



Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

23 March 2025

Reflection by Greg Sunter

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'. The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

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Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;

the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Lk 13:1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

First Reading Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. 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 does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for all the recently departed.

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Carmen Bartolo, Peter Colosimo, Anna Tsiondis, Lynette Gerards

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12 noon – Sunday, 6th April 2025

Oliver Fullwood

Jude Russell

Please pray for these children and their families.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF

ADULTS (RCIA) Next meeting Tuesday 25th March 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

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: PROJECT COMPASSION

3rd Sunday of Lent – 22/23 March

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes or envelopes, online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion Or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

PARISH NEWS

NEW PARISH OFFERTORY PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners,
As we continue our parish offertory renewal, we invite those who have not yet returned their Pledge Cards to do so. You may place your completed card in the offertory collection, in the designated boxes in the church foyer, or drop it off at the parish office.

If you were unable to collect a Pledge Pack, generic Pledge Cards are available on the pews this weekend. These can be filled out and returned immediately during Mass.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our parish community. Every offering, no matter the amount, is an expression of love and gratitude to God. Your support ensures that our parish can continue to serve and grow in faith together.



FRIDAYS DURING LENT – MASS TIME

Continues each Friday During Lent from 7.00pm, followed by Mass and Benediction. *No 9.15am Mass Fridays.* All welcome.

PALMS

If anyone has Palms for Palm Sunday (13th April), please bring them to the Church on Friday, 11th April, or contact the Parish Office if they need to be collected from your garden. We particularly need the long palms, to decorate the Church.

ST PETER'S PARISH – VOCATION RETREAT

Saturday, 29th March 9.15am-12pm

For single young women 18-35 years

Welcoming by Sr Mara Grace, Vocation Director for the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia

Opportunity for Mass, Adoration, Confession, Talk, Q & A and a chance to speak with priests and religious sisters.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tue 25 March The Annunciation of the Lord



LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO TA' PINU MARIAN SHRINE, BACCHUS MARSH – Saturday 5th April 2025 We are having 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.

Visiting Shrine area

2.00pm Bus departs Ta' Pinu

3.00pm Return to St Peter's (approx.)

Only a few seats left on the bus - \$20pp. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex and include your contact number, or email the Parish Office. **RSVP 23/3/25.** *Please see *Helena, Cathy or Adele for bus hire payment, by 26th March. Thank you.*

PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE – In the Footsteps of our Beloved Saints

All are invited to join our Great Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrimage. From September 17th to October 4th, we will visit the holy sites of beloved Saints: Paris, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Lanciaio, Loreto, Venice, Padua, and Medjugorje. Fr Anil looks forward to walking this sacred path with you. Details: 18 days, fully escorted. Package Price per person (twin share) AUD\$9,590. Optional single room supplement: AUD\$1,925. Online Information Session – Tuesday, 18th March from 7.00pm. Deposit of AUD\$750pp due 21st March. Please speak with Fr Anil if you are interested. *Itinerary and information, available in the narthex.*

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

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<https://www.melb.catholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook:

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

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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 Mass

5.00pm Mass

Weekday Mass Times:

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Fridays during Lent at 7.00pm – Stations of the Cross followed by Mass and Benediction

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon request of Parish Priest)

YEAR 3 STUDENTS' - 1st RECONCILIATION

COMMITMENT MASSES

Saturday, 29th March – 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 30th March – 10.30am Mass

Please keep these children, their families and teachers in your prayers.

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.