



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C **23 February 2025**

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to love their enemies and to **do good** to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

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Gospel Lk 6:27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.'

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

First Reading 1Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:45-49

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for all the Recently Deceased

ANNIVERSARIES

Sr. Pasqualina Attard, Charles & Maryanne Spiteri, Judy & Frank Hodgson

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12 noon – Sunday, 2nd March 2025

Lucy Bryant

Charlie Minniti

Remy Stebbing

Please pray for these children and their families.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Next meeting Tuesday 25th February 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. ASmith T/G 500

BIBLE DIARIES FOR SALE

For sale - \$15 each.

ASH WEDNESDAY 2025

Mass times for **Ash Wednesday – 5th March**
9.15am Mass (with whole School)
7.00pm Mass

MINISTERS' ROSTER – 1/3/25-30/6/25

Will be available next week. If rostered for the weekend 1st & 2nd March, you will be notified as soon as possible.

PARISH NEWS

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN – CAR PARK

As many of you would be aware, as a Parish we have had an Improvement Notice from WorkSafe, since December 2023. As a result of this, we closed the car park on school operating days for the weekday Masses.

Last week we had a meeting where WorkSafe notices were signed off but the Traffic Management Plan is in place during school operating hours. For us as a Parish, the car entry gates will be closed during school operating hours.

There are still works that need to be done. Please see the TMP on the main noticeboard in the narthex. We thank the Vicar General for his help with this.

PARISH OFFERTORY PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners,

In two weeks, we will commence our Offertory Giving Program in our parish community, which will run over a four-week period. Giving generously is a way to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christian worshippers. You are encouraged to engage prayerfully with the content presented and provided over this time and we look forward to growing and going deeper in our relationship with Christ through this process.

Fr. Anil Mascarenhas

PARISH THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES STAMPED 2ND & 9TH MARCH

Parishioners using envelopes for Parish Thanksgiving may notice some missing envelopes – 2nd & 9th March. This was due to the printing company only supplying envelopes until the end of February. Please contact the Parish Office if you are missing these envelopes and we will organise to get them to you. Alternatively, you can use any envelope for 2 & 9 March, but please add your name and thanksgiving number, if you know it. *The next set of Thanksgiving envelopes and receipts will be available for collection next weekend.*

PALMS

Please bring your old palms to the church by next weekend, as we will burn them to use as ashes on Ash Wednesday, 5th March.



JUBILEE 2025: FRIDAY VIGIL – 28TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT ST PETER'S CHURCH
You are warmly invited to join us for the Vigil for the Holy Year Jubilee 2025 on this coming Friday, 28th February.

Starts at 6.30pm with Rosary, followed by Holy Mass. There will be an Inspirational Spiritual Talk, Family Consecration and Benediction. Please see posters in the narthex.

Please note there will be no 9.15am Mass this coming Friday, 28th February. Mass will be at 7.00pm only.

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.** See sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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 speak with Fr Anil or contact the Parish Office.*

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue

Keilor East Vic 3033

Administrator: Rev. Anil Mascarenhas

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Parish Office Hours: 8.30am-4.00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

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<https://www.melbrcatholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277)

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MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am & 10.30am

5.00pm Mass

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@spkeiloreastcatholic.edu.au

Administration: Christine Torrance

GRADE 6 STUDENTS' CONFIRMATION

COMMITMENT MASSES

Saturday 1st March at the 6pm Vigil Mass
and 2nd March at the 10.30am Sunday Mass.

Please pray for these children as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation on 30th May.

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.