



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel for today can be a difficult one to hear. It calls us to place our discipleship before our loyalty to family and even before our own life. It is important to place this passage in the broader context of not only the chapter in which it sits, but also within the gospel as a whole.

Today's passage appears at the conclusion of Chapter 10 in the Gospel of Matthew. The entire chapter deals with the commissioning and sending out of the disciples to 'proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy and drive out demons.' (Mt 10:8) The previous chapter concludes with the words, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' (Mt 9:37-38) Chapter 10 is a response to this call. Jesus sends the disciples to 'work the harvest' through proclamation, healing and exorcism.

At the end of the chapter, having spelt out all the difficulties a disciple must face, Jesus assures them that even the smallest act of welcoming the disciple will be rewarded.

It's also important to understand that the Jewish audience of the Gospel of Matthew found themselves under increasing persecution and there was often division within families between those holding to orthodox Jewish beliefs and those following the new Christian way. For some early Christians, there was the very real choice to be made between following their faith and remaining loyal to family. The Gospel of Matthew repeatedly affirms Jesus as the promised Jewish messiah; as the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy. For early followers of the Christian way, this difficult message about being a follower was in the context of an affirmation that the message of Jesus was deeply grounded in their Jewish faith.



Gospel Mt 10:37-42

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

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Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 28 June 2026

First Reading 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16

That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-3, 16-19. R. v.2

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. *(R.)*
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rom 6:3-4, 8-11

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Pt 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.

Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

IN YOUR PRAYERS



SICK

Richard Fernandez

RECENTLY DECEASED

Anne Parsons

ANNIVERSARIES

Concetta Bruzese, John Scicluna, Pietro Fratangelo, Maria Luigia Fratangelo, Jozef Paradowski, Francesca Simone

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

August 2026

Giuseppe De Fazio

Please pray for this child and his family.

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – Good Works

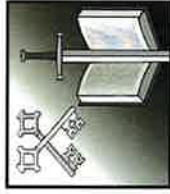
Do you need a helping hand?

St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers are committed to providing people with access to the resources and support they need to overcome personal hardship. If you require assistance, please phone their Welfare Assistance Line on free call 1800 305 330 Monday to Friday (except for public holidays). This service is free and confidential.

MINISTERS' ROSTER – 1/7/26-31/10/26

The next Ministers' Roster will be emailed next week. Volunteers rostered for the 1st weekend in July will be notified on Tuesday.

PARISH NEWS



Feast Day of Saints Peter & Paul, Our Parish Patron Saint – St Peter

We joyfully celebrate our Feast Day this weekend. May Saints Peter & Paul intercede for us and continue to bless us and our St Peter's community and families.

Thank you for making our Parish community more faith filled and for your generous support. May God bless you all and wish you a Happy Feast Day! Please join us in the narthex after Mass for a chat, something to eat and a cuppa. *Thank you to those who kindly brought along a plate to share.*

Prayer of the Parish of St Peter the Apostle, Keilor East

God our Father,
your parish family of St Peter's, East Keilor, thanks you for the faith we share.

Make us a people who cares for one another, and has a genuine concern for the wider community.

Help parents to give good example; give children the grace of love and respect; fill our youth with wisdom, hope and vision. Their leadership is the future of our Church and Nation.

To our sick grant health; to those of advancing years serenity, and to those in sorrow your peace and joy. Father, deepen our love and strengthen our faith.

Jesus, nourish us with your word and eucharist.

Holy Spirit, direct us in all we do and help us to say always:

'Lord, it is good for us to be here.' Amen.

PETER'S PENCE – ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY FATHER – 27/28 JUNE

This weekend at all Masses, we will have the annual collection for the Holy Father. Peter's Pence is the name for the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the universal Church, and for the relief of those most in need. *For more information, please see brochures in the narthex.*

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND – 'VOLUNTEERS NEEDED'

We are in need of more volunteers to be 'Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick', especially after the 8.30am Sunday Mass (to the Catholic residents of Holloway Aged Care) and after other Mass times (to the sick and housebound of Keilor East). Training will be provided. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested and would like to know more.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or do you know someone who is? Are you a person in search of the meaning of life? Are you a Christian wishing to find out more about the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic looking for an adult appreciation of your faith? The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)* is the normal process by which the Catholic Church welcomes new members, and we will walk with you on your journey of discovery. This journey of discovery begins with a time of discernment and *Enquiry*, continues through a period of *Catechumenate*, reaches its highpoint at the celebration of *Easter*, and concludes with a period of further deepening of and living the Christian faith. There will be a series of *Enquiry Nights* for those interested in learning more about becoming a Catholic. They will take place on **Tuesdays 14th, 21st & 28th July at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre Meeting Room**. For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue

Keilor East Vic 3033

Parish Priest: 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: Siobhan Thompson

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

END OF TERM 2

Monday 29th June– Friday 10th July

Wishing all the children, their families and school staff a relaxing and safe school holiday break.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Monday 13th July – Staff Education Day

2026 PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

We are grateful for the school families ongoing support of the Parish Thanksgiving Program (2026 family contribution), which continues to sustain the life and mission of our parish. May God bless your families with peace and joy.

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.