



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Sin and temptation are the dominant themes of the readings for this first week of Lent. Indeed, they are regular themes in the season of Lent. However, the scripture passages throughout this season allow us the opportunity to think again about these themes and perhaps reconsider some traditional understandings of them.

Today's first reading and gospel give us two different takes on the notion of temptation. In the passage from Genesis, humanity is tempted to ignore the will of God and, when they succumb, they lose their innocence and become embarrassed by their nakedness. The temptation they are offered is to believe themselves above and beyond the will of God; to believe that they can judge as well as God; and to rise to an equal level of power and authority with God. Their action breaks the trusting, loving relationship between themselves and God. In the Gospel, Jesus too is confronted with similar temptations. Ultimately, the temptation that faces Jesus relates to his purpose and ministry – will he trust to God's vision of the suffering servant who will bring about a change of heart in the people, or will he be the sort of Messiah that the people hoped for: a triumphant, glorious victor over all who stood in his way. He is tempted to break his self-imposed fasting, to test God's promise of nurture and security, and to seek glory and personal power. Whilst Adam and Eve surrender to temptation, Jesus holds fast to God's vision.

The second reading from Paul ties the Genesis and Gospel readings together and injects the notion of sin into the equation. However, Paul make it perfectly clear that the sin of Adam, though carrying great ramifications, pales in comparison to the extraordinary abundance of God's love that is expressed through Jesus Christ.

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Gospel Mt 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple, 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour, 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

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

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

First Sunday of Lent, Year A

First Reading Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'Not! You eat it! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

2. My offences truly I know them;

my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)

3. A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:12-19 (or Shorter form Rom 5:12, 17-19)

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous

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!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Virgilio & Norma Salvador, Reynaldo Salvador, Jacundiano Berro, Estrelita Keller, Ramon Abelas Sr.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Brenda Carew, Miriam Coco

ANNIVERSARIES

Maria Lai Thi Bich, Eliza Pinto, Aloysius & Katerina Grbac, Anthony Cutayar, Francesco Bonfa, Sonia Care, Daniel & John Galea, Joe & Carmen Galea, Santo & Angela Sciacchitano, Eileen & Michael Tomlin, Charlie & Emma Vassallo, Emerita Magpanaw

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meets on Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 7pm in the Parish Centre Meeting Room.

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12 noon – Sunday, 1st March 2026

Aaliyah Brancatisano

Conor Luca Payne

Kruz & Creed O'Keefe

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. 555304676. Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. A.Smith T/G 500

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Do you need a helping hand? St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers are committed to providing people with access to the resources and support they need to overcome personal hardship. If you require assistance, please phone our Welfare Assistance Line on free call 1800 305 330 Monday to Friday, except public holidays.

PARISH NEWS



Throughout the season of Lent, the Stations of the Cross will 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.

No 9.15am Morning Mass Fridays

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Are available from the narthex. You are welcome to take one home if you wish to.

RCIA RITE OF ELECTION

This weekend we pray for our Candidates, Sienna, Joshua, Juan and Simon, 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.

PROJECT COMPASSION

This Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. *Project Compassion boxes and/or envelopes, are now available in the narthex.*

PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

New Thanksgiving envelopes and receipts are available for collection in the narthex. Please take a moment after Mass to collect your new set of envelopes, which **commence on 15th March**. Please try to get up to date with your current envelopes, prior to starting the new envelopes. For those who give by credit card, direct debit, or directly online, please find your envelope with your receipt. *If your envelopes or receipts are not found, or if you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.*



LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO TA' PINU MARIAN SHRINE, BACCHUS MARSH – Saturday 14th March 2026

As part of our Lenten journey, we will have a Pilgrimage to Our Lady Ta' Pinu Marian Shrine, 15 Flanagan Drive, Merrimu on Saturday, 14th March. All invited to attend. We will hire a bus for the day. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex and include your contact details, or email the Parish Office. **RSVP by 8th March.**

8.45am Depart St Peter's

10.00am Stations of the Cross

12noon Holy Mass

1.00pm Light Lunch

2.30pm Bus departs Ta' Pinu

ST PETER'S SOCIAL CLUB

"CELEBRATING 40 YEARS"

FEBRUARY 2026

The St Peter's Social Club are celebrating 40 wonderful years this year. The Club was formed with parishioners and under the guidance of the late Theresa Zarb, with the aim of assisting people in need e.g. reduce loneliness, create interaction and fellowship. The Club has been operating on Wednesdays ever since. We hope the Club continues for many years to come. New members and all nationalities are welcome.

Come for a cuppa, a chat, play some Bingo and meet new friends. **BYO lunch.** 10.00am-1.00pm approx. Entry is via Bellarine Avenue.

MINISTERS' ROSTER: 28/2-1/3 2026 - 30/6/26

Will be available from early next week.

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: TBA

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

PARISH THANKSGIVING OFFERING

We sincerely thank all our school families for your generous support of the Parish Thanksgiving Program. Your sacrifice and commitment greatly strengthen our St Peter's community.

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

PREP ENROLMENTS 2027 – "OPEN DAYS"

Tuesday 3 Mar 2026 9.00am-10.00am

Thursday 5 March 9.00am-10.00am

Tuesday 10 March 9.00am-10.00am

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.