



First Sunday of Advent, Year A

30 November 2025

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. (Year B features the gospel of Mark and Year C, that we have just completed, features the gospel of Luke.) Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means 'coming'; it is also reflected in the Greek word *Parousia*, which is used to describe the second coming of Jesus. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today's reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation.

It may seem a little confusing that we begin our year-long exploration of the gospel of Matthew by taking a reading from chapter 24. However, the need for readiness and alertness that Jesus speaks about in relation to the coming of the Kingdom is equally suitable for a modern audience when preparing to celebrate once again the coming of Jesus into the world. Jesus is the best expression of the Kingdom that we have yet experienced and so rather than seeing the choice of this passage as a confusion, we should recognise the alignment that exists between the anticipation of the Kingdom and the anticipation of the Nativity.

The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God become human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world.

Gospel Mt 24:37-44

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

First Reading Is 2:1-5

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways; so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. (R.)

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' (R.)

4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 13:11-14

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

FUNERAL NOTICE

On Friday, 5th December, the Funeral for the late Salvatore Lo Castro will commence at 10.00am. There will be **no 9.15am Morning Mass**.

All are welcome to attend the Funeral Mass and pray for the repose of his soul.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Miriam Coco

RECENTLY DECEASED

Francesco Daquino, Salvatore Lo Castro

ANNIVERSARIES

Tomasso Mazzei(1 month), Sergio Bencic, Maria Pagnin, Anna Tarola

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12noon – Sunday, 7th December 2025

Nyla Patrao

Please pray for this child and her family.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meeting this Tuesday, 2nd 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

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 3 Dec St Francis Xavier

2026 COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR SALE

(Only a few Calendars are available for purchase - **\$10 each**. Once they're gone, they're gone.

NOVEMBER MASSES

If you would like to offer Masses for your departed loved ones, please use the November Mass Intention envelopes, available in the narthex.

PARISH NEWS

ST PETER'S 2025 CHRISTMAS CAROLS

It's finally here! All are warmly invited to join us on **Thursday, 4th December** for an evening of joy, community, and Christmas spirit. Bring your family, friends, and neighbours—along with a rug for seating during the children's performances. Chairs will be available in the tennis court area for the elderly. **Please come early to get the best spot!**

Program:

- **4.30pm** – Gates Open (Parkside Ave gate only) & Food/Drinks Available
- **6.30pm** – Christmas Carols Entertainment begins with Opening Prayer
- **8.30pm** – Finish

Come and celebrate the season with us as a parish community!

Lots of food for sale: (EFTPOS or cash sales welcome), Burgers, sausage rolls, fried rice, spring rolls, cakes, cold drinks, tea & coffee, and more!

Raffle Books: All tickets, sold or unsold, must be returned by **Tuesday, 2nd December** to the Parish Office.

Raffles prizes will be drawn during the evening between breaks in Carols performances. If not present at the Carols, winners will be notified by phone.

Gold Coin donation on entry at Parkside Ave gate, and lucky door prize ticket given. Door prizes to be drawn during the evening on the Carols stage and you must be there with your ticket to claim a prize.

Parking: Please be respectful of our Keilor East neighbours when parking in the surrounding streets and keep noise to a minimum when returning to your car.

Cake Stall: Home-made cakes, slices or treats needed! Please drop off to the Parish Office or Church by **11am on 4th December** for pricing. Please include the ingredients used in making your cake on a label (instruction sheet & labels available in narthex to take).

An Important Note for Carols Volunteers

If you aren't sure where you have been allocated to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office Wednesday afternoon. We ask that volunteers arrive **by 4.00pm. Important:** On arrival Thursday, all Volunteers must report to the Parish Centre Meeting Room for induction.

St Peter's Parish

Advent Retreat

An evening of prayer and reflection

Sunday, 7th December
4.45pm – 8.00pm

Rosary followed by Holy Mass with preaching of the Word of God and Eucharistic Adoration with healing prayers

Guest Speaker: Fr. Rojan George V.C.

“ALL WELCOME”

MEMORIAL MASS FOR DECEASED LOVED

ONES: 13TH & 14TH DECEMBER

13TH DECEMBER – 6.00PM VIGIL

14TH DECEMBER – 10.30AM MASS

As we prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas, we also pause to lovingly remember those who have gone before us. As a parish family, we will pray for our departed loved ones and for all whose funerals were held at St Peter's during the past year.

You are invited to bring a photo of your loved one to place in the designated area—an expression of their lasting presence in our lives. Please feel welcome to invite your family to share in this time of prayer and remembrance.

All are warmly welcome.

WELCOME TO OUR PREP CHILDREN AND

FAMILIES: This weekend at the 10:30am Mass, we warmly welcome our current and incoming Prep children and their families. We pray God's blessings upon them and ask that His grace guide them on their journey ahead. **Welcome—our parish is truly blessed by your presence.**

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL (ACYF) – Begins this Sunday 30 November

This weekend, we welcome more than 6,000 young pilgrims from across Australia to our Archdiocese for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Please keep them in your prayers, that they may encounter Christ in a life-changing way.

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

2025 Christmas Carols

Thursday 4th December

Tuesday 16th December

End of year Mass @ 9.15am

End of Term @12.00noon

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.