

**23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Year B  
8th Sept, 2024**

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 Tien Van Tran  
**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:** Rhys Lowther

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

Email: epping@cam.org.au  
Web: <https://www.melbatholic.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



**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate from Liturgy Help**

**Ephphatha**

As we began to welcome the Gospel, we made the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our hearts. It is meant to be accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' It wouldn't be enough to mentally recite that little prayer. We have to do something physical.

Jesus could not have been more physical than in the story of today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle, saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. But he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. We are not

angels, but ensouled bodies and that is how our Lord particularly related to this man in need of healing.

It is in the sacrament of Baptism that we imitate the Ephphatha incident in today's Gospel. At one stage, the priest lightly touches the ears and then lightly touches the mouth of the person being baptised. This brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith.

We could take a moment to recall the Ephphatha dimension of our baptism. Take your thumb and lightly touch your ears (a parent could do this for an infant) making a prayer along the lines of our baptism: 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He again touch my ears to receive His Word and my mouth to proclaim His faith to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.'

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 2024-2025**

From 11th Sept to 7th Dec

Resuming 5th Feb to 19th Apr

Contact Sister Huyen for further information if you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Roni & Michael Donovan, Glen Arathoon, Robbie Abdelnour, Olga Olypios, Mary Hill, Emma Anderson, Rachel Gormley, Mario Casha, Sairandree Fernando, Daniel Zammit, Bernadette Sexton, Elliott Donovan

**Other:** Sabrina Jansz (birthday)

**Recent Death:**

**Anniversary:** Reginald & Manel Dias, Patrick and Yolanda Reeves, Kimberley Lawless, Elsie Tranquille, Reginald and Hazel Joseph.

**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**

Ma Christina Joan M. Jayagon



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

# 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

## 8th September, 2024

### Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### First Reading Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

### Responsorial Psalm

#### (R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bound down,  
the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R.)**
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

### Second Reading James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

### Gospel Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Mark

Returning from the district of Tyre,  
Jesus went by way of Sidon  
towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'



### Communion Antiphon

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.

### PARISH CODE OF CONDUCT - 2025 –2027

The current 'Code of Conduct' is due to expire at the end of this year.

All volunteers in the parish must read the new 'Code of Conduct' document from the Archdiocese and then sign the new 'Code of Conduct Declaration'.

Please go to the Parish Website under "Safeguarding" to find these documents.

Thank-you for your co-operation and also for continuing to assist as a volunteer in the parish.

## 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

**The QR Code is on the end of each pew in the church and also near the two doors of the Church.**



### SCHOOL FAMILIES 2024 PARISH CONTRIBUTION OF \$520

Many school families have not paid their contribution. When you decided to send your children to the Parish Schools you also decided to support the life of the Parish practically and vitally.

Please note the Parish banking details for Direct Deposit are the Church Account as listed above and please include the reference: - Your eldest child & family name.



In the Catholic Church, Child Protection Week is highlighted through Safeguarding Sunday, which this year falls on 8 September.

On Safeguarding Sunday, we recognise and apologise to those who have been abused, their families and supporters, from the harm done by priests, religious, and lay people within Church settings.

Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance, and on Safeguarding Sunday, we recommit ourselves to safe practices and protocols to create and maintain safe environments for all people

### PRAYER

Gracious God,

you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable.

We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been abused, neglected or exploited and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken.

Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace

communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

from "Vatican News"

On 13 September 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (also called the Church of the Resurrection) was dedicated. The following day, the cross that Empress Helena had discovered on 14 September 320, was venerated in a solemn ceremony.



In 614, the Persian King, Chosroes II, waged war on the Romans. After conquering Jerusalem, he confiscated many treasures, among which was the Cross of Jesus. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius initiated peace negotiations, but was rejected. He then waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution of the Cross, which then returned to Jerusalem.

Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: "Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!" (Pope Francis)

### St John Chrysostom -349 –407



was the Archbishop of Constantinople and considered one of the greatest saints, early church fathers, and doctors of the Eastern and Western Churches. He was famous for his incredible insight and powerful preaching. After his death he was named Chrysostom, which comes from the Greek word chrysostomos, meaning "golden-mouthed".

Here are a few quotes from his writings and preaching.

"No matter how just your words may be, you ruin everything when you speak with anger."

"As a moth gnaws a garment, so doth envy consume a man."

"God asks little, but He gives much."

"Prayer is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings."

"We must not mind insulting men, if by respecting them we offend God."

"The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much"

From "On a Mission To Love"

Date	Mass	Leader	Reader	Special Ministers	
14/9	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Noel Henrisson	Angela Vandenberg	
	6.30pm	Sheriz Moreno	Sherwin Moreno	Volunteer	
15/9	9am	Kay Whelan	Dhiana Dias	Des Madden	
	10.30am	Julie Cowell	Cathy Gatt	Stella Galea	
Date	Cleaning	Team	Date	Cleaning	Team
7/9		Anna Arimatea, Martin Family	21/9		Anthony Fakhry, Binoey John
14/9		Cyriac George, Anjith Abraham	28/9		Bessy Mathews, Nicholas Sceneay



## Liturgy Readings of The Next Week

**9/9 Monday:** Week 23 in Ordinary Time  
**Readings:** : 1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11;

**10/9 Tuesday:** Week 23 in Ordinary Time  
**Readings:** 1 Cor 6:1-11; Lk 6:12-19

**11/9 Wednesday:** Week 23 in Ordinary Time  
**Readings:** 1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26;

**12/9 Thursday:** Week 23 in Ordinary Time  
**Readings:** 1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13; Lk 6:27-38;

**13/9 Friday:** **St John Chrysostom**, bishop, doctor  
**Readings:** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27; Lk 6:39-42

**14/9 Saturday:** **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
**Readings:** Num 21:4-9; Jn 3:13-17

**15/9 Sunday :** 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Readings:** Is 50:5-9; James 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35;

## NOTICES FOR NEWSHEET

Items for the Parish Newsheet must be sent to the Parish Office by **12 Noon Wednesday**. **Contact 9401 6300 or email [Epping@cam.org.au](mailto:Epping@cam.org.au)**

The newsheet is completed by noon on Wednesday and emailed to parishioners and the schools that afternoon.

If you would like the newsheet emailed to you please provide the office with your email details.

Please do not ring the parish office on a Saturday to ask to offer a Mass as the office is closed from 3pm Friday

## Regular Events / Meetings in the Parish

### Baptism Preparation-

Please contact the Parish office and speak to Sister Huyen to arrange Baptism & preparation meeting. Baptisms are on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

**Catechesis** with Rhys :- 4.15pm Saturday @ SMCM

**Catholic Women's League** Next meeting Monday 21st October @10am at St Monica's College

**Charismatic Prayer Group** 6.45pm—8.30pm Fridays  
**1st Friday** Rosary, Sacrament of Reconciliation & Praise followed by Mass- led by St.Peter's Youth

**2nd & 4th Fridays** Rosary, Praise, worship & Talk.

**3rd Friday** Rosary, Praise, worship & Adoration

**Finance Committee** - Next meeting - 24th Sept @ 7pm

**Legion of Mary** - 5.30pm Thursdays

**Bible Study:-** (via Zoom) Next date 24th Sept @ 8pm

**Meeting ID:** 839 2982 4448 **Code:-** 985806

**Liturgy Group** - Next meeting - 25th Sept @ 7pm

**Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-**

Next Programs are in 2025

**Parish Holy Hour** - Eucharistic Adoration @ 7pm Tuesdays

**Reach Out** - Communion to the Sick and Homebound – If you are a parishioner or have a family member finding it difficult to come to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call the Parish Office - 9401 6300 and speak to St Phuong

**RCIA** - 2024 to 2025 Program 11th Sept to 7th Dec. Resuming 5th Feb to 19th Apr

**St Vincent de Paul**

**Third Tuesday** of the month at 7pm in the Parish House

**Syro Malabar** - Monday evenings in the church