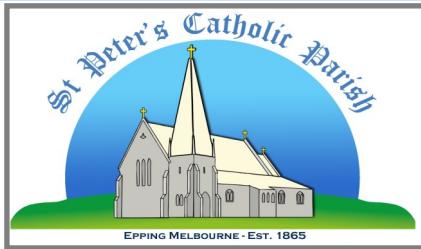


**5th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A
8th February 2026**

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 Davission 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

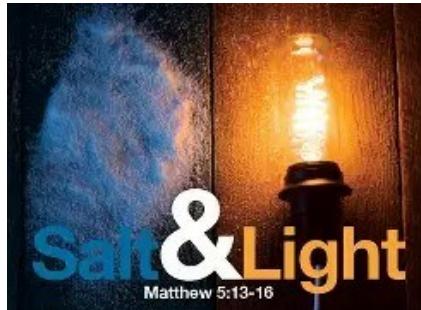
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop
47 Farmhouse Boulevard, Epping North
Principal: Claire Pitcher Ph: 8432 4500

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 Greg Sunter from "Liturgy Help"

Today, when we describe a person as being the 'salt of the earth' it's generally meant in a way that says the person is hard working, straight talking and pretty down to earth. It's usually meant as a compliment but sometimes can come across as a bit condescending when used inappropriately. When Jesus tells the disciples that they are salt of the earth and the light of the world he is really saying 'You are to be the salt of the earth; you are to be the light of the world.' It is more of a directive than an affirmation of them.

To be salt of the earth and light of the world means to be the one who puts their hand up and steps forward to speak for, work for and act for those who are the least in this world. To have the potential and resources to be a force for good in the world and not act on it is to be like salt that's used for salt-

ing the streets or a lamp that's under a tub.

Scriptural context – Following blessings

Today's gospel passage is one that is quite commonly quoted and relatively well known. When it is taken in isolation, it's very easy to forget that these words immediately follow the Beatitudes that we heard in last week's gospel. The imperative for justice in the images of salt and light of the world becomes even clearer when we remember that these words follow the blessings on those who are poor; who mourn; who are merciful and fight for justice. Jesus has blessed all these who are least in the world and then charges the disciples to be salt and light for them.

Have you thought? – Affirmation or Challenge

The salt and light of the world passage is often used to affirm and encourage, but when Jesus tells his disciples – and us – to be salt and light of the world it is not so that they can draw attention and glory to themselves. The whole purpose of being salt and light is to lead others into right relationship with one another and with God. Whilst the translation we have clearly states that disciples are to be salt and light of the world, it is just as clear that the intention is that they/we be salt and light for the world.

Pray for the Sick: Keith Lambert

Offering Masses this week for:-

Death Anniversary: Robert Sawbridgeworth, Ernesto, Carmela & Luigi Pellegrino, Marie Vas, John & Philomena Motha, Anamaria Lolagi Visinia, Cynthia & Carlton Garrett,

In Memory of: Reginald & Hazel Joseph, Edgar O'Brien

50th Wedding Anniversary :- Mario & Caterina Aloisio

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

Azriel Joseph Muik
Jordan Martis



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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

8th February 2026

Entrance Antiphon

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading **Isaiah 58:7-10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. **(R.)**
2. The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **(R.)**
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the

Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation **John 8:12**

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!



Gospel **Matthew 5:13-16**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.'

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

First Reconciliation: Begins 10th February 2026

Six classes on Tuesday evenings in February to March, with the Celebration of this Sacrament on Thursday 19th March

First Holy Communion: Begins 2nd June 2026

Seven classes on Tuesday evenings in June to July, with the Celebration of this Sacrament on Saturday 1st August.

Confirmation: Begins 24th March 2026

Seven classes on Tuesday evenings in March to April, with the Celebration of this Sacrament on Saturday 23rd May

If you have a child attending a government school and they need to complete their sacraments, contact Sister Huyen in the Parish Office to enroll in the program which they are ready to celebrate.



**Project Compassion Donation Envelopes:
How do I use them?**

This Lent, like we did in 2025, there is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. This change was made to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home.

You can still give weekly by taking several envelopes at once or simply make your offering when you're ready. Thank you for *Uniting Against Poverty* with us this Lent.



Boxes and envelopes are available this weekend



Christmas Hampers 2025 Thank you

The Epping Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes to thank all parishioners for the donations given to us to provide hampers to families in need.

With your generosity and that of the 5 schools within our Parish, including St. Carlo Acutis for the first time, we were able to provide and deliver 140 hampers to families in Epping, Epping North and Wollert. Thank you for your kind donations of food, gifts, vouchers and money all of which have been distributed.
On behalf of all those who received hampers, we thank you.

If you would like to continue to assist our work in the community, envelopes for financial donations are available in the Church. Donations can also be left at the Parish office. Please also consider joining our conference as a member.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to assist those in need.



Pray for the Sick (in the newssheet)

If you have a name you would like to add to the parish list of those we pray for each week, please contact the Parish Office to have the name added to our newssheet.

You must check with the person to be listed that they give you permission to add their name.

Also when the person no longer needs to be on this list please let the parish staff know so that we can remove their name.

CHILD SAFETY PRACTICES IN OUR PARISH

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Every volunteer, aged 18 years and older, in any parish ministry—

Baptism Preparation Team, Charismatic Prayer Group, Church Cleaners, Finance Committee, Legion of Mary, Liturgy Group, Readers, Leaders, Special Ministers, Parish Based Sacramental Programs, Communion to the Sick, Rite of Christian Initiation, Catechism Group at SMCM, St Vincent de Paul and Youth Group

must have a current Working With Children Check.

We ask that the leaders of each of the groups please check with their members that they have a WWCC and ensure the Parish has been provided a copy of the WWCC.

ALSO ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING

All of the above volunteers are asked to complete the "Online Safety Training"

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne mandates "Safeguarding Essentials" online training for all clergy, parish staff (annually), and volunteers (every 3 years) to ensure safety for children and vulnerable persons. This 30-60 minute module covers foundational safeguarding knowledge and includes the required Code of Conduct. The training is accessible via the Melbourne Catholic website.

The office staff will do this training in the parish meeting room on Friday 20th February at 10.15am and all volunteers are invited to join us at this time.



**Ash Wednesday -
18th February**

Mass Times:- 9.15am & 7pm

A day of fasting & abstinence



Saint Scholastica (c. 480–543)

was an Italian saint, twin sister to Saint Benedict of Nursia, and the traditional founder of the Benedictine nuns.

Dedicating her life to God from childhood, she established a convent near her brother's monastery at Monte Cassino. She is remembered for her devotion to prayer, her annual holy conversations with her brother, and for asking God to cause a storm to extend their final meeting, a miracle that cemented her role as the patron saint of nuns and against storms.

Date	Mass	Leader	Reader	Special Ministers
14/2	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Grace O'Brien	Angela Vandenberg
	6.30pm	Sheriz Moreno	Sherwin Moreno	Volunteer
15/2	9am	Kay Whelan	David Howard	Bernie Dias
	10.30am	Anne Toshack	Cathy Gatt	Stella Galea
Date	Cleaning	Team	Date	Cleaning
7/2		Russel Sequeria, Merli Inovejas	21/2	Raju Sankaranarayan, Deepak Bura
14/2		Volunteers	28/2	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 Next Week

9/2 Monday: 5th Week of Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kg 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56'

10/2 Tuesday: **St Scholastica**, virgin

Readings: 1 Kg 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13;

11/2 Wednesday: 5th Week of Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kg 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23;

Holy See: World Day of Prayer for the Sick

12/2 Thursday: 5th Week of Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kg 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30;

13/2 Friday: 5th Week of Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kg 11:29-32, 12:19; Mk 7:31-37;

14/2 Saturday: **Sts Cyril**, monk & **Methodius**, bishop

Readings: 1 Kg 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10

15/2 Sunday : 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37;

Australia: Project Compassion

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 16th Feb @ 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 - Tuesday 17th March @ 7pm

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Wednesdays

Liturgy Group - Next meeting ??? @ 7pm

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

First Reconciliation: Begins 10th February 2026

First Holy Communion:- Begins 2nd June 2026

Confirmation:- Begins 24th March 2026

Enrolments are still open

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 Resumed Wed 4th February

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