



PARISH OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

KEILOR EAST

29th March 2026

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Year A

Volume 47, Number 9

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

Gospel Mt 21:1-11

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
When they drew near to Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
'Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately you will find an ass tied,
and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.
If anyone says anything to you, you shall say,
"The Lord has need of them,"
and he will send them immediately.'
This took place to fulfil
what was spoken by the prophet, saying,
"Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of an ass."
The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
they brought the ass and the colt,
and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.
Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road,
and others cut branches from the trees
and spread them on the road.
And the crowds that went before him
and that followed him shouted,
"Hosanna to the Son of David!"
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!
And when he entered Jerusalem
and the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?'
And the crowds said,
"This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.
His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus 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 humble 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
Christ as Lord.
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

3. They divide my clothing among them,
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled,
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel shorter form Mt 27:11-54

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24, R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me,
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The Passion narrative, as described in the gospel of Matthew, is keen to drive home two particular points. Firstly, throughout this gospel, the gospel writer is at pains to demonstrate Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of scripture. At the time of the arrest and the use of the thirty pieces of silver, we are reminded that these things took place to fulfil scripture. Secondly, this particular gospel emphasises the innocence of Jesus throughout the passion narrative: he is 'sold out' by one of his followers; his trial before the Sanhedrin is a farce; his most loyal follower denies association with him; Pilate declares himself innocent of Jesus' blood and the crowd accepts the consequences of their actions. At no point is any hint of guilt cast over Jesus. He is an innocent whose fate has been manipulated by others. In this gospel there is no conversation between Jesus and the criminals between whom he is crucified. There is no suggestion that Jesus too is a criminal who is deserving of his fate. His innocence is manifest.

These two themes merge together in this gospel. The manner of Jesus' arrest, trial and death are all in accordance with the prophecy of scripture (i.e. in accordance with God's will), and yet it is emphasised throughout that Jesus is innocent. There can be no accusation that Jesus is in any way deserving of his treatment and yet what befalls him is in keeping with God's plan. It emphasises the sacrificial act made by Jesus: a proven innocent giving his life for the good of others. The actions of those who plot against Jesus to seek his downfall actually serve to bring about his purpose. No other outcome was possible. The writer assures the audience that the death of Jesus was no accident; it was intended from the very beginning.

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making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified. The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him: they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. He saved others; they said 'he cannot save himself.' He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him! He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God.' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked, the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Nathaniel Attard, Sr. Ornella Parisotto

RECENTLY DECEASED

Domitilla Grima, Paul Xuereb, Rocco Genoese, Albert Calautti

ANNIVERSARIES

Mieczyslaw Deren, Mary Bartolo, Clare Meneze, Maria Assunta Muscat, Liliana Camiato, Ross Golotta, Lynette Gerardis, Connie, Annemarie & Joseph Xuereb

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Next meet on Tuesday 31st 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

PALMS Many thanks to all who provided palms for our Palm Sunday Masses.

WORKING BEE – THANK YOU

A huge thanks and gratitude to all who attended our Working Bee on Saturday, preparing the Church for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Your generosity and time is much appreciated.



Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION

As Project Compassion 2026 comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. Please start returning your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes. *Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

BATTERY CANDLES FOR EASTER VIGIL \$2 each. Available in the narthex on Easter Vigil night.

PARISH NEWS

MASS OF THE HOLY OILS (Chrism Mass) Tuesday 31st March at 10.00am at St Patrick's Cathedral. *No morning mass this day as Fr Anil attends this Mass.* All welcome to go to St Patrick's Cathedral.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR EASTER FLOWERS

We will have a Special Collection at Masses this weekend to assist in covering the cost of the Easter floral arrangements for the Church and Altar of Repose.

PARISH OFFICE

Will be closed on Good Friday, 3rd April. Please advise any death anniversary names for next weekend to the Parish Office by 4pm on Tuesday, 31st March.

VOLUNTEERS STILL 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. Please see sign-up sheets on clipboards in the narthex or contact the Parish Office.

GOOD FRIDAY – HOLY PLACES COLLECTION – 3RD APRIL AT 3.00PM

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. This year, the Holy Land continues facing an income shortfall in funds due to the ongoing effects of wars, which discourage or totally prevent pilgrims coming to the Holy Land. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and keep them in your prayers. Thank you.



Holy Week

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE 2026

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

Tuesday 31st March – Mass of the Holy Oils (Chrism 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 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: 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

No 5.00pm Sunday Mass 29/3, 5/4 & 12/4

Weekday Mass Times

*9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

*No 9.15am morning mass 7th-10th April due to Divine Mercy Novena, followed by Mass

RECONCILIATION

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

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

LAST DAY OF TERM 1

Thursday 2nd April at 12noon

Wishing all St Peter's Primary School staff, students and families, a blessed Easter and enjoy a safe and relaxing School Holiday break.

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.