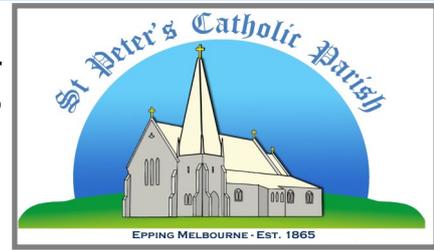


**1st Sunday of Lent
Year A
22nd February
2026**

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
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)

Parish Office and St Peter's Church:
13 Davison St, Epping
Ph: 9401 6300

Email: epping@cam.org.au

Web: <https://www.melbcatholic.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

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

The Genesis story about the origins of sin in the world, rewards very careful reading. The serpent promises Eve two things: that her eyes will be opened to know good from evil and that this will make her like God. Such a temptation was irresistible and nothing has changed.

Knowledge is a gift given us by God. I am always grateful for being a Catholic because, along with other long-standing Christian denominations, we highly value scholarship, rational thought and inquiry. As anxious as the Church has sometimes been about scientific investigations, our best traditions are to see God revealed in human thoughts and scientific achievements that ennoble our human family. It is the application of knowledge, or the way it is abused, that can be harmful.

As this story demonstrates, the temptation to know as much as God has never been more real than it is right now.

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. The scientists walk up to God and say, 'God we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost.'

God listened patiently and after the scientists were finished, said, 'Very well! How about this? Let's have a woman-and-man-making contest.' To which they agreed. However God added, 'How about we do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam?' The scientists said, 'Sure, no problem', and bent down and grabbed some dirt. God just looked at them and said, 'No, no, no. You go and get your own dirt!'

Today's Gospel is about knowledge too. Satan knows who Jesus is. His temptations are an attempt to get Jesus to betray his humanity and not endure the limitations of his daily life. Jesus knows that the only way to be true to his divinity is allow us to see it shine in and through his human life.

The rejection of the temptation to compromise his frail human frame gives us the hope that we, too, can glimpse the power of God's greatness in every moment we reject the desire to be directors of our own destiny and to see good triumph over evil in the choices we make.

It's a relief to know we don't have to be God!

May this Lent see us do what we are created for: to use all our knowledge to praise, reverence and serve the Loving One who willed us into being.

Pray for the Sick: Keith Lambert, John Giacchi

Offering Masses this week for:-

Death Anniversary:- Tessa Borg, Zitto Extross, Grace & Charles Vandenberg, Stella & Godfrey Vandenberg

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

Lachlan John Ranginui Railey
Maggie Jane Tran
Kayleah Lexie Couronne
Eliza Kaylee Couronne
Zoe DeZiray Ella Couronne



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

1st Sunday of Lent Year A

22nd February 2026

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of
God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will
support you on their hands in case you hurt your
foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at

my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of
God.



First Sunday of Lent
21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

What is the difference between fasting and abstinence?

On a day of fasting, Catholics are supposed to have one normal-sized meal and two 'snacks' (or 'smaller meals'), which cannot, put together, equal a full meal.

On a day of abstinence, Christians are asked to abstain from meat (although seafood is allowed).

In Australia and New Zealand, the obligations for Lent are:

- Catholics aged 18–59 should fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- Catholics aged 14 and older should abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- Catholics aged 14 and over should abstain from meat on every Friday of the year, including Lent, or substitute this with another form of penance, either in prayer, fasting or almsgiving.

Taking up some form of voluntary penance throughout the season of Lent is also expected

From Melbourne Archdiocese

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them. Acts 2:4

Lenten Retreat

TWO KEYS TO WALKING IN VICTORY
BY COLIN CALMIANO



21st March
9.00 am - 4.00 pm

St. Peter's Catholic Church

22nd March
10:30 am - 4.00 pm

**13 Davisson St,
Epping Vic - 3076**



**Contact: 0423736579 OR
Parish Office : 03 9401 6300**

Please Register for Catering purpose

During Lent there are '**Stations of the Cross**' at 8.45am on Friday mornings (before the 9.15am Mass) and also at 7pm Friday evenings.

Reconciliation during Lent is at the normal Saturday morning time of 9.45am until 10.30am. In the last week of Lent there will be an opportunity to go to evening Reconciliation. This date is to be arranged.

There are **Project Compassion** boxes and envelopes in the church.



World Day of Prayer Focus on Nigeria

Bringing hope and healing to displaced communities
in Nigeria through God's word



**Please join us at the
Plenty Valley Uniting Church**

180 McDonalds Road, Epping

**Friday, 6 March 2026
10:00 am**



'I will give you rest: Come'



Contact: Fay Daking
fdaking@hotmail.com

Date	Mass	Leader	Reader	Special Ministers	
28/2	5pm	Volunteer	Leeni Joshua	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques	
	6.30pm	Volunteer	Bryan Johnston	Charlie Aganetti	
1/3	9am	Cassandra Martin	Christine Paterson	Des Madden	
	10.30am	Youth	Youth	Julie Cowell	
Date	Cleaning	Team	Date	Cleaning	Team
21/2		Raju Sankaranarayan, Deepak Bura	7/3		Volunteers
28/2		Anthony Fakhry, Cyriac George	14/3		Dinesh Dias Family

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



Liturgy Readings of Next Week

23/2 Monday: First Week of Lent

Readings: Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46;

24/2 Tuesday: First Week of Lent

Readings Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15;

25/2 Wednesday: First Week of Lent

Readings: Jonah 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32;

26/2 Thursday: First Week of Lent

Readings: Esther 4:17; Mt 7:7-12;

27/2 Friday: First Week of Lent

Readings: Ezek 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26;

28/2 Saturday: First Week of Lent

Readings: Deut 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48;

1/3 Sunday: **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

Readings: Gen 12:1-4; 2 Tim 1:8-10;
Mt 17:1-9;

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 20th April @ 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 - Tuesday 17th March @ 7pm

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Wednesdays

Liturgy Group - Next meeting ??? @ 7pm

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

First Reconciliation: Sacrament Celebration
19th March

First Holy Communion:- Begins 2nd June 2026

Confirmation:- Begins 24th March 2026

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

RCIA - 2025—2026 Resumed Wed 4th February

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