

**Third Sunday of
Lent Year A
8th March 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 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



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Our Sacred Site

The Jewish people worshipped at the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Samaritans to the north worshipped on Mount Gerizem.

But Jesus says to the woman of Samaria: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem . . . true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.'

We do this by acknowledging Jesus Christ as our sacred site. Jesus is where God is to be found.

In his earthly ministry this was around places like the well in Samaria.

As Risen Lord, he is to be found in those in dire need, and in the Heavenly Bread.

In both cases we need to incline the body as an act of worship: in the case of the needy, by doing something practical; in the case of the Heavenly Bread, by genuflecting, bowing, before the Blessed Sacrament.

We could pause for a moment to reorientate ourselves to the Sacred Site who is the Risen Christ, acknowledging him as indeed the 'Saviour of the World'.

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

22nd March
10:30 am - 4.00 pm

St. Peter's Catholic Church
13 Davisson St,
Epping Vic - 3076

Contact: 0423736579 OR
Parish Office : 03 9401 6300

Please Register for Catering purpose

Pray for the Sick: Keith Lambert, John Giacchi

Offering Masses this week for:-

Anniversary of Death:- Reginald & Manel Dias, Margaret Loorham

R.I.P. :- Carlton & Cynthia Garrett

Special Intentions:- Carolyn, Bassem & Hannah

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
Aria Millicent Davie
Ljiljana Kosaros



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 Lent Year A

8th March 2026

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to

to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for March For disarmament and peace

Let us pray

that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

This information is for all Volunteers in the parish. Please complete this training as soon as possible.

Safeguarding Essentials online training module for volunteers

Safeguarding Essentials is a 30-60 minute online training module for all clergy, parish staff and volunteers within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

This online resource provides clergy, parish staff and volunteers with foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm.

Volunteers will be required to complete the training every 3 years.

The Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct has now been embedded into the training module dashboard to be read and signed by each individual.

The frequency with which clergy, staff and volunteers are required to sign the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct has now been aligned with the renewal timeframe for the Safeguarding Essentials online training module, as noted above.

At the completion of the training:

- participants will receive a certificate of completion accessible via the training module dashboard
- participants will receive email notification that the module has been completed successfully
- participants will receive a reminder email notification when the training is due for renewal in alignment with their renewal timeframe

How to access the training

To access the online training go to: www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org

To login, you will need:

- your unique Working with Children Check ID/VIT ID number
- an email address

Upon registration you will be asked to identify your role within the parish i.e. a member of clergy, parish staff or volunteer.

To register:

- **volunteers** will need to select their **parish** from the dropdown menu as their Primary Organisation of Service.
- It is the responsibility of **all** parishes to follow this training requirement up with their clergy, staff and volunteers.

Synod 2026 | Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31).

Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

In the synodal Church 'the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions (ITC 68) for mission' (Final Document, §87).

Third Sunday of Lent 7–8 March 2026

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.*



Date	Mass	Leader	Reader	Special Ministers	
14/3	5pm	Don Vandenberg	Grace O'Brien	Angela	
	6.30pm	Sherwin Moreno	Sheriz Moreno	Charlie Aganetti	
15/3	9am	Kay Whelan	Christine Paterson	Bernie Dias	
	10.30am	Anne Toshack	Gabrielle Godinho	Cathy Gatt	
Date	Cleaning	Team	Date	Cleaning	Team
7/3		Volunteers	21/3		Martin Family
14/3		Dinesh Dias Family	28/3		Volunteers

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

9/3 Monday: 3rd Week of Lent

Readings: 2 Kg 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30;

10/3 Tuesday: 3rd Week of Lent

Readings Dan 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35;

11/3 Wednesday: 3rd Week of Lent

Readings: Deut 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19;

12/3 Thursday: 3rd Week of Lent

Readings: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23;

13/3 Friday: 3rd Week of Lent

Readings: Hosea 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34;

14/3 Saturday: 3rd Week of Lent

Readings: Hosea 5:15—6:6; Lk 18:9-14;

15/3 Sunday : **4th Sunday of Lent**

Readings: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14;
Jn 9:1-41;

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 - Thursday 12th March @ 7pm **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Wednesdays

Liturgy Group - Next meeting ??? @ 7pm

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

First Reconciliation: Last class –17th March

Sacrament—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 almost completed

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