

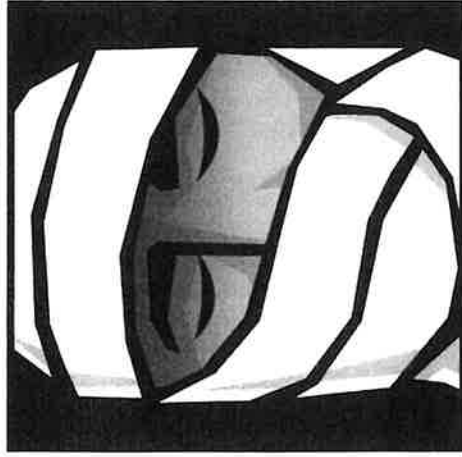


Reflection by Greg Sunter

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John. Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief.

The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.

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he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him! But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smelt; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall settle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

*(R.) With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption*

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your

interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;

whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

or shorter form Jn 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Nathaniel Attard

RECENTLY DECEASED

Eileen Britt, Nunzia Pane, Pasqualina Cicconi

ANNIVERSARIES

Daniel & John Galea, Domitilla Grima, Peter Colosimo, Joseph V.T.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Next meet on Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7.00pm 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. 535304676.
Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026

Please support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes, by calling 1800 024 413 or online: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

EASTER FLOWERS

Next weekend we will have a collection to assist in covering the costs of the Easter floral arrangements for the Church and Altar of Repose. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.

LIGHT INTO THE CITY

Last Tuesday evening at the Patrick Oratorion, Archbishop Peter Comensoli launched 'Light into the City'- an appeal for the necessary repairs to St Patrick's Cathedral, as well as renovation of the Cathedral precinct. More details can be found at www.lightintothechurch.org.au

PARISH NEWS

FUNERALS AT ST PETER'S THIS WEEK

There will be funerals for the late Nunzia Pane on Tuesday, 24th March at 10.00am (Rosary from 9.45am) and for the late Eileen Britt, on Wednesday, 25th March at 11.00am. Parishioners welcome to attend these Masses.

SPECIAL EVENT: JOELLE MARYN: "Become the Fire" – Australian Tour
Join Joelle Maryn, an actress and author, who has inspired over half a billion people globally with her story of conversion and the message of God's healing love!

Where: St Peter's Parish, 2A Parkside Avenue, Keilor East; **When:** Sunday 22nd March; **Time:** 10.30am Holy Mass, followed by 11.45am talk at the Parish Centre – hall opposite Church. **All welcome.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & HOLY MASS
Continues next Friday, 27th March at 7:00pm, followed by Holy Mass.

PALMS

If anyone has Palms (long or short) for Palm Sunday, next weekend, please bring them to the Church on Friday, 27 March, or contact the Parish Office if they need to be collected from your garden.

WORKING BEE – SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 10.00AM-12NOON

We will have a Working Bee on Saturday, 28th March after the 9.15am Morning Mass for a general clean up and to prepare the Church for our Easter Services. Please volunteer some of your time between 10.00am-12noon. Thank You.

YEAR 2 STUDENTS' FAMILY MASS

At the 10.30am Mass this weekend, we welcome our Year 2 students, their families and teachers for the Family Mass. Thank you for being a part of our Parish community.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTER TRIDUUM ROSTERS - Holy Thursday 2nd April at 7.00pm, Good Friday 3rd April at 3.00pm, Holy Saturday 4th April at 7.00pm. We need volunteers for these 3 Masses. This includes **Altar Servers**. Please see sign-up sheets on clipboards in the narthex or contact the Parish Office.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE 2026

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 28/29 MARCH
(Please assemble in the narthex before Mass for the Blessing & Procession)
Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass;
Sunday at 8.30am & 10.30am
(No 5.00pm Mass)

HOLY WEEK

Monday 30th March & Wednesday 1st April – Morning Mass at 9.15am

Tuesday 31st March – Mass of the Holy Oils (Chism Mass) at St Patrick's Cathedral at 10.00am (All welcome to attend)

HOLY THURSDAY – 2nd April
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm.
Altar of Repose & Eucharistic Adoration until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY – 3rd April
Divine Mercy Novena at 10.00am

Way of the Cross at 10.30am
Solemn celebration of The Lord's Passion at 3.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY – 4th April
Divine Mercy Novena at 10.00am

The Easter Vigil Mass at 7.00pm
(Blessing of Fire, Paschal Candle & Baptismal Water)

EASTER SUNDAY – 5th April
Masses at 8.30am and 10.30am
Divine Mercy Novena at 10.00am, followed by Mass at 10.30am

(No 5.00pm Mass on Easter Sunday)

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA - Preparation for Feast of Mercy

Monday 6th-Friday 10th April: Divine Mercy Novena at 7.00pm followed by Mass

Saturday 11th April: 5.30pm Divine Mercy Novena, followed by 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 12th April – Divine Mercy Celebration: 1.30pm: Adoration, Confessions, Rosary, Litany, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction, followed by 3.00pm: Holy Mass & Blessing of Divine Mercy Image (no 5.00pm Mass)

ST MARTIN DE PORRES PARISH, AVONDALE
HEIGHTS: Reflection Day with St Connie in preparation for Easter - Tuesday 24th March. 10am-3pm. Please call 9337 6016 for more info.

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.melbatholic.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: Kate Wilson

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

*7.00pm Fridays After Stations of the Cross

(*No 9.15am Friday Morning Mass during Lent)

RECONCILIATION

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

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

We would like to thank the school families for their generous support of the Parish Thanksgiving Program for 2026. May God bless you all.

LAST DAY OF TERM 1

Thursday 2nd April 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.