

Reflection by Greg Sunter

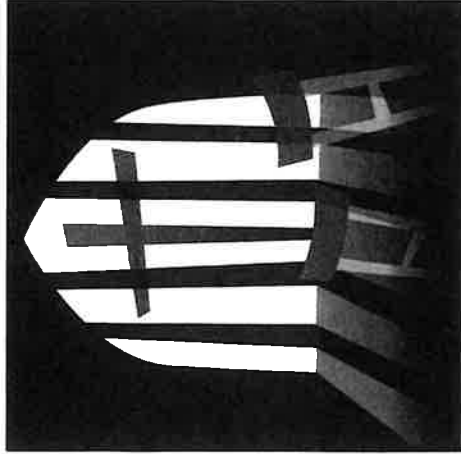
Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!'

The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

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Gospel Mt 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts,

'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,

vengeance is coming,

the retribution of God;

he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed,

then the lame shall leap like a deer

and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,

for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,

everlasting joy on their faces;

joy and gladness will go with them

and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

14 December 2025

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

CONGRATULATIONS

Shehan & Minthaka Fernando

Married at St John the Baptist Church

Sri Lanka

12th December 2015

Happy 10th Wedding Anniversary

Wishing you God's blessings

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Miriam Coko

RECENTLY DECEASED

Rev. Michael Leonard Shadbolt PI;

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph Grbac, Nelson Fernando, Chris Portelli, Don McConville, Cono Cantelmi

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF

ADULTS (RCIA)

Next meeting this Tuesday, 16th December, 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

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. 535304676.

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

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

Donations for the costs associated with flowers for our Altar at Christmas would be appreciated. We will have a special collection on weekend 20/21 December.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Envelopes are available in the current set of Thanksgiving Envelopes and in the narthex.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office closes for 2025 on Tuesday, 23rd December. Next weekend is the final Parish Bulletin for 2025.

PARISH NEWS

WORKING BEE: SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER

We will have a Working Bee next Saturday, 20th December to prepare the Church for our Christmas Services. Please volunteer some time from **10.00am-11.30pm**. Thank You.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WITH CAROLS & BBQ - SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Commences after the 10.30am Sunday Mass, from **11.30am**. Please stay and join in singing Christmas Carols, followed by a BBQ. Please bring a bowl of salad/sweet to share if possible. See sheet in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

3 prizes to be won. Tickets \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Please add your name and contact number. Raffle will be drawn during the BBQ on Sunday **21st December!**

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY 2025 – “VOLUNTEERS NEEDED” Please fill in the clipboard in the narthex or email the Parish Office by **Tuesday 16th December**. We need Readers, Ext. Mins. of Communion, Mass Helpers, Greeters, Altar Servers, Musicians and Singers for our Christmas Masses.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ‘GIVING TREE’
If you are able to, please take a tag and purchase a gift or gift card and return to the tree by **Saturday, 20th December**. Please choose appropriate gifts for the age shown on the tag e.g. Toys etc for the younger ones, Gift Cards for teenagers. *Unwrapped* (open Gift Bags or supermarket bags) would be appreciated. Gifts will be distributed by Vinnies to those less fortunate than ourselves. *Cash donations and gift cards can be left in the metal box located on the back wall of the church (next to the picture of St Mary MacKillop) or in an envelope marked “ST/DP – Giving Tree” and left in a collection basket during mass.*



ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2025

Parish Reconciliation

Saturday, 20th December
9.15am Holy Mass followed by Parish Reconciliation

Wednesday, 24th December

5.00pm Christmas Carols
5.30pm Family Mass

Children are encouraged to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds

8.00pm Christmas Carols

8.30pm Family Mass

11.30pm Christmas Carols

12.00am Midnight Mass

Thursday, 25th December

8.30am Christmas Day Mass

10.30am Christmas Day Mass

5.00pm Christmas Day Mass

27/28 December

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary & Joseph

Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 8.30am & 10.30am

(No 5pm Mass)

Wednesday, 31st December

9.15am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Thursday, 1st January 2026 –

New Year's Day

9.15am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Thereafter normal weekday and weekend

Mass Timetable except

No 5.00pm Sunday Mass during January

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 & 5.00pm Sunday Masses

Weekday Mass Times

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,

Friday

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon

request of Parish Priest)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Tuesday 16th December

End of year Mass @ 9.15am

All welcome to attend.

End of Term @12.00noon

Wishing all students, teachers and admin staff a

Blessed Christmas and happy and safe holiday time.

Thank you for your witness and see you at

Christmas and weekend Masses throughout the

New Year.

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.