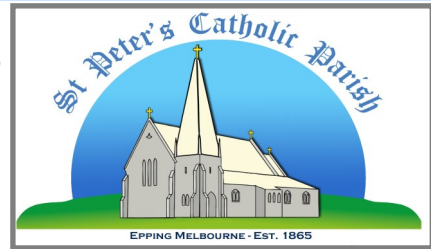


**22nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year A
30th August 2026**

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

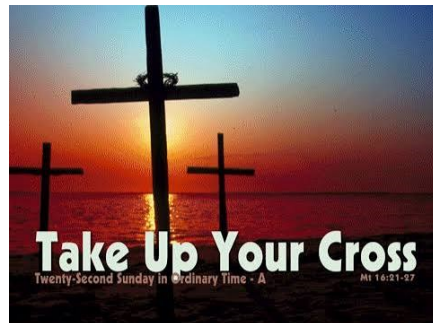
Mary Glowrey Catholic Primary School
10 Baltrum Drive, Wollert
Principal: Tim Kelly Ph: 8579 6505

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

HOMILY by Richard Leonard



It is certainly true that we have domesticated the scandal of the cross, even to the point that, these days, it dangles from various parts of people's anatomies. But while we have tried to tame the reality of Jesus' tortured hours in Jerusalem, the reality of the cross in each of our lives cannot be so commercially soothed.

Christians are not meant to be smiling masochists. We are not meant to be lovers of pain – just bearers of it.

We are invited, by Jesus, to see the burden of suffering in our lives as an opportunity to be faithful to his example. It also gives us an opportunity to be in solidarity with all those who suffer in our world. This is easier said than done.

When we suffer in our daily lives, thoughts of others rarely come to mind easily, but it can be consoling to keep

our suffering in context and know that we are not facing it alone.

We are encouraged to see that suffering can be an opportunity to grow in love. If we understand our crosses as our particular schools of love, then we learn more about ourselves and God and are able to help others carry their crosses as well.

Carrying our cross, however, is not just about bearing physical, personal, sexual, spiritual or emotional pain; it can also be in the sharing of our gifts and talents, our love and compassion. In every gift there is a burden. Following Christ's example, we are called to share our gifts heroically with anyone in need, even to the end.

Some people complain these days that God is often presented as a big marshmallow, all sweet and soft. Today's Gospel shows the 'edge' involved in being a follower of Christ. I don't know of a more demanding vocation in our world than that of taking up the cross of being faithful, loving and selfless.

And while we are invited to take up our cross and follow Jesus, we never do it alone. If we have the eyes to see it and the humility to accept it, Christ, literally, hangs in there with us every step of the way.

Pray for the Sick: Hiramali Dias, Marilyn Marquis, Angelita Mamuad

Offering Masses this week for:-

Recent Death: John Vaipumepurath, Hazel Girton, Zelma Harding

Death Anniversary:- Daisy & Stanley Jones

Birthday:- Perfecto Arizabal

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
Johann Jacob Fenil



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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

30th August 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of
righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

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, 8th September, 22nd September, 6th October

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

Also accessible via QR code:



RCIA is now OCIA

“The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults” (RCIA) has recently had its title changed to “The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults” (OCIA)



If you would like to learn about the Catholic Faith through this program, and be Baptized into the faith, please contact the Parish Office on 9401-6300 and ask to speak to Sister Huyen or email epping@cam.org.au

Dates: Wednesday Evenings –7pm-8pm

Part 1: Sept 2nd –Dec 9th 2026

Part 2: Jan 27th –Mar 17th 2027

Why We Do The Things We Do Why do we recite the Profession of Faith?

Why do people pledge allegiance to their national flag?
Why do married couples renew their wedding vows?

They do so as a public declaration of their commitment to a particular relationship and to ideals which guide their lives.

Similarly for Catholics, the profession of faith ('We believe in one God...') is a declaration of commitment.

Having listened to God's Word through the readings, we stand and declare our assent to the message proclaimed. Yes! Yes! We believe in God. Yes! We belong to this community that professes to live by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER - For the care of Water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

3rd September:- First Thursday of the Month
Pray for Consecrated Vocations

4th September:- First Friday of the Month
Pray to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

5th September:- First Saturday of the Month
Pray for Devotion to Mary



ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, 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, 22 September 2026 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.

RECEIVING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT MASS

When receiving the host on your hand at Communion time during mass, please remember that you must take the host with your other hand and place it into your mouth while you are still facing the priest.

Do not turn to walk back to your seat until you have transferred the host into your mouth.

Catholic Women's League

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners at our recent fundraisers, the CWL ladies have been able to donate \$1100.00 to the parish to pay for the new Procession Cross purchased for St Mary of the Cross.

The CWL ladies will be holding two stall in the coming months at the Saturday evening masses to enable the parishioners at these masses to purchase the religious items we have to sell.

Dates:- 5pm Mass on the 19th September

6.30 pm Mass on the 10th October.

We will remind you again so that you can bring along some cash at these masses.

UPCOMING PARISH MEETINGS

Thursday 10th September @ 7pm- Liturgy Group Meeting.

Tuesday 13th October @7pm - Finance Group Meeting.

The Archbishop's Campaign 2026

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese.

Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Priests Retirement Foundation, the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, CatholicCare Victoria Chaplaincy Program, Melbourne Overseas Mission, John Pierce Centre, University of Divinity for the Catholic Theological College as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants.

Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation.

Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift.

Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR codes on the campaign material.

DATE	Mass	LEADER	READER	Special Minister
29/8	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Don Vandenberg	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques
	6.30pm	Volunteer please	Joan Bahen	Volunteer please
30/8	9am	Lesleigh Madden	Dhihana Dias	Des Madden
	10.30am	Cassandra Martin	Jennifer Martin	Cathy Gatt
5/9	5pm	Don Vandenberg	Grace O'Brien	Angela Vandenberg
	6.30pm	Joan Bahen	Bryan Johnston	Volunteer please
6/9	9am	Kay Whelan	Chris Paterson	Lesleigh Madden
	10.30am	Youth	Youth	Julie Cowell
12/9	5pm	Leeni Joshua	Volunteer please	Melinda Pereyra-Henriques
	6.30pm	Sheriz Moreno	Sherwin Moreno	Charlie Aganetti
13/9	9am	Cassandra 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

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

29/8 Dinesh Dias Family

5/9 Volunteers please

12/9 Martin Family

19/9 Anjith Abraham, Binoey John

26/9 Thi Nguyen, Leeni Joshua & Family

3/10 Volunteers please



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 October @ 7pm

Legion of Mary - 5.30pm Wednesdays

Liturgy Group - Next meeting 10th September @ 7pm

Parish Based Sacramental Programs:-

All Sacraments 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 - 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

31/8 Monday: Week 22 in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30;

1/9 Tuesday: Week 22 in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Cor:2:10-16; Lk 4:31-37;

Holy See:- World Day of Prayer for Creation

2/9 Wednesday: Week 22 in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44;

3/9 Thursday: **St Gregory the Great**, pope, doctor

Readings: 1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11;

4/9 Friday: Week 22 in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39;

5/9 Saturday: Week 22 in Ordinary Time

Readings:- 1 Cor 4:6-15; Lk 6:1-5;

St Teresa of Calcutta

6/9 Sunday : 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Ezek 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20;