



Reflection by Greg Sunter

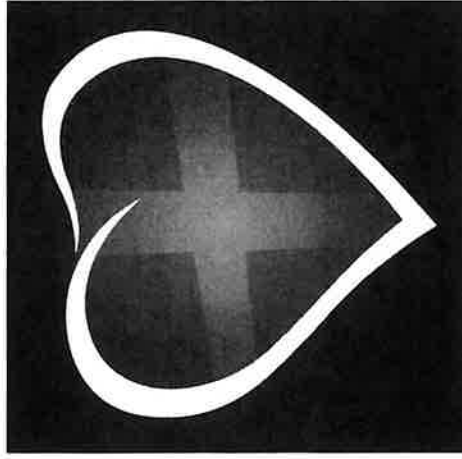
Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 *mitzvot* governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

Gospel Mt 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 October 2026

First Reading Ex 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans."

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4, 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my
stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them.
Alleluia!**

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Carmen Vella

RECENTLY DECEASED

Michael Louis

ANNIVERSARIES

Domenico Bruzzese, Antonia Castelluccio, Vincenzo & Olimpia Gasbarro, Concetta Daquino, Lola Bult, Nick Cami, Vincenza & Giuseppe Serruto

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12noon – Sunday, 15th November 2026

Diego Castro

Gianna D'Angelo

Mila Ottelli

Please pray for these children and their families.

BECOMING CATHOLIC: RCIA PROGRAM

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? Our parish RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme has already commenced for this year. **Next meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 27th October 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. 555304676.

Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

NFC Tags can be found on pens if you would like to give electronically.

2027 COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR SALE

Calandars are available for purchase after Mass – **\$10 each**. Calendars are also available from the Parish Office.

PARISH NEWS



PROCESSION AFTER MASS

On Saturday, 31st October, after the 6.00pm Vigil Mass, we will have a Marian Procession, followed by a cuppa and catch up afterwards in the narthex. Please bring a plate to share. This will also mark the official opening of our new severy counter in the narthex. **All welcome**

ANNUAL ALL SOULS' DAY CEMETERY MASS

The annual Mass commemorating All Souls – **the Faithful Departed** will be celebrated at **Keilor East Cemetery on Saturday, 31 October, at 11:00 am.**

Let us come together in faith and prayer to remember our beloved departed, commend them to God's loving mercy, and find hope in Christ's promise of eternal life.

All are warmly invited to join us in praying for our loved ones.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

ALL SAINTS – 1st NOVEMBER

Normal Sunday Mass timetable

ALL SOULS DAY – 2nd NOVEMBER

We will have Morning Mass at 10.00am on Monday, 2nd November.



ST PETER'S 2026 CHRISTMAS CAROLS – THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2026

A planning meeting was held last Tuesday and this year's Christmas Carols event will take place on **Thursday, 3rd December**. Mark it on your calendar now! More details to come.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS RAFFLE – PRIZES NEEDED

We need prizes for our raffle, with major prizes being printed on our raffle ticket books. Draw will take place during Carols night. If you can sponsor or donate a prize or know someone who can assist us with prizes, please email the Parish Office or speak with Fr Anil after Mass.

Please let us know by Friday, 30th October if you can donate a prize.

GOD'S WORD 2027

Copies of St Paul Publications' "God's Word Daily Reflections 2027" are available in the narthex for **\$25 a copy**. A percentage of proceeds from sales will go towards fundraising for our Parish World Youth Day 2027 Pilgrims. Copies also available from the Parish Office.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS – 28/10-6/11

Over the next 2 weeks, the Parish Office will be open on **Tuesday, 27th October** and **Wednesday, 4th November only** - 9.00am-3.00pm. Please advise any Recently Deceased or Death Anniversary name(s) to the Parish Office by the Wednesday.

CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY – TUESDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER

The Parish Office will be closed this day.

MINISTERS' ROSTER – 31/10/26-28/2/27

The Roster has been emailed to volunteers. Hard copies for those without email address are available for collection in the narthex and extra copies have been printed.

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 (followed by Benediction)

RECONCILIATION

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

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

1st RECONCILIATION – YEAR 3 STUDENTS

Congratulations to the Year 3 students, who will make their 1st Reconciliation next Friday, 30th October. Please keep these children in your prayers.

2026 PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

We are grateful for the school families who are supporting 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.