lady Ta' Pinu Marian Shrine, 15 Flanagan Drive, Merrimu on Saturday, 5th April 2025. All invited to attend.

9.00am Depart St Peter's

10.00am Stations of the Cross

11.00am Holy Mass

12noon Lunch (BYO)

Tea/coffee provided.

12.30pm Visiting Shrine area

1.15pm Bus departs Ta' Pinu

2.00pm Return to St Peter's (approx.)

Bus hire - \$20pp. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex and include your contact number, or email the Parish Office. **RSVP 18/3/25.**

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: PROJECT COMPASSION

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT 8/9 MARCH 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Tofu-fa-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes or envelopes, or online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion Or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

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Parish Secretary: Helena Meredith

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: keiloreast@cam.org.au

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

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Jemma McVeigh

Phone: 03 9337 4111

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Administration: Christine Torrance

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am & 10.30am Mass

5.00pm Mass

Weekday Mass Times:

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Fridays during Lent at 7.00pm - Stations of the Cross followed by Mass and Benediction

RECONCILIATION

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

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

We welcome Year 6 children as they prepare for their Sacrament of Confirmation. We thank their parents for bringing them to Mass and sharing in their faith journey.

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.