



Second Sunday of Lent, Year C **16 March 2025**

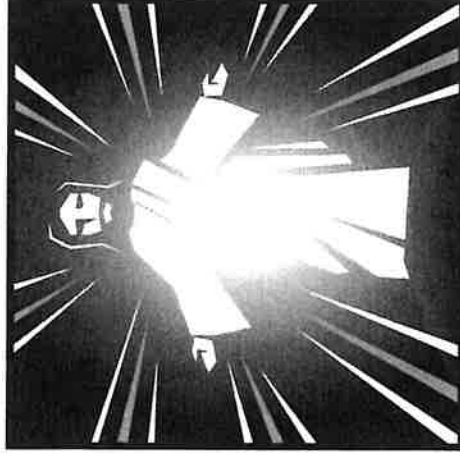
Reflection by Greg Sunter

In all three versions of this Transfiguration event that appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the context in which the event occurs is identical. That's a little unusual with these three gospel writers who like to put their own spin on events and often play with the chronology or settings of events. However, in this case, all three writers report the Transfiguration event as taking place immediately after a particular sequence of events. Jesus has asked the disciples who they think he is and Peter has made his confession of faith by declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This declaration is followed by Jesus teaching about the demands of discipleship and then the account of the Transfiguration. Furthermore, all three versions are directly followed by an account of a man who brings his possessed son to Jesus for healing after the disciples have tried and failed to cast out the demon.

When all three of the synoptic gospels use the same story with little variation and all three retain the same context around the event then there are some pretty clear signals that this was a commonly accepted sequence of events and their sequence holds significance. The core message of this sequence of stories is about the faith of the disciples. Whilst Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, he and the others don't really yet know what this means. In the Transfiguration, they are given the clearest possible indication of Jesus' identity and yet they're half asleep and we're told Peter doesn't know what he's saying when he starts talking about building tents. The following failure by the disciples to cast out a demon shows that they still haven't understood fully who and what Jesus is. What a great reading for the season of Lent!

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Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Lk 9:28-36

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

First Reading Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.
Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.
'Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' (R.)
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. (R.)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading Phil 3:17 – 4:1 or Phil 3:20 – 4:1 (shorter form)

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

We pray for all who are sick in our parish community.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Bernard Jongebloed

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph Grbac, John Debono, Paschal & Lola Attard, Anthony & Mary Rose Cassar, Rita Rajakariar

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

12 noon – Sunday, 16th March 2025

Lucas & Anthony Said

Please pray for these children and their family.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Next meeting Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7pm 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 – to

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. A-Smith T/G 500

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: PROJECT COMPASSION

2nd Sunday of Lent – 15/16 March
Toefuata'iga - (Toi-fu-ah-tah-ing-ah) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes or envelopes, or online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion Or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

PARISH NEWS

NEW PARISH OFFERTORY PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to everyone who promptly collected their offertory giving envelopes last weekend. If you have not yet retrieved yours, we kindly remind you to do so this weekend. For those who wish to submit their filled-out pledge cards, there are several convenient options:

- Place them in the first or second collections during Mass
- Drop them off at the parish office
- Deposit them in the designated box located in the narthex

Your ongoing generosity and dedication to our parish are truly appreciated. Thank you for your support in strengthening our community and mission.

MORNING MASS – 19, 20 & 21 MARCH

Please note there will be no Morning Mass from Wednesday – Friday at St Peter's at 9.15am due to the Lenten Retreat. Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. There will be Mass in the evening on those days at 7.00pm.

LENTEN RETREAT

ST PETER'S PARISH: LENTEN RETREAT Over 2 days – Wednesday 19th March & Thursday 20th March from 7.00-9.00pm in the Church. Led by Fr. Rojan George VC

Come and spend time in the presence of the Lord. All are welcome. Talk – Holy Mass – Eucharistic Adoration - Healing Prayers – Anointing of the Sick - Benediction
Contact the Parish Office for more information. See flyers in the narthex.

FRIDAYS DURING LENT – MASS TIME

During the Fridays of Lent, we have Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm, followed by Mass and Benediction. No 9.15am Mass Fridays. *All welcome.*

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 17 March St Patrick
Wed 19 March St Joseph (Mass at 7.00pm)

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO TA' PINU MARIAN SHRINE, BACCHUS MARSH – Saturday 5th April 2025 We are having a Pilgrimage to Our Lady Ta' Pinu Marian Shrine, 15 Flanagan Drive, Merimu on Saturday, 5th April 2025. All invited to attend.

9.00am Depart St Peter's
10.00am Stations of the Cross
11.00am Holy Mass
12noon Lunch (BYO)
Tea/coffee provided.

12.30pm Visiting Shrine area

2.00pm Bus departs Ta' Pinu

3.00pm Return to St Peter's (approx.)

*Bus hire - \$20pp. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex and include your contact number, or email the Parish Office. **RSVP 18/3/25.** *Please see *Helena, Cathey or Adele for bus hire payment, by 26th March. Thank you.*

PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE – In the Footsteps of our Beloved Saints

All are invited to join our Great Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrimage. From September 17th to October 4th, we will visit the holy sites of beloved Saints: Paris, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Lanciano, Loreto, Venice, Padua, and Medjugorje. Fr Anil looks forward to walking this sacred path with you. Details: 18 days, fully escorted. Package Price per person (twin share) AUD\$9,590. Optional single room supplement: AUD\$1,925. Online Information Session – Tuesday, 18th March from 7.00pm. Deposit of AUD\$750pp due 21st March. Please speak with Fr Anil if you are interested. *Itinerary and information, available in the narthex.*

NEW SEMINARIANS FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

5 new seminarians joined Corpus Christi College this year: Alex Sgro, Liam Bui, Ben Eid, Chris Fernando and Thiago Carvalho. Please keep these men in your prayers during this time of study and discernment.

ALPHA MASTERCLASS – 15TH MARCH

Thank you to those who attended the Alpha Masterclass on Saturday. God bless you for your generosity in time and willingness to serve the community.

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 Mass

5.00pm Mass

Weekday Mass Times:

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday*, Thursday*

Wednesday & Thursday, 19 & 20 March – no

9.15am Morning Mass due to evening Retreat

– Mass at 7.00pm those days.

Fridays during Lent at 7.00pm - Stations of

the Cross followed by Mass and

Benediction

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass *(or upon*

request of Parish Priest)

MESSAGE TO ST PETER'S COMMUNITY

We have received a letter stating that Jemma McVeigh has decided to resign from her position as Principal of St Peter as of 7th March 2025. Deputy Principal, Anne Tadinac will continue as Acting Principal until further notice.

This communication has been sent to the school families.

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.