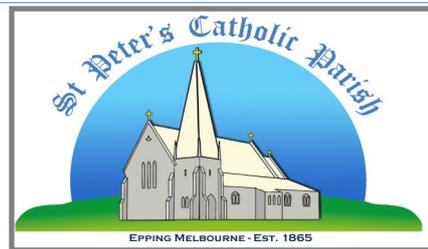


**Fifth Sunday of
Lent Year A
22nd March 2026**

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 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

**The Annunciation of the Lord
March 25th**

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him . . . might have eternal life." (John 3:16)



At the Annunciation, God revealed this good news to Mary. She was the first to hear and to believe that God would do what he promised. Her faith told her that nothing is impossible for God. Mary also heard God's invitation

calling her to be the Virgin Mother of his Son.

This call meant that Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she, as his mother, would nourish and care for him. This call meant that she had a special place in God's plan for salvation. Mary replied, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

In saying yes, Mary agreed to God's plan because she wanted what God wanted. She was willing to accept all the joy and pain, all the unexpected events. She was willing to bring Christ to a waiting world.

From Loyola Press

**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.

Pray for the Sick: Keith Lambert,

Recently Deceased: Michael Lawton

Offering Masses this week for:-

Death Anniversary:- Rosemary Bignoux, Elias Tranquille, Antoinette Gemma

RIP:- Carlton & Cynthia Garrett

Thanksgiving:- Wallace Raymond

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

James Graham Waddington

Yedvik Jay Aaruran

Mateo Jeremiah NG

Zachary Wyatt Koo

Nathaniel Blake Koo



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

22nd March 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;

whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village;

he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Xavier Ryan Bio

My name is Xavier Ryan, and I am a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Melbourne in my sixth year of formation.

I grew up in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne (after a short stint as a toddler in Darwin), attending Deepdene Primary School and Xavier College.

After school, I studied a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Neurophysiology at the University of Melbourne while teaching cello and organ.

I then served as a Constable in the Victoria Police for 2 years before entering Corpus Christi Seminary in 2021.

In 2023, I was blessed with the opportunity to study in Rome at the Angelicum (an 800-year old Dominican university) for 2 years while resident at the Venerable English College.

Since returning to Australia I have been on placement at the Parish of East St Kilda and now begin my year-long parish placement here in Epping. In my spare time I enjoy playing and composing music—especially classical and religious—, cycling, oil painting, cooking, eating, reading voraciously and talking the leg off a chair.

Thank you for welcoming me into your Parish, and please pray for me that I may grow an ever-deeper love for Our Lord to be a good and holy priest, God-willing, in the coming years.

Our Lady, Mother of All Priests, pray for me!

LENT 2026

Stations of the Cross - Fridays 8.45am & Fridays 7pm

Reconciliation:- Regular Saturday morning at 9.45am
EXTRA Evening Reconciliation Wednesday 25th March from 7pm.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Thursday of the Lord's Supper - 2nd April

7.30pm in the church with Adoration until midnight &

7.30pm at St Mary of the Cross McKillop followed by Adoration for one hour.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 12 VOLUNTEERS FOR WASHING OF THE FEET AT BOTH THE CHURCH AND SMCM.

Good Friday - The Passion of the Lord 3rd April

10.30am Stations of the Cross in St Peter's Hall

3pm Veneration of the Cross at St Peter's Hall & ALSO 3pm at SMCM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 5 VOLUNTEERS TO READ AT BOTH THE CHURCH AND SMCM

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil 4th April

6pm at St Mary of the Cross McKillop & 7.30pm at St Peter's Hall

Easter Sunday - Resurrection of the Lord 5th April

Masses at 9am & 10.30am in St Peter's Hall

IF YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER ON 'HOLY THURSDAY' AND/OR 'GOOD FRIDAY' AT 'ST MARY OF THE CROSS' - PLEASE CONTACT ANGELA VANDENBERG

IF YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER ON 'HOLY THURSDAY' AND/OR 'GOOD FRIDAY' AT 'ST PETER'S' - PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.

Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday are the rostered Readers, Leaders and Special Ministers.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

Offer hope by supporting the Sacred Places and Christians of the Holy Land.

Liturgy Readings of Next Week

23/3 Monday: 5th Week of Lent
Readings: Dan 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; Jn 8:1-11;

24/3 Tuesday: 5th Week of Lent
Readings: Num 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30;

25/3 Wednesday: **The Annunciation of the Lord**
Readings: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38;

26/3 Thursday: 5th Week of Lent
Readings: Gen 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59;

27/3 Friday: 5th Week of Lent
Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42;

28/3 Saturday: 5th Week of Lent
Readings: Ezek 37:21-28; Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56;

29/3 Sunday : **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**
Readings: Entrance: Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7;
 Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 –27:66;

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 - @ 7pm

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

DATE	Mass	LEADER	READER	Special Minister
21-Mar	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Volunteer	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques
21-Mar	6.30pm	Volunteer	Joan Bahen	Volunteer
22-Mar	9am	Cassandra Martin	Desmond Madden	Lesleigh Madden
22-Mar	10.30am	Volunteer	Jennifer Martin	Stella Galea
28-Mar	5pm	Volunteer	Don Vandenberg	Volunteer
28-Mar	6.30pm	Sheriz Moreno	Jaelene Jijo	Joan Bahen
29-Mar	9am	Christine Paterson	Lesleigh Madden	Dinesh Dias
29-Mar	10.30am	Cassandra Martin	Anne Toshack	Andrew Dipierdomenico
4-Apr	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Grace O'Brien	Volunteer
4-Apr	6.30pm	Volunteer	Tanya Johnston	Charlie Aganetti
5-Apr	9am	Desmond Madden	Kay Whelan	David Howard
5-Apr	10.30am	Youth	Youth	Stella Galea
11-Apr	5pm	Don Vandenberg	Leeni Joshua	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques
11-Apr	6.30pm	Joan Bahen	Bryan Johnston	Volunteer
12-Apr	9am	Lesleigh Madden	David Howard	Desmond Madden
12-Apr	10.30am	Candice Correya	Oswald Correya	Catherine Gatt

TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO THE 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

21/3 Martin Family, Christian & Anton

28/3 Volunteers, Christian & Anton

4/4 Anjith Abraham, Binoey John, Christian, Anton

11/4 Thi Nguyen, Leeni Joshua Family, Christian, Anton