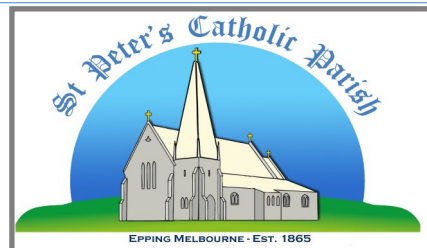


3rd Sunday of Advent Year A 14th December 2025

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 Davisson 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

Part of a HOMILY by Richard Leonard From Liturgy Help



Be generous even when others are not. Give even when others only take.

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead.

This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by

welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis.

We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.

Reconciliation in Advent

Regular time of 10am-11am Sat
13th Dec & Sat 20th Dec
Also 16th & 17th Dec @7pm-8pm

Christmas Mass times

Christmas Eve:- Wednesday 24th December

SMCM Carols @ 6.30pm Mass @ 7pm
St Peter's (in hall):- Carols @ 6.30pm
Mass @ 7pm also

11.30pm Carols with Midnight Mass to follow.

Christmas Day:- Thursday 25th December

St Peter's (in Hall):- 8.40am Carols
Mass @ 9am

10.10am Carols Mass @ 10.30am

Pray for the Sick: Roni & Michael Donovan, Robbie Abdelnour, Olga Olypios, Mary Hill, Emma Anderson, Rachel Gormley, Sairandree Fernando, Daniel Zammit, Veronica King, Bernadette Sexton, Elliott Donovan, Ernesto Bergamin, Ashley Koomen, Tereza Sada, Mitchell Connors, Colleen Paterson, Don Vandenberg

Offering Masses this week for:-

Death Anniversary:- Harold Mathias

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

Alessia Maree Condick
Tahlia Savino
Chris Misquitta
Harrison Ian Schamagl



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

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A

14th December 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and 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 those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

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 bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

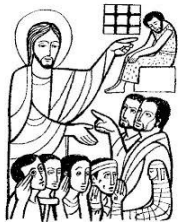
A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.





St Peter's Christmas



Carols

The Choirs of St Peter's and St Mary of the Cross Mackillop will be hosting a carols evening on....

Fri 19th December at 7pm

in the Galilee Space in St Peter's Primary School.

We are also expecting a special visitor on the night for the children.



ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR THE MASSES DURING CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Eve 7pm @ St Mary of the Cross:- we need a Reader & Leader please speak to Angela & Don if you are willing to help. **We already have a Special Minister**

Christmas Eve 7pm at St Peter's (hall) :- we need a Special Minister please.

Midnight Mass at St Peter's (hall) :- we need a Special Minister. Members of the **Youth Choir will be doing the Reading and Leading.**

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day 9am @ St Peter's (hall):- we need Reader, Leader & Special Minister

Christmas Day 10.30am @ St Peter's (hall) we need Reader, Leader & Special Minister

Wednesday 31st December

New Year's Eve 7pm Mass @ St Peter's Church:- we need Reader, Leader & Special Minister

Thursday 1st January

New Year's Day 9.15am Mass @ St Peter's Church:- we need Reader, Leader & Special Minister

If you wish to volunteer for any of these masses please contact the Parish Office and speak to Christine or Michelle or leave a message for them.



The indispensable role of the priest

From
The Catholic Weekly

What makes a priest a priest?

The priesthood cannot be considered simply as a role performed or a job that is to be carried out. It is a calling or a vocation that goes to the very heart of who the person is. It is not something one simply chooses to do as a career, rather it involves an invitation that one receives from the Lord. The Church has always understood that at the moment of ordination to the priesthood the candidate undergoes an ontological change, a change that leaves an indelible mark on his soul which cannot be removed. It marks him as a priest forever.

Through the Sacrament of Ordination priests receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit and are "signed with a special character and are conformed to Christ the Priest in such a way that they can act in the person of Christ the Head". (*Presbyterorum ordinis* 2).

The nature of the Catholic priesthood can only be understood in reference to Christ, for the priesthood is 'a derivation, a specific participation in and continuation of Christ Himself, the one High Priest of the new and eternal Covenant. The priest is a living and transparent image of Christ the priest' (*Pastores dabo vobis*, 12). He carries out his ministry not in his own right, nor according simply to a certain earthly authority. The Priest acts in the power of Christ as co-workers with the bishops.

Though entrusted to very ordinary men, the saving work of Christ in the world continues to be enacted through them. Just as the Lord chose very human disciples to become apostles, so the Lord accepts men with natural limitations to be his instruments. The exercise of the priesthood is, in the end, in the realm of grace and not simply the product of the human capacity of the individual. While lay people can exercise various ecclesial roles, they can never replace the role of the priest.

New Liturgy Roster for December and January Unable to help on the day you are listed.

As it will be the holiday season some of you may be away or not available to read, lead, or be the special minister when listed. Please check the list of names for others on the roster for the same mass time as you and contact them to swap with you or replace you for that day.

Date	Mass	Leader	Reader	Special Ministers	
20/12	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Grace O’Brien	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques	
	6.30pm	Sherwin Moreno	Sheriz Moreno	Charlie Aganetti	
21/12	9am	Christine Paterson	Des Madden	David Howard	
	10.30am	Anne Toshack	Cathy Gatt	Andrew Dipierdomenico	
Date	Cleaning	Team	Date	Cleaning	Team
13/12		Raju Sankaranarayan, Deepak Bura	27/12		Volunteers
20/12		Anthony Fakhry, Cyriac George			

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 The Next Week

15/12 Monday: 3rd Week of Advent

Readings: Num 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27;

16/12 Tuesday: 3rd Week of Advent

Readings: Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

17/12 Wednesday: 3rd Week of Advent

Readings: Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17;

18/12 Thursday: 3rd Week of Advent

Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24;

19/12 Friday: 3rd Week of Advent

Readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25;

20/12 Saturday: 3rd Week of Advent

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:5-25;

21/12 Sunday : 4th Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7;
Mt 1:18-24;



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.

Catholic Women's League Next meeting 2026

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;
8.30pm—9pm Fellowship & packing up.

Finance Committee - Next meeting - @ 6pm TBC

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Wednesdays **Note new day**

Liturgy Group - Next meeting 2026

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

First Reconciliation: Begins 10th February 2026

First Holy Communion:- TBC

Confirmation:- Begins 24th March 2026

Inquiries for 2026 are welcome

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 Began on Wednesday 10th September 2025.

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