



**Reflection** by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings today remind us that poetic imagery is an apt way of describing the mysterious presence of God in our midst. The cedar began as a seedling that takes years to grow into a magnificent tree. The same is true of the mustard tree. It too requires time to develop its trunk and branches. The development of moral integrity in a human being is just as gradual. Rooted in God, it flourishes in God's presence and it produces fruit even into old age. Although God is present in all things, sustaining them and allowing them to follow their natural courses, God really transcends all things. Metaphorical language may be the best means for speaking about God and the things of God. It enables us to live in the tension that both reveals something about God and conceals God's real nature.

The reign of God also begins in very ordinary circumstances, and it matures gradually until it has spread itself far and wide. Although the mystery of the reign of God unfolds within human history, we need eyes of faith to recognise it. Like the cedar and the mustard seed, it grows within the concreteness of human experience. Just as the life force that thrusts the branches of the trees further and further out cannot itself be seen, so the reign of God is mysterious, even incomprehensible. Still, it is there, inviting us, urging us to move forward, transforming our world.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass, published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural questions are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, used by permission of the publishers. All rights reserved. © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd. All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.



**Gospel Mk 4:26-34**

*The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

**First Reading Ez 17:22-24**

*I have made the small tree great.*

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,  
from the highest branch I will take a shoot  
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.  
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.

It will sprout branches and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.  
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,  
every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow,  
who withers green trees and makes the withered green.  
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)

3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

**Second Reading 2 Cor 5:6-10**

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight - we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2**

*(R.) Lord it is good to give thanks to you.*

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;*

*all who come to him will live for ever.*

*Alleluia!*

### IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### SICK

Rocco Crea

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Silvia Scrofani, Rev. Brendan Dillon PI,  
Tarcisio Sartoretto, Liliana Carriato, Christine Scanlon

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Maria Faramella(1 month), Americo Faramella, Rocco Cornacchia, George Attard, Tessie Mizzi, John Debono, Sam Pantano, Angelo Lo Nigro, John Julian Robinson

#### BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12noon – Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024

#### Evie Principato

Please pray for this child and her family.

**PARISH SUPPORT** Thank you all for your continued support. For those who prefer to, online donations can be made as follows:-

#### Presbytery Collection – 1<sup>st</sup> Collection

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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

#### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Fri 21 June St Aloysius Gonzaga

Sat 22 June Sts John Fisher & Thomas More

**CHURCH CAR PARKING** As many parishioners are asking about the car parking situation, inside the grounds for the morning weekday Mass, this is to let you know that we are working on it. We understand this is an inconvenience, especially to our elderly and disabled parishioners. Please keep this project in your prayers.

#### PRAYING THE ROSARY AT HOME

If you would like to borrow the small statue of our Lady of Fatima to pray the Rosary at home, you may do so. We ask you return it the next day(except if taking Sunday, then it can be returned on Tuesday morning). *Please add your name and contact details on the clipboard in the narthex before removing the Statue from the Church.*

### PARISH NEWS

#### MASS AT ST PETER'S

We return to our normal weekday Morning Mass at 9.15am from Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June.

#### MORNING MASS: SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

The usual 9.15am Morning Mass on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June will commence at **10.00am that day** and include a Memorial Mass for the late Pasquale Bruzzese.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Very Reverend Joe Caddy AM, who has been appointed by Pope Francis as the new Bishop of Cairns, Far North Queensland. Father Joe has been the Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the last 5 years.

**CATHOLIC MISSION: PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL: 15/16 JUNE "Go and Invite EVERYONE to the banquet"**

In Mongolia, vulnerable people requiring social services often face stigma for using them. Those in need are often impacted by domestic violence or homelessness. Unfortunately, support services are limited in number and the demand for them is growing. This means some of our brothers and sisters in Mongolia are going without the help they need. The House of Mercy will provide a haven for many people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require.

We will have a Special Collection this weekend at all Masses. Envelopes are available in the narthex. Alternatively, please donate at: [catholicmission.org.au/Mongolia](http://catholicmission.org.au/Mongolia),

#### WHOLE SCHOOL MASS – 28/6/24

There will be a whole school Mass on the last day of the School Term – Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15am, when we will celebrate St Peter's Feast Day. All welcome to attend.

**STS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY: WEEKEND 29<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

Parish Feast Day celebrations will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June. More details to come next week.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Are you interested in becoming a Catholic** or do you know someone who is? Are you a person in search of the meaning of life? Are you a Christian wishing to find out more about the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic looking for an adult appreciation of your faith? The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)* is the normal process by which the Catholic Church welcomes new members, and we **will walk with you on your journey of discovery**. This journey of discovery begins with a time of discernment and *Enquiry*, continues through a period of *Catechumenate*, reaches its highpoint at the celebration of *Easter*, and concludes with a period of further deepening of and living the Christian faith. There will be a series of *Enquiry Nights* for those interested in learning more about becoming a Catholic. They will take place on **Tuesdays 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre Meeting Room**. For further info, please contact Mrs Teresa Paradowski on 9337 3103, or contact the Parish Office.

#### VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREAT

**For Men - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00am-4.00pm at Carmelite Monastery, Kew**  
The Vocations Office invites all men discerning a vocation to a day retreat. The day will include talks on the Priesthood and discernment as well as time for prayerful reflection. RSVP by Wed 3 July at: [vocations@cam.org.au](mailto:vocations@cam.org.au)

**PALMS AUSTRALIA - Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours**

Come to Palms' [Discovery information](http://Discoveryinformation) session at Altona on 11 July. Meet Soraya and returned Palms participants to discover more about [Assignments Aboard](http://AssignmentsAboard). Venue: Mary Help of Christians Church Hall Address: 97 Railway St N, Altona VIC 3018 Date: Thursday 11th July 2024 Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm Phone: 0422 472 567 [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)

**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](mailto:keiloreast@cam.org.au)

**Website:**

<http://pol.org.au/keiloreast/Home.aspx>

**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 Sunday Masses

##### 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@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au)

**Administration:** Stephanie Wood, Christine Torrance

**ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**

**END OF TERM 2**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

*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.*