



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables (the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin – Lk 15:4-10). The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behaviour in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behaviour. Who you ate with was a reflection of who you were. To eat with sinners and the unclean effectively made you a sinner and unclean.

The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke – more so than any of the others – has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalised; in other words, the 'lost' of his society. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about – being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God's love that will be poured out for any 'sinner' who returns to God.

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be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

"Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading Jos 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you."

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Cor 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his

reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 15:18

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and
against you.*

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. "This man" they said "welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he spoke this parable to them:

"A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

"When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Miriam Coco

RECENTLY DECEASED

Ross Golotta

ANNIVERSARIES

Vincenzo Spataro(1 month), Rocco Cesile, Clare Meneze, Rick Bult, Michael Deren, Sister Pasqualina Attrard, Liliana Carniato, Rocco & Celeste Albano, Evelyn Chy, Maria Assunta Muscat, Huboubna May Harb, Guiseppina & Felice Mangion

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12 noon – Sunday, 6th April 2025

Oliver Fullwood

Jude Russell

Please pray for these children and their families.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meeting Tuesday 1st April 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

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: PROJECT COMPASSION 4th Sunday of Lent – 29/30 March

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes or envelopes, 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*.

PARISH NEWS

NEW PARISH OFFERTORY PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners,

This is the final weekend of our Parish Offertory Program, and we want to thank you for your response. Your generosity is more than just financial support - it is an act of faith, trust, and gratitude to God. Every gift is a reflection of our relationship with Him and our commitment to His work in our parish.

If you have not yet returned your Pledge Card, they are available on the pews this weekend. I invite you to take a moment to prayerfully consider your offering and return your card during Mass.

You may also submit your pledge by placing it in the offertory collection, in the pledge box found in the narthex, by dropping it off at the parish office, or sending it by mail.

Thank you once again for your faithfulness and generosity. Every pledge - no matter the size - is a response to God's blessings and helps strengthen our parish for the future.

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

Departs St Peter's next Saturday at 9.00am sharp. Those who registered may leave your car in church grounds. The gates will be kept closed during the day. BYO lunch. Return approx. 3.00pm. *Please pay the \$20pp bus hire by Tuesday. Any cancellations must be notified to the Parish Office by Tuesday, 1st April.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday During Lent from 7.00pm, followed by Mass and Benediction. *No 9.15am Mass Fridays.* All welcome.

PALMS

If anyone has Palms (long and short) for Palm Sunday (13th April), please bring them to the Church on Friday, 11th April, or contact the Parish Office if they need to be collected.

WORKING BEE – SATURDAY 12TH APRIL 10.00AM-12NOON We will have a Working Bee on Saturday, 12th April after the 9.15am Morning Mass for a general clean up and to prepare the Church for our Easter Services. Please volunteer some time between 10.00am-12noon. Thank You.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE 2025

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 12/13 APRIL

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass; Sunday at 8.30am & 10.30am
(No 5.00pm Mass on Palm Sunday)

HOLY WEEK

Monday 14th April and Wednesday 16th April – Morning Mass at 9.15am

Tuesday 15th April – Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 10.00am (All welcome to attend)

HOLY THURSDAY – 17th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm.
Altar of Repose & Eucharistic Adoration until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY – 18th April

Way of the Cross at 10.30am
Divine Mercy Novena at 11.30am
Solemn celebration of The Lord's Passion at 3.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY – 19th April

Divine Mercy Novena at 5.30pm
The Easter Vigil Mass at 7.00pm
(Blessing of Fire, Paschal Candle & Baptismal Water)

EASTER SUNDAY – 20th 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)

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. Deposit of AUD\$750pp due NOW. Please speak with Fr Anil if you are interested. *Itinerary and information, available in the narthex.*

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>

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 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

9.15am Mass *(on request of Parish Priest)*

YEAR 3 STUDENTS' – 1st RECONCILIATION

COMMITMENT MASSES

Saturday, 29th March – 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 30th March – 10.30am Mass

Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare for their First Reconciliation in June.

LENTEN REFLECTION at St Martin de Porres Church, 158 Military Road, Avondale Heights Thursday 10th April at 7.00pm. Facilitator: Fr Chris Monaghan, Passionist Fathers. All welcome. See flyers.

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.