



Reflection by Greg Sunter

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.

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Gospel Mt 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

First Reading Is 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:
'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the
patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the
Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure
heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

CONGRATULATIONS

Dorothy & Leigh Robinson

Married at St Augustine's Church
Melbourne

20th December 1975

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary
Wishing you God's blessings

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Miriam Coco

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph Rajakariar, Sr. Pasqualina Attard,
Charles Mizzi, Anthony Cassar, Daniel &
John Galea, Maria & Frank Falzon, Maria
Moore, Maria Cesile, Bernardo Quattrucci,
Caterina De Luca

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS
(RCIA)** Resumes Tuesday 27th January 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

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

We will have a special collection this weekend
at all Masses for our Christmas Altar Flowers.

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 and re-
opens on Tuesday, 20th January 2026. The
first Bulletin for 2026 will be published o
weekend 31/1-1/2/26. *Any urgent matters
during this period, please leave a voice message, or
email the parish.*

PARISH NEWS

A special thanks to those who attended our
Working Bee on Saturday morning and those
who helped decorate the Church for our
Christmas celebrations. Thanks to Laurie
Mizzi and others who helped him to prepare
the Crib. May God bless you all for your
generosity.



THANK YOU

As the end of the year draws to a close, I
would like to sincerely thank all the
volunteers of our parish who so generously
share their time and talents in so many ways.
My heartfelt thanks go to our Maintenance
Workers, Office Staff, Counters and
Collectors; the Church Flower Ministry; our
Sacristans and all who assist them; our Music
Co-ordinator, Musicians, Singers and Audio-
Visual Operators; our Altar Servers and
Cleaners; and all involved in our Liturgical
Ministries — Readers, Extraordinary
Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers to
the Sick and Housebound, and our Greeters.
I also wish to acknowledge with gratitude
our Parish Committees — the Parish
Finance Committee and Pastoral Council —
together with the Safeguarding Committee,
Baptism Team, representatives of the St
Vincent de Paul Society, St Peter's Social
Group, Gospel Discussion Group, R.C.I.A.
Team, and indeed every member of our
parish family.

Your dedication, generosity and faith do not
go unnoticed. Our parish community
continues to grow and flourish, and this is
truly because of you. I am deeply grateful for
all that you do and for the spirit of kindness,
service and faith you bring to our parish.

With every blessing to you and your families,
I wish you a holy and very Merry Christmas.
**Wishing all our parishioners and visitors
of St Peter's Parish, Keilor East a
holy and very Merry Christmas and a
Healthy and Prosperous New Year 2026**

With a grateful heart,

Fr Anil Mascarenhas



ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2025

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

**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

**"CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT ST PETER'S
KEILOR EAST DRAWS THOUSANDS"**

Please see the link on the Parish Website, or
go to melbournecatholic.org to see a special
article on the 4th December, Christmas
Carols Event. Great photos too!

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

[Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277](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: Stephanie Wood

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am, 10.30am & *5.00pm Sunday Masses

No 5pm Sunday Mass on 28/12/25 or throughout

January 2026

Weekday Mass Times

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon

request of Parish Priest)

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Last chance to buy your tickets for the
raffle. \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Please add your
name and contact number. *Raffle drawn*
21/12, after the Christmas Carols.

CHRISTMAS MASSES - VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all who have volunteered for
Christmas Ministry. We still need some
more Ext. Ministers of Communion, Altar
Servers, Singers, Greeters & Collectors.
Please see clipboard in the narthex

***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.***