

PARISH OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

KEILOR EAST

2 February 2025

The Presentation of the Lord – Year C

Volume 46, Number 2



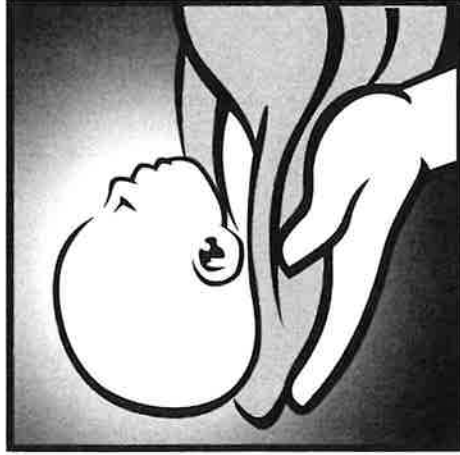
Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel writer has merged two different ritual events into one in this passage: a ritual of purification following childbirth and an act of redeeming a first-born son through tribute to the Temple. The ritual of purification referred to would take place forty days after childbirth and today's feast is the fortieth day from Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. The gospel tells us that Mary and Joseph were sacrificing a pair of birds. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph – they were sufficiently poor that they could not afford to sacrifice a lamb.

The other ritual alluded to in the passage relates to the tradition from Exodus 13:2 and Numbers 18:15 that every first-born son belonged to the Lord and had to be 'bought back' or 'redeemed' by payment to the Temple. The original command of the first-born belonging to the Lord meant that the child was destined to serve in the Temple. However, the child could be 'redeemed' from this service by payment to the Temple.

There is a great contrast between the forceful entry into the Temple by the Lord as foretold by Malachi in today's first reading and the humble entry of the baby Jesus into the Temple. It reinforces the way in which throughout his ministry Jesus confounded many of the expectations about the Messiah.

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'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Presentation of the Lord

2 February 2025

First Reading Mal 3:1-4

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10

(R.) *Who is this king of glory?
It is the Lord!*

1. O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
2. Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. (R.)
3. O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)
4. Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 2:14-18

He had to be made like us in all things.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of

the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

*This is the light of revelation to
the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your saving power.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:



IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Emmanuel Bajada, Giovanni Costa, Fr Bruno Carreta

ANNIVERSARIES

Giuseppina Usai, Gaetano & Matilda Vitregliano, Gregorio Terlato, Antonino and Francesca Pisano, Giovanni and Gaetana Pisano, Giuseppe and Gesualda Terlato, John and Maria Terlato, Paola & Paolo Salustro

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meeting Tuesday 4th 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. Only 3 left.

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 8.30am-4.00pm. Call 9337 4141 or email: keiloreast@cam.org.au

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 5 Feb St Agatha
Thursday 6 Feb St Paul Miki & Companions

PARISH NEWS

5.00PM SUNDAY MASS

Resumes on 9th February.

PARKING AFTER WEEKEND MASS

Please ensure you remove your car from the carpark after attending a weekend Mass. For security of the campus, the gates must be kept locked outside of Mass hours.

DATE FOR THE DIARY!

Saturday 29th March. Ta Pinu Lenten Pilgrimage. Further details to come!

MINISTERS' ROSTER – 1/3/25-30/6/25

Requesting all Parish volunteers who perform Special Ministry, to please update your availability to the Parish Office, for the period 1/3/25-30/6/25, no later than **Tuesday, 11th February**. This Roster includes Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday Masses on **19/20 April**. *We need more volunteers for Reading, Ext. Ministers of Communion, Ext. Ministers of Communion to the Sick & Housebound, Greeters, Altar Servers. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.*

NEW FAMILIES TO ST PETER'S

We welcome all new families into our Parish. If you wish to be enrolled onto our Census, please take a Parish Census Card from the narthex to fill in and return, contact the Parish Office on 9337 4141 or email keiloreast@cam.org.au

PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAMME

We would be grateful if you would consider joining our Parish Thanksgiving Programme (2nd Collection). Your pledge helps meet basic operating needs of the Parish – insurance, utility bills, wages, and supports programs of faith education, pastoral care and outreach. Payment options are: cash, direct debit, direct online transfer or credit card. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like a pledge card sent to you.

CONSECRATION OF NEW AUXILIARY BISHOPS Congratulations to the newly consecrated auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Most Rev Rene Ramirez and Most Rev Thinh Xuan Nguyen.

Let us pray for them.

BEGINNING OF YEAR WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

Friday, 7th February at 9.15am. All welcome to attend.

PARISH GROUPS

ST PETER'S GOSPEL DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday mornings in the Parish Centre Meeting Room from 10.00am until 11.30am. New members are welcome. Please contact the Parish Office or speak with Margaret Walsh, for further information.

ITALIAN PRAYER GROUP

Remenances for 2025 on Monday, 17th February at 10.00am in the Church. For further information, please speak with Tina Scollo. Everyone welcome.

ST PETER'S SOCIAL CLUB

Remenances on Wednesday, 5th February in the Parish Centre (entry via Bellarine Avenue) from 10.00am until approx. 1.30pm. New members are welcome. Come for a cuppa, a chat, play some Bingo and meet new friends. BYO lunch. New members are welcome. Contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

NOTICES FOR PARISH BULLETIN

If you have a death anniversary you would like included in the Parish Bulletin, please contact the Parish Office by Wednesday afternoon prior to the weekend you would like it published. Mass offering envelopes are available in the narthex.

LOURDES DAY MASS, SATURDAY: 8th FEBRUARY 2025

The Lourdes Day Mass is held annually on the Saturday closest to the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is held to pray for the elderly, the sick and infirm and their carers. The Mass is organised by the Order of Malta who endeavour to bring Lourdes to those who are unlikely to be able to travel overseas. The Mass will be held at 10.30am, Saturday 8 February 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. All are welcome. See flyers in the narthex. For more information, please contact Sauro Antonelli AM on 0411 250 288.

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>

Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am & 10.30am

5.00pm Mass resumes on 9th February.

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

Administration: Christine Torrance

"THANK YOU"

The Walsh family would like to thank everyone for the love, care and support received during the sad time over the last few weeks, since the passing of Joe. Thank you all.
Margaret Walsh

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.