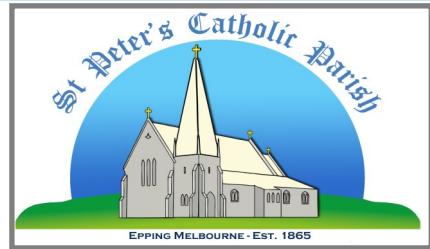


**24th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A
13th Sept 2026**

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
Assistant Priest Fr Isaac Zaki
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)
Seminarian: Xavier Ryan

Parish Office and St Peter's Church:

13 Davison St, Epping
Ph: 9401 6300

Email: epping@cam.org.au

Web: <https://www.melbocatholic.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



**SCRIPTURE
COMMENTARY
by
Brendan
Byrne SJ**

The parable that forms the **Gospel**, Matthew 18:21-35, is sparked off by a question from Peter, who, as so often, stands in for every member of the church that is coming into being (Matt 16:18). His suggestion of a readiness to forgive seven times sounds quite generous. (Which of us can say it's a standard we regularly achieve?) Jesus' initial reply (whether it means 'seventy times seven' [=490] or 'seventy seven times') goes deliberately 'over the top', requiring a readiness to forgive on a frankly unlimited scale.

To show that a calculating approach to forgiveness, such as Peter proposes, is quite inappropriate Jesus goes on to tell the long parable (the Unforgiving Debtor) that follows.

The note of exaggeration present in Jesus' initial response to Peter continues in the parable itself. A 'talent' was the largest unit of monetary calculation at the time. 'Ten thousand talents' denotes an utterly fantastic sum: billions of dollars in present-day terms.

The point being made is that the servant owes his royal master a debt that, despite his plea for time, he has no hope of ever repaying. He stands to lose everything – freedom, family, possessions – for his whole life long. This means that when the master, in a pure act of generosity, cancels the debt he is in effect restoring the servant's life.

In contrast to the vastness of the debt from which the servant has been discharged, what he himself is owed by a fellow servant and is violently unwilling to remit is paltry indeed. The sum involved, a few hundred denarii, is a debt that, given time, could easily be repaid. The force of the parable rests on this comparison.

Each member of the believing community should understand that they live as people who have received, through Christ's costly self-gift in love, remission of a debt (the debt of sin) that they could never themselves repay. How utterly inappropriate then an unwillingness to forgive fellow members of the community the 'debts' set up by injury on a vastly smaller scale.

As noted at the start, the capacity to forgive does not come easily. The Gospel invites believers at least to enter more and more deeply into the mystery of divine forgiveness in order to find the grace to live truly forgiving lives.

Pray for the Sick: Hirumali Dias, Marily Marquis

Offering Masses this week for:-

Death Anniversary:- Elsie & Benjamin Tranquille

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

Haven Angelina Looram

Ivy Mae Gambling

Rosie Jayde Parnis

Riley Charles Parnis



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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

13th September 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

First Reading Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Legion of Mary hosting Bible Study Online

The Mother of Divine Grace Praesidium invites you to join Bible Study sessions lead by resident seminarian Xavier Ryan.

Next three meeting dates at 8.30pm on Tuesdays
6th October, 20th October, 3rd November

Zoom link: <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83929824448pwd=TCtkNUFFSS9SK3o4U3ExZEYxZmxsQT09>

Also accessible via QR code:



Safeguarding Sunday 2026 -

will be observed on Sunday 13 September.

This day is dedicated to reflecting on the Church's commitment to creating safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all people, especially children, young people, and adults at risk.

The theme for this year's Safeguarding Sunday is **'Every conversation matters – shifting conversations to action'**, emphasizing the importance of conversations in building a culture of safeguarding.

- "I will treat others with respect."
 - "I will listen when someone needs help."
 - "I will include people who feel left out."
- "I will speak up if I am worried about someone's safety."

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE FUNDRAISING STALL

Saturday 19th September at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

We have many religious items suitable for all members of the family plus a few other items to sell on this date both before and after the 5pm mass.

Please bring cash along to this mass so that you do not miss out.

Mass Offerings - What They Are and How to Make Them

The Holy Mass is the best prayer that we can offer to God. Following Jesus' instructions, the Church has handed down the Mass from generation to generation as the best way to come together to pray, to make present again Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross on Calvary some 2,000 years ago, and to offer this same sacrifice to the God the Father and ourselves in union with this sacrifice.

There are four 'fruits' (benefits) of the Mass:

- i. a *general* benefit for the whole Church on Earth and in purgatory, whereby through the communion of the saints, all Christians receive grace (God's invisible help for us) from every Mass, whether or not we are present;
- ii. a *special* benefit for those actually attending the Mass prayerfully and receptively;
- iii. a *most special* benefit for the priest who celebrates the Mass; and
- iv a *ministerial* benefit for those for whom the Holy Mass is offered.

Only the priest celebrating the Mass can apply the *ministerial* fruits, either for the living or the dead. As such, a venerable tradition arose in the Church of the lay faithful making offerings to priests for them to offer the Holy Mass for a specific intention. This derives from the early offering of bread and wine by the faithful at the of-

fertory, the unused remainder after Mass being left for the priest's sustenance and for almsgiving.

A *Mass Offering* is a way for the faithful to unite themselves to the sacrifice of the Mass—it is not a payment for the Mass (that would be the sin of simony: the selling of sacred things) but a donation given to the priest for his support on the occasion of asking him to apply the *ministerial* benefits of a Mass for a specific intention.

Many priests in the world subsist entirely on the donations received through Mass Offerings, and even in Australia these donations are a great assistance to supporting our priests.

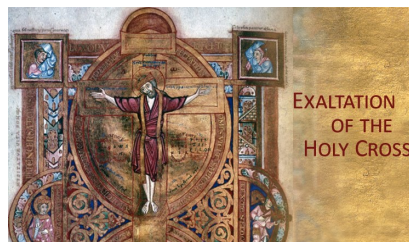
How to Make a Mass Offering

If you wish to make a Mass Offering, the Archdiocese of Melbourne recommends a donation of \$10 for a regular Mass, or \$20 for a Mass for the Dead during the month of November. A donor may, of course, be more generous to support their priests. Please write the Mass intention clearly and legibly (writing in capital letters helps) on an envelope with the donation enclosed. You may request a specific date (e.g., an anniversary or birthday) but it may not be possible for the priest to offer the Mass on that day. If the Mass offering is accepted, the priest is then bound by a solemn duty to offer Mass for your intention, but not necessarily to do so on a particular day or occasion of your request.

Do not ask a priest to offer Mass minutes before the beginning of a scheduled Mass. The priest will already have formed his intention for the Mass interiorly and in prayer, and likely already has received a specific Mass intention for that day. Priests can only offer Mass for a donation *once per day*, and it is quite often the case that a priest already has many Mass offerings lined up for days—if not weeks—in advance.

If you do not wish to have a Mass offered, but have an intention you would like remembered during a Mass, you may ask the priest to pray for someone/something in the Mass—this would be an added intention for which the priest will pray during the Mass, but not for which the Mass will be offered specifically. Please write this legibly and clearly on a piece of paper, but in ordinary circumstances do not request this mere minutes before the beginning of a scheduled Mass, but do so with a day or at least a few hours' notice.

by Xavier Ryan



On 13 September 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was dedicated. The following day, the cross that Empress Helena had discovered on 14 September 320, was venerated in a solemn ceremony.

Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross:

		LEADER	READER	Special Minister
5/9	5pm			
	6.30pm			
6/9	9am			
	10.30am			
12/9	5pm	Leenis Joshua	Volunteer please	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques
	6.30pm	Sheriz Moreno	Sherwin Moreno	Charlie Aganetti
13/9	9am	Cassie Martin	Des Madden	Dinesh Dias
	10.30am	Candice Correya	Anne Toshack	Andrew Dipierdomenico
19/9	5pm	Volunteer please	Don Vandenberg	Volunteer please
	6.30pm	Sherwin Moreno	Sheriz Moreno	Joan Bahen
20/9	9am	Chris Paterson	Kay Whelan	David Howard
	10.30am	Julie Cowell	Lillian Abbew	Stella Galea
26/9	5pm	Don Vandenberg	Leeni Joshua	Angela Vandenberg
	6.30pm	Volunteer please	Joan Bahen	Volunteer please
27/9	9am	Des Madden	Lesleigh Madden	Bernie Dias
	10.30am	Anne Toshack	Julie Cowell	Cathy Gatt
3/10	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Grace O'Brien	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques
	6.30pm	Volunteer please	Volunteer please	Charlie Aganetti
4/10	9am	Lesleigh Madden	David Howard	Des Madden
	10.30am	Cassie Martin	Cathy Gatt	Julie Cowell

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 Reminder of 2026 contribution of \$520 Thank-you to those who have paid this contribution.

CHURCH CLEANING

12/9 Martin Family

19/9 Anjith Abraham, Binoey John

26/9 Thi Nguyen

3/10 Volunteers please

10/10 Elizabeth Rozario, Shenelle Toshack



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 19th Oct @ 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 -13th Oct @ 7pm

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Wednesdays

Liturgy Group - Next meeting 10th Sept @ 7pm

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

All Sacraments have now been completed for 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

OCIA - 2026 –2027 Began on 2nd September 2026

Wednesday Evenings 7pm –8pm

Pt 1: Sept 2nd –Dec 9th. 2026

Pt 2: Jan 27th –Mar 17th 2027

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

Liturgy Readings of Next Week

14/9 Monday: The Exultation of the Holy Cross

Readings: Num 21:4-9; Jn 3:13-17;

15/9 Tuesday: Our Lady of Sorrows

Readings: Heb 5:7-9; Jn 19:25-27;

16/9 Wednesday: Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr, and Cyprian, bishop, martyr

Readings: 1 Cor 12:31 –13:13; Lk 7:31-35;

17/9 Thursday: 24th Week in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 7:36-50;

18/9 Friday: 24th Week in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3;

19/9 Saturday: 24th Week in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15;

20/9 Sunday : 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24, 27;

Mt 20:1-16;