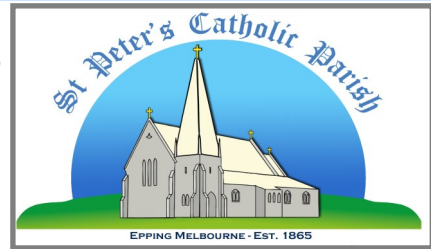


**17th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A
26th July 2026**

The Parish of St. Peter's, Epping, Epping North and Wollert as a community of faith inspired by Love for God welcomes everyone who joins us as we worship together the same Lord in the same Tradition. Our vocation is to listen, share and live the Word of God actively.



Parish Priest: Fr Anh Nguyen
Assistant Priest Fr Isaac Zaki
Sacrament Co-Ordinator:
Sr Huyen Nguyen LHC
Sick & Homebound Co-Ordinator:
Sr Phuong Nguyen LHC
Parish Secretary: Michelle Hood
(Mon- 9-3pm, Tue-Wed 9.30am-3.30pm)
Office Admin: Christine Paterson
(Wed & Fri 10am-3pm)
Seminarian: Xavier Ryan

Parish Office and St Peter's Church:
13 Davison St, Epping
Ph: 9401 6300
Email: epping@cam.org.au
Web: <https://www.melbocatholic.org/epping>
Facebook: StPetersCatholicParishEpping
ABN:- 70 309 275 608

WEEKEND MASSES

St Peter's Saturday 9.15am, 6.30pm,
Sunday 9am & 10.30am

St Mary of the Cross: Saturday 5.00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Peter's

9.15am Tuesday - Friday

(Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)

St Mary of the Cross

12 noon on Fridays during school terms only

Baptism

Baptism is celebrated on the Second and Fourth Sunday of each month at 12pm. A Baptism preparation class for parents of the child to be baptised is required.

Reconciliation

Saturday 9.45-10.30am following the 9.15am Mass

Marriage

By appointment and three month notice required. Please contact the parish office.

Sacramental Programs for non-parish school children
9401 6300

Parish Schools / College

St Peter's Catholic Primary School
32 Wedge Street, Epping
Principal: Angela Tonkin Ph: 9401 1157

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop
47 Farmhouse Boulevard, Epping North
Principal: Claire Pitcher Ph: 8432 4500

Mary Glowrey Catholic Primary School
10 Baltrum Drive, Wollert
Principal: Tim Kelly Ph: 8579 6505

Carlo Acutis Catholic Primary School
58 Jardin Road, Wollert West. 3750
Principal: Damian Howard

St Monica's College
400 Dalton Road, Epping
Principal: Brian Hanley Ph: 9409 8800

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE
Free Call 1800 305 330



**From the DECREE
on the Celebration of Saints Martha,
Mary and Lazarus
in the General Roman Calendar**

In the household of Bethany the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that he loved them. Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the One who humiliated death.

The traditional uncertainty of the Latin Church about the identity of Mary - the Magdalene to whom Christ appeared after his resurrection, the sister of Martha, the sinner whose sins the Lord had forgiven - which resulted in the inclusion of Martha alone on 29 July in the Roman Calendar, has been resolved in recent studies and times, as attested by the current Roman Martyrol-

ogy, which also commemorates Mary and Lazarus on that day. Moreover, in some particular calendars the three siblings are already celebrated together.

Therefore, the Supreme Pontiff Pope FRANCIS, considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, in believing that he is the resurrection and the life, and accepting the proposal of this Dicastery, has decreed that 29 July be designated in the General Roman Calendar as the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

Pope Leo prays for peace at Montecassino Abbey - Vatican News

On Monday morning, July 20, Pope Leo XIV paid a private visit to the Abbey of Montecassino and its monastic community.

According to a press statement released by the Holy See Press Office, the Pope "paused to pray at the tomb of St. Benedict, entrusting to him his plea for peace in those regions of the world marked by bloodshed and conflict".

The Abbey of Montecassino is located around a 2-hour drive from Rome and was the first monastery of the Benedictine order, founded by the saint himself in 529.

Pray for the Sick: Keith Lambert, Hiramali Dias, Marilyn Marquis

Offering Masses this week for:-

Death Anniversary:- Sarah Brundell, Charlie Gatt, Domenico, Carmela, Elisabetta & Antonietta Schipano, Annalisa Tonnietto, Lilianne Mootealbo, deceased family members of Lily Pereira

Birthday Anniversary:- Lily Pereira

CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT

St Peter's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Children are to be supervised by a parent / guardian at all times in the church and when leaving the church for any reason.



Parish Baptisms

Gabriel Ezra Hernandez
Mason Ari Toia
Cillian Eoin Teacy
Sienna-May Crowhurst



Our Parish recognises the Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the traditional owners of this place.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

26th July 2026

Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intend-

ed for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the
kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

Legion of Mary hosting Bible Study Online

The Mother of Divine Grace Praesidium invites you to join Bible Study sessions lead by resident seminarian Xavier Ryan.

Next three meeting dates at 8.30pm on Tuesdays,
28th July, 11th August and 25th August

Zoom link: <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83929824448pwd=TCtkNUFFSS9SK3o4U3ExZEYxZmxsQT09>

Also accessible via QR code:



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

From “The Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church”

265. What place does Confirmation have in the divine plan of salvation?

In the Old Testament the prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the awaited Messiah and on the entire messianic people. The whole life and mission of Jesus were carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit. The apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and proclaimed “the great works of God” (Acts 2:11). They gave the gift of the same Spirit to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands. Down through the centuries, the Church has continued to live by the Spirit and to impart him to her children.

266. Why is this sacrament called *Chrismation* or *Confirmation*?

It is called *Chrismation* (in the Eastern Churches: Anointing with holy myron or chrism) because the essential rite of the sacrament is anointing with chrism. It is called *Confirmation* because it confirms and strengthens baptismal grace.

267. What is the essential rite of Confirmation?

The essential rite of Confirmation is the anointing with Sacred Chrism (oil mixed with balsam and consecrated by the bishop), which is done by the laying on of the hand of the minister who pronounces the sacramental words proper to the rite. In the West this anointing is done on the forehead of the baptized with the words, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”. In the Eastern Churches of the Byzantine rite this anointing is also done on other parts of the body with the words, “The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit”.

268. What is the effect of Confirmation?

The effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit like that of Pentecost. This outpouring impresses on the soul an indelible character and produces a growth in the grace of Baptism. It roots the recipient more deeply in divine sonship, binds him more firmly to Christ and to the Church and reinvigorates the gifts of the Holy Spirit in his soul. It gives a special strength to witness to the Christian faith.

269. Who can receive this sacrament?

Only those already baptized can and should receive this sacrament which can be received only once. To receive Confirmation efficaciously the candidate must be in the state of grace.

270. Who is the minister of Confirmation?

The original minister of Confirmation is the bishop. In this way the link between the confirmed and the Church in her apostolic dimension is made manifest. When a priest confers this sacrament, as ordinarily happens in the East and in special cases in the West, the link with the bishop and with the Church is expressed by the priest who is the collaborator of the bishop and by the Sacred Chrism, consecrated by the bishop himself.

Vocations Expo with Archbishop Comensoli Saturday 1 August 9am–1pm

Greg Craven Centre

Level 7, St Teresa of Kolkata Building
Australian Catholic University
115 Victoria Parade Fitzroy.

ACU Campus Ministry and Vocations Melbourne invite you to come and explore what life looks like in Catholic religious orders, diocesan priesthood and married life.

Hear from speakers who will share what answering a call looks like, what challenges lie ahead and the many joys you find along the way. You will have the opportunity to meet people living out their vocation, ask questions about discernment and discover the many ways God may be calling you to serve and love through your state of life.

Flyer is in the church.

This is a free event.

Book via –trybooking.com/DNKHK



Catholic Theological College will open its doors to the public
as part of the
2026 Open House Melbourne Weekend

Date: Saturday, 25 July 2026
 Location: Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne
 Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

RCIA is now OCIA

“The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults” (RCIA) has recently had its title changed to “The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults” (OCIA)



If you would like to learn about the Catholic Faith through this program, and be Baptized into the faith, please contact the Parish Office on 9401-6300 and ask to speak to Sister Huyen or email epping@cam.org.au

Dates: Wednesday Evenings –7pm-8pm

Part 1: Sept 2nd –Dec 9th 2026

Part 2: Jan 27th –Mar 17th 2027



First Saturday of the Month:-
1st August
Pray for Devotion to Mary

DATE	Mass	LEADER	READER	Special Minister
25/7	5pm	Volunteer	Don Vandenberg	Angela Vandenberg
	6.30pm	Volunteer	Bryan Johnston	Volunteer
26/7	9am	Lesleigh Madden	Chris Paterson	Bernie Dias
	10.30am	Anne Toshack	Julie Cowell	Stella Galea
1/8	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Volunteer	Volunteer
	6.30pm	Joan Bahen	Tanya Johnston	Charlie Aganetti
2/8	9am	Kay Whelan	Des Madden	Lesleigh Madden
	10.30am	Youth	Youth	Cathy Gatt
8/8	5pm	Volunteer	Leeni Joshua	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques
	6.30pm	Sheriz Moreno	Sherwin Moreno	Joan Bahen
9/8	9am	Cassie Martin	Kay Whelan	Dinesh Dias
	10.30am	Candice Correya	Gabrielle Godinho	Julie Cowell
15/8	5pm	Don Vandenberg	Volunteer	Angela Vandenberg
	6.30pm	Volunteer	Jaelene Jijo	Volunteer
16/8	9am	Chris Paterson	Lesleigh Madden	David Howard
	10.30am	Julie Cowell	Oswald Correya	Andrew Dipierdomenico
22/8	5pm	Volunteer	Grace O'Brien	Volunteer
	6.30pm	Sherwin Moreno	Sheriz Moreno	Charlie Aganetti
23/8	9am	Des Madden	David Howard	Bernie Dias
	10.30am	Anne Toshack	Tanya Johnston	Stella Galea

TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO ST PETER'S PARISH

1st Collection / Presbytery

Supports our priests and the retired priests of the Archdiocese.

Presbytery Acc:- BSB 083 347 **Acc. No.** 65892 7670
Acc. Name:- EPPING CATHOLIC PARISH HOUSE

2nd Collection / Church Supports our Parish

Church Acc:- BSB 083 347 **Acc No.** 65880 7871
Acc. Name:- EPPING CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH

St Peter's Parish Donation QR Code

To make a payment, simply scan our QR code with your mobile phone and follow a few easy steps.

Thank you for your support of our Parish



SCHOOL FAMILIES Reminder of 2026 contribution of \$520 Thank-you to those who have paid this contribution.

CHURCH CLEANING

25/7 Russel Sequeria, Merli Inovejas

1/8 Upeksha & Dinesh Dias

8/8 Raju Sankaranarayan, Deepak Bura

15/8 Anthony Fakhry, Cyriac George

22/8 Maria Vizcaino

29/8 Dinesh Dias Family



Regular Events / Meetings in the Parish

Baptism Preparation-

Baptisms are on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Contact the Parish office and speak to Sister Huyen to arrange a Baptism

Catholic Women's League Next meeting 17th Aug @ 10am

Charismatic Prayer Group 6.45pm—9pm Fridays
 6.45pm-7pm Rosary; 7pm –7.30pm Praise & Worship;
 7.30pm-8.30pm **1st Friday of the Month –Mass**
2nd & 4th Fridays –Talks;
3rd Fridays—Adoration & Benediction; 8.30pm –
 9pm Fellowship & packing up.

Finance Committee - Next meeting - ??? @ 7pm

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Wednesdays

Liturgy Group - Next meeting ??? @ 7pm

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

First Reconciliation: Completed

First Holy Communion:- Sacrament will be held on 1st August

Confirmation:- Completed

Reach Out - Communion to the Sick and Homebound – Parishioners finding it difficult to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call the Parish Office and speak to Sr Phuong

OCIA - Wednesday Evenings 7pm –8pm

Pt 1: Sept 2nd –Dec 9th. 2026

Pt 2: Jan 27th –Mar 17th 2027

SMCM Catechism—4.15pm-5pm Saturdays @ SMCM

St Vincent de Paul

First Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the Parish House

Third Tuesday of the month at 6pm via Teams

Youth Group 2nd Friday of the month

Liturgy Readings of Next Week

27/7 Monday: Week 17 of Ordinary Time

Readings: Jer 13:1-11; Mt 13:31-35;

28/7 Tuesday:

Readings: Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43;

29/7 Wednesday: Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus

Readings: 1 Jn 4:7-16; Ps 33:2-11; Jn 11:19-27;

30/7 Thursday:

Readings: Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53;

31/7 Friday: St Ignatius of Loyola, priest

Readings: Jer 26:1-9; Mt 13:54-58;

1/8 Saturday: St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor

Readings: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Mt 14:1-12;

2/8 Sunday : 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Is 55:1-3; Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21;