



Second Sunday of Advent, Year C **8 December 2024**

First Reading Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:

since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east

at the command of the Holy One, jubilant
that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting
hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground
level

so that Israel can walk in safety under the
glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will
provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of
his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

*(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.*

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.) The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasises that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favour.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

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Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make

straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Calaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low,

winding ways will be straightened

and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the

salvation of God.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full
of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

We pray for all who are sick in our Parish Community.

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for all the Recently Deceased.

ANNIVERSARIES

Maria Attard(1 month), Joseph & Barbara Refalo, Stephen Michael Sabato, Patricia Ann Sabato, Vincenzo & Olimpia Gasbarro, Anthony Doan

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12noon – Sunday 15 December

Rio & Remy Ristevski

Please pray for these children and their families.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Next meets on Tuesday, 10th December in the Parish Centre Meeting Room at 7.00pm. Enquiries: Mrs Teresa Paradowski on 9337 3103.

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. 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

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 9 Dec The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday 13 Dec St Lucy
Saturday 14 Dec St John of the Cross

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

Donations for the costs associated with flowers for our Altar at Christmas would be appreciated. We will have a special collection on weekend 21/22 December.

2025 COLUMBAN CALENDAR

Available to purchase after Mass - \$10 each.

PARISH NEWS

WORKING BEE: SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER

We will have a Working Bee next Saturday, 14th December to prepare the Church for our Christmas Services. Please volunteer some time from **11.00am-12.30pm**. Thank You.

ADVENT REFLECTION, RECONCILIATION & HEALING MASS - SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Begins at 9.15am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Advent Reflection & Reconciliation. Followed by Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick at 11.00am.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

Commences after the 10.30am Sunday Mass, from **11.30am**. Please stay and join in singing Christmas Carols, followed by a BBQ. Please bring a bowl of salad/sweet to share if possible. **No 5pm Mass on Sunday 22nd December.**

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

5 prizes to be won. Tickets will be available after all Masses from this weekend. \$3 each or 2 tickets for \$5. Please add your name and contact number. Raffle will be drawn during the BBQ on Sunday **22nd December!**

END OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS

Tuesday, 17th December at 9.15am.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Envelopes are available in the current set of Thanksgiving Envelopes and in the narthex.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL 'GIVING TREE'

If you are able to, please take a tag and purchase a gift or gift card and return to the tree by next weekend, **Sunday 15th December**. Please choose appropriate gifts for the age shown on the tag e.g. Toys etc for the younger ones, Gift Cards for teenagers. *Unwrapped* (open Gift Bags or supermarket bags) would be appreciated. Gifts will be distributed by Vinnies to those less fortunate than ourselves. *Cash donations and gift cards can be left in the metal box located on the back wall of the church (next to the picture of St Mary MacKillop) or in an envelope marked "VDP – Giving Tree", and left in a collection basket during mass. Thank you.*



St Peter's Christmas Spiritual Celebrations 2024

Advent Reflection, Reconciliation & Healing Mass

Saturday, 21st December 9.15am-12noon

Christmas Carols & BBQ

Sunday, 22nd December
after the 10.30am Mass

Christmas Masses

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.00pm
(Family Mass)

Carols from 5.30pm

Children are encouraged to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds

Christmas Vigil Mass at 9.00pm

Carols from 8.30pm

Christmas Mass at Midnight at 12.00am

Carols from 11.30pm

Wednesday 25th December -

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas "Mass during the Day" at 8.30am

Christmas "Mass during the Day" at 10.30am

No 5.00pm Mass on Christmas Day

New Year's Eve

Tuesday 31st December 2024

Mass at 9.15am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

New Year's Day

Wednesday 1st January 2025

Mass at 9.15am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY 2024 – VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED Please fill in the clipboard in the narthex or email the Parish Office by **Tuesday 17th December**, if you can volunteer. We need Readers, Ext. Mins. of Communion, Mass Helpers, Greeters, Altar Servers, Musicians and Singers for all our Christmas Masses.

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.melbeartholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

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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 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction)

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday; 5.30pm Saturday
(Please let the Priest know you would like to make your Confession)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Jemma Mc Veigh

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email:

principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Stephanie Wood, Christine Torrance

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION – "Hour of Grace"

Monday 9th December 12noon-1pm at St Martin De Porres Parish Hall. All welcome

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.