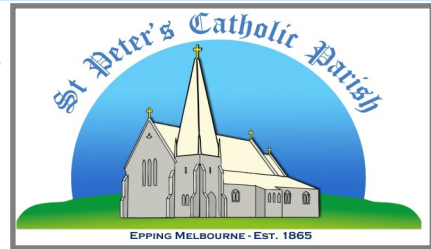


**21st Sunday of
Ordinary Time
Year C
24th August 2025**

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 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



**Sections of a
Homily by
Richard
Leonard**

From 'Liturgy
Help'

Salvation has always been the big issue. Who was going to make it, how it was going to happen and when would Christ return in glory have captured the imagination of each generation of believers.

The earliest Christians, especially the Gentiles, saw that the Jews had been given every opportunity for salvation. They were the Chosen people. They had the Law and the Prophets. They were looking for the Messiah. Jesus, however, did not come as they expected or act as they hoped, so they rejected him and his followers.

While we have always believed in the mercy and love of God, at different times we have been hostile to other religions, other denominations and the secular world. We have often needed to express this in absolute terms about who was going to be saved and, more importantly, who was not!

The Second Vatican Council, however, reflected on the Church's experience of working side by side with religious people and secular humanists throughout the world who were as committed as we are to justice, love and freedom.

In the 'Declaration on the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions', the bishops thought more generously about how God has a relationship with all people who in turn relate to God, even if they do not name it in the same way we are able to. The Council did not resile from believing that Jesus is the way to the Father, but they also affirmed that God can work in an infinite number of ways to assist people to salvation. It is Church teaching now that our relationship to all people who share the best of our values must be characterised by acceptance, collaboration, dialogue and charity.

This does not make salvation any less important. It just clarifies for us that it is God, not us, who does the saving and the judging. Christian salvation marks us out as people who know who we are following, where we are going, how we are getting there and why this world, and the next, matters to us. Salvation gives our lives meaning, direction and purpose.

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

Offering Masses this week for:-

Death Anniversary:- Samuel Dias, Carmen & Marlene Condello, James Rochford

Birthday & Continuing good health:- Joseph Noronha

Memorial:- Lizzy John

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

Georgia Louise Burton

Aaliyah Vina Esekia

Alyssa Diane De Petro

Michael Stanley De Petro

Kristinica Shandan



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 C

24th August 2025

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 66:18-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples! **(R.)**
2. Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 13:22-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

Communion Antiphon

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.



The Archbishop's Campaign

The 2025 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a **one time OR monthly pledge** to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese.

Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Donations can be made via the QR Code, or the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends.

Congratulations to the Confirmation Students

Last weekend the students from St Mary of the Cross Mackillop celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We offer congratulations to these children as they grow further in their Catholic Faith. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide their choices in their lives.

THE PASSION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FEAST DAY 30TH AUGUST



John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was born approximately six months before the Savior of the World. He was likely born in the small, rural Jewish town of Ein Karem, located in the hill country about five miles west of Jerusalem. Many Catholic theologians, believe that while John was conceived in Original Sin, he was sanctified in the womb immediately after the Blessed Virgin Mary greeted his mother Elizabeth, several months prior to John's birth. This leap in the womb has been interpreted as John's sanctification by grace before he was born.

John's first mission was to serve as the precursor of the Lord. As the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first of the New Testament prophets, he bridges the gap to Christ. Sometime between the years 27–29, John received inspiration from God in the Judean desert and started to gather disciples whom he taught, called to repentance, and baptized with water.

John's life reached its earthly climax when he saw Jesus, the Son of God, approaching him in the desert while he was baptizing. John immediately exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John reluctantly baptized Jesus, after which the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in a visible form and the Voice of the Father thundered, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" ([Matthew 3:17](#)). With that, John's life began to recede into the background, "He must increase; I must decrease" ([John 3:30](#)).

Today, the Church commemorates one of the oldest feasts within the Church, the Memorial of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist. Just as John preceded Jesus in birth, preaching, and baptizing, so too did he precede Jesus in death, dying as a prefiguration of the one who would give His life sacrificially on the Cross. After John's death, the Bible tells us that "His disciples came and took away the corpse and buried him; and they went and told Jesus" ([Matthew 14:12](#)). The news caused Jesus to withdraw alone in a boat to a deserted place to pray. Jesus not only grieved with human sorrow over the death of his cousin, but he also came face-to-face with the reality of His own fate.

John's life was given to the mission to which he was called. He never wavered and willingly accepted even death, rather than shy away from God's will. He introduced the Lamb of God to the world and led the way for Jesus by his preaching, baptism of repentance, and death, which prefigured Jesus' own death

WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED FOR CHURCH CLEANERS

Recently we have had a few members of the Church Cleaning Roster leave this ministry, therefore we are in desperate need to build up the members in this ministry. At present we have only 12 people helping to clean the church in pairs (if possible) which means we only have enough cleaners for every second week.

A few years ago we had a full roster of church cleaners for every weekend with 4 people in a team.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO DIMINISH OUR NUMBERS? There must be more parishioners who can spare a few hours every few months to look after our beautiful church. Please consider volunteering!

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE MESSAGES

1. Thank-you to those who have already provided milk for "Children First" There is still time to donate milk to this worthy cause.
2. **FUNRAISING STALL**—to be held at the masses on **Sunday 31st August**. Bring along some money to spend at this stall please.

COLUMBAN CALENDAR 2026 COST:- \$10

We are now taking orders for next year's Columban Calendar.

To place an order contact the Parish Office and leave your name, phone number and the number of calendars you wish to order.

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting

Tuesday, 24 September 2025 beginning 19:00 – 20:00
Location: via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison
Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

Date	Mass	Leader	Reader	Special Ministers	
30/8	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Grace O’Brien	Volunteer	
	6.30pm	Joan Bahen	Volunteer	Volunteer	
31/8	9am	Christine Paterson	Dhiana Dias	David Howard	
	10.30am	Cassandra Martin	Jennifer Martin	Julie Cowell	
Date	Cleaning	Team	Date	Cleaning	Team
23/8		Elizabeth Rozario, Shenelle Toshack	6/9		Russel Sequeria, Delphine Fruvall
30/8		VOLUNTEERS	13/8		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



SCHOOL FAMILIES

2025 PARISH CONTRIBUTION OF \$520. Thank-you to those who have paid this contribution.

Liturgy Readings of The Next Week

25/8 Monday: 21st Week in Ordinary Time
Readings: 1 Thess 1:1-5, 8-10; Mt 23:13-22;

26/8 Tuesday: 21st Week in Ordinary Time
Readings: 1 Thess 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26

27/8 Wednesday: **St Monica**
Readings: 1 Thess 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32;

29/8 Thursday: **St Augustine**, bishop, doctor
Readings: 1 Thess 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51;

30/8 Friday: **The Passion of St John the Baptist**, martyr
Readings: Jer 1:17-19; Mk 6:17-29;

31/8 Saturday: 21st Week in Ordinary Time
Readings: 1 Thess 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30;

1/9 Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24; Lk 14:1, 7-14;



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 20th Oct @ 10am at St Monica's College

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 - 9th Sept @ 7pm

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Thursdays

Liturgy Group - Next meeting - TBC @ 7pm

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

First Reconciliation: Completed for 2025

First Eucharist:- Completed for 2025

Confirmation:- Completed for 2025

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 - 2024 to 2025 Program 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 @7pm