



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14 September 2025

First Reading Nm 21:4-9

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.
On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

(R.) *Do not forget the works of the Lord!*

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. (R.)
2. When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. (R.)
3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

To many people, venerating and reverencing the Cross seems a very strange practice. The Cross was the instrument of torture used by the Romans to execute particularly troublesome or rebellious inhabitants of their conquered lands. It was a form of execution – along with burning alive and being eaten by wild animals – the Romans used as a means of literally annihilating an enemy. All three methods were designed to ensure that the person was destroyed completely so that nothing was left to bury. In the eyes of the Romans, this was the greatest insult that could be paid to an enemy: without proper burial their families could not properly mourn their passing and they could not enter into the afterlife. The general practice with crucifixion was that the executed person was left on the cross for wild dogs and carrion birds to attack. Ultimately, the picked over bones were cast into a lime pit where they effectively dissolved. It was rare that a victim of crucifixion was allowed to be buried.

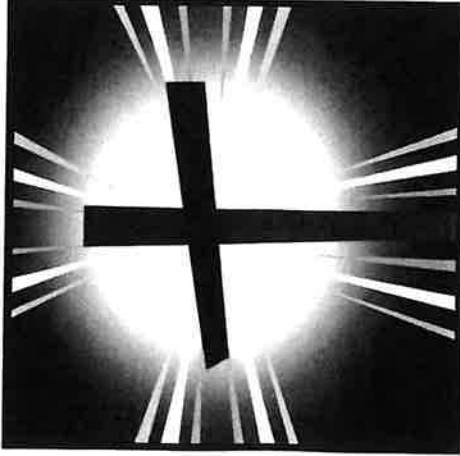
Given this history, it is easy to understand why the early Christians did not generally reverence the Cross. It was not until the 4th century, apparently on 14 September, 326, that Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, identified the cross of Christ's crucifixion and acclaimed its potential for miraculous cures. On the site that she located the Cross, Helena ordered to have built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. From this time, and with the formal adoption of Christianity as the religion of Rome, the Cross became a symbol of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. The common understanding shifted from the Cross being the means of Christ's death to being the means of his triumph over death.

Gospel Jn 3:13-17

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, and the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'



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For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. (R.)

4. Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia!

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Margaret Walsh, Miriam Coco, Nadja Louis
RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES

Janina Paradowki, Lola & Pascal Attard,
Maryanne & Charles Spiteri, Antonio
Bonadio, William Cutayar, Stella Cutayar,
Roberta Pavlic, Costantino & Antonina
Bergonzo

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12noon – Sunday, 14th September 2025

James Mancini

Please pray for this child & 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

DIRECT DEBIT & CREDIT CARD CONTRIBUTORS

If you notice anything unusual on your bank statement related to your pledge to our parish, please contact the parish office promptly. We'll investigate the matter for you. It should show as *Fat Zebra*.

ST PETER'S GOSPEL DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday mornings in the Parish Centre
Meeting Room from 10.00am until 11.30am.
New members are welcome. Please contact
the Parish Office for further information.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 15 Sep Our Lady of Sorrows
Tues 16 Sep Sts Cornelius & Cyprian
Sat 20 Sep Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon,
Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions

PARISH NEWS

WE ARE A SAFE, HOPE-FILLED AND WELCOMING CHURCH
SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY: 14 SEPTEMBER

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

GREAT JUBILEE YEAR: PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE

On 17th September, Fr Anil, parishioners from St Peter's and other parishes, will leave on a Pilgrimage to Europe, visiting the holy sites of beloved Saints in Paris, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Lanciaio, Loreto, Venice, Padua, and Medjugorje. We wish them God's abundant blessings on their journey.

Over the coming weeks, we will have visiting Priests celebrate our weekday and weekend Masses. Please make them feel welcome and assist where needed.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – 17/9/25

The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday, 17th September, due to the Parish Administration Forum, reopening on Friday, 19th September. Please notify the Parish Office of any Death Anniversaries for next weekend, by 4.00pm on Tuesday 16th September. Thank you.

ST PETER'S 2025 CHRISTMAS CAROLS – THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2025

We had a Carols meeting on Thursday evening with the School's Acting Principal, Anne Tadinac and Acting Deputy Principal, Seona Martin present, along with Fr Anil and a good number of Parishioners. It was decided that the Christmas Carols will be held on **Thursday 4th December**. Food will be served from 5.00pm, followed by Carols from 6.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS – RAFFLE – PRIZES NEEDED We are looking for good prizes for our raffle, with major prizes being printed on our raffle ticket books. If you can sponsor or donate a prize or know someone who would be able to assist us with prizes, please email the Parish Office at: keiloreast@cam.org.au

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) ENQUIRY NIGHT

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? There will be an **Enquiry Night on Tuesday 16th September in St Peter's Parish Centre Meeting Room at 7.00pm**. Everyone is welcome. Please pass this on to those you think who might be interested. For further information, contact the Parish Office on 9337 4141.

ST PETER'S PARISH ALPHA "THANK YOU"

Another successful Alpha Program concluded on Tuesday evening. Thanks to all those who participated. We hope that you all enjoyed a truly enriching experience. Special thanks to our Parish Alpha Team, led by Peter, for their organisation and leadership and for preparing and sharing meals with those taking part.

MINISTERS' ROSTER – 1/11/25-28/2/26

The next Ministers' Roster will be prepared soon. Please contact the Parish Office with your 'away' dates from 1/11/25-28/2/26, by **Tuesday, 30th September**. Volunteers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses will be advertised separately.

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

ST PETER'S 2025 STEAM SHOW

Congratulations to the students on their outstanding displays of creativity and artwork at the recent STEAM Show. Also to the school staff for all their efforts in making it a huge success.

END OF TERM 3

Friday 19th September at 12noon

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.