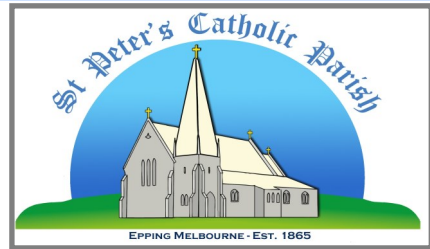


**21st Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A
23rd August 2026**

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



**HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate
What's in a Name?**

Who amongst his band of followers was the most unpredictable: hot one moment, cold the next, devoted one moment and treacherous the next? The least dependable of his followers was Simon, son of Jonah. He was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus.

So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros, from which we get the name with which we are familiar, Peter. And Jesus does not stop there. He puns on the nickname in a way which has shaped the Catholic Church over the centuries.

First, we hear Jesus give a blessing. According to the gospel record, this was the only blessing bestowed on an apostle by Jesus.

'Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah.' Why was Simon blessed? Because God had revealed to him the true identity of the Jesus of Nazareth he had been following. In fact he was the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one of God.

And then Jesus plays with the nickname. 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build my church.'

The natural personality of shifting sands was to be transformed by the blessing. That personality was not entirely superseded as we know, but, Our Lord was laying his foundation for his community of followers after the Resurrection.

I think that we can resonate with Peter's experience. When one receives a blessing from God, it does not annihilate one's personality. Quirks will remain. But it transforms and strengthens it for a particular role or task, which, in the mysterious will of God, is for you alone to fulfil.

There is a further element to this image of the rock. ...the Golden Dome in Jerusalem. It is a place of Muslim worship and was the site of the great Jewish temple destroyed by the Romans. The site is the outcrop of rock which dominates Jerusalem.

The Jewish people apparently believed that this rock acted like a plug into a volcano. It stopped the forces of death and annihilation (Hades or Hell) from erupting and destroying God's chosen people in Jerusalem.

So Jesus went on to make the famous promise to the church built upon the rock which is Peter: 'The gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.'

'... can never hold out against it.' What is the 'it'? And this is where we Catholics can go astray. Jesus the Christ makes the promise concerning what he calls 'my church' – the church designed by Our Lord, not a church shaped by human imagination, perhaps shaped by modes of Roman imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

May Jesus Christ shower the successor to St Peter with every blessing so that the Church continues to prevail over the forces of annihilation and death which threaten humanity.

Pray for the Sick: Hirumali Dias, Marilyn Marquis
Little Natalia's health & recovery

Offering Masses this week for:- Recent Death:- Ralph Anthony Connolly
Death Anniversary:- Julian Saldanha, Olegaria Bangcong
R.I.P:- Carlton & Cynthia Garrett, Ryan Fitzgerald,
Birthday Anniversary:- Searle Extross
Thanksgiving:- R. Garrett & family
Happy 77th Birthday:- Joseph Stanley Noronha

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
Arthur James Ama
Stephanie Rose Porcino
Enzo David
Matteo Totino



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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

23rd August 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day
long.

First Reading Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom
and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his
motives or understand his methods! Who could ever
know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his
counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend

him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him
and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of
Caesarea Philippi he put this question to
his disciples, 'Who do people say the
Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the
Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the
prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?'
Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said,
'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of
Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh
and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in
heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this
rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the under-
world can never hold out against it. I will give you the
keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on
earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever
you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heav-
en.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell
anyone that he was the Christ.



Communion Antiphon

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise him up on the last day.

Legion of Mary hosting Bible Study Online

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

Next three meeting dates at 8.30pm on Tuesdays, 25th
August, 8th September, 22nd September

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

Also accessible via QR code:



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 ep-ping@cam.org.au

Dates: Wednesday Evenings –7pm-8pm
Part 1: Sept 2nd –Dec 9th 2026
Part 2: Jan 27th –Mar 17th 2027

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027

Launch Thursday 20 August 6.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne. Six30 Holy Hour, Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction. Food trucks, music, celebrations. Enquiries: wyd@cam.org.au

Preparations are in full swing for World Youth Day 3–8 August 2027 in Seoul South Korea. Pope Leo XIV will join young Catholics from around the world for the second World Youth Day ever held in Asia. Parish priest at St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc Fr Michael Kong has been helping Australian Catholic youth prepare for the event.

Young Melbourne Catholics are called to embrace Korea's rich Catholic heritage, which includes the witness of many martyrs.

THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 7.30pm
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL &
ST PATRICK'S CENTRE 486 ALBERT ST EAST
MELBOURNE

After Six30 Holy Hour, young adults are invited to a special Holy Hour+ Candid Conversations on Catholic life where young adults gather to share food, company and dive deeper into issues of life and faith today.

Guest speaker Fr Boniface Endorf OP. Food and drinks included. 18+ only event

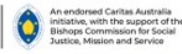
Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering 2026

Caritas Australia and Catholic Religious Australia warmly invite you to participate in the Catholic Earthcare **Season of Creation Gathering 2026: Listen, Reflect, Act**, a national online event on **3–4 September 2026**.

The Gathering offers inspiring keynote presentations and practical workshops to help participants deepen their faith and respond to the call to care for our common home.

Parishioners can register individually for \$20. Learn more and register:

www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering



SEASON OF CREATION GATHERING 2026

Listen • Reflect • Act

Event Details
3-4 September 2026

- **Online**
10 – 4:30 pm (AEST)
- **Registration:**
\$20 per person / \$100 per parish

www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

Why We Do The Things We Do Why do we sign ourselves before the Gospel?

The Church distinguishes between the 'large' sign of the cross (made with the right hand outstretched on the forehead, chest and shoulders) and the 'small' sign of the cross (made with the thumb on the forehead, mouth and chest).

By performing this latter action just prior to the reading of the Gospel, we are asking God's blessing upon our thoughts, words and desires. Next time you make this sign, be aware that you are praying to open yourself to God's Word.

PARISH TOILETS -REPAIR WORK

As some of you would be aware, some of the tiles on the walls in the toilets are loose and some have fallen off. The toilets will be closed for a period of time (at least 4 weeks) so that the required repair work may be carried out.

During this time there are three portable toilets available in the car park—2 for women and 1 for men. These toilets will be locked during the week and opened for the weekend masses.

Thank-you for your patience during this work.

From “Weekly Parables for Catholic Parishes” Action for the week:-

Do something this week that makes your faith unmistakable. Notice someone who is usually overlooked. Welcome someone you do not know. Check in on a family member. Invite someone into the life of the parish. Listen without rushing to fix things. Forgive something you have been holding onto. Make room at the table, in the conversation and in the community.

Our Catholic faith is not meant to be hidden behind church doors. If we say we follow Jesus, then people should be able to see it in the way we live.

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 19th Oct @ 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 - 13th October @ 7pm

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Wednesdays

Liturgy Group - Next meeting ??? @ 7pm

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

All Sacraments completed for 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

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

24/8 Monday: **St Bartholomew**, apostle
Readings: Rev 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51;

25/8 Tuesday: Week 21 of Ordinary Time
Readings: 2 Thess 2:1-3, 14-17; Mt 23:26;

26/8 Wednesday: Week 21 of Ordinary Time
Readings: 2 Thess 3:6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32;

27/8 Thursday: **St Monica**
Readings: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51;

28/8 Friday: **St Augustine**, bishop, doctor
Readings: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13;

29/8 Saturday: **The Passion of St John the Baptist**, martyr
Readings: Jer 1:17-19; Mk 6:17-29;

30/8 Sunday : 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27;

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

DATE	Mass	LEADER	READER	Special Minister
29/8	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Don Vandenberg	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques
	6.30pm	Volunteer Please	Joan Bahen	Volunteer Please
30/8	9am	Lesleigh Madden	Dhihana Dias	Des Madden
	10.30am	Cassandra Martin	Jennifer Martin	Cathy Gatt
5/9	5pm			
	6.30pm			
6/9	9am			
	10.30am			
12/9	5pm			
	6.30pm			
13/9	9am			
	10.30am			
19/9	5pm			
	6.30pm			
20/9	9am			
	10.30am			
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

22/8 Maria Vizcaino

29/8 Dinesh Dias Family

5/9 Volunteers Please

12/9 Martin Family

19/9 Anjith Abraham, Binoey John

26/9 Thi Nguyen, Leeni Joshua & Family

