



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

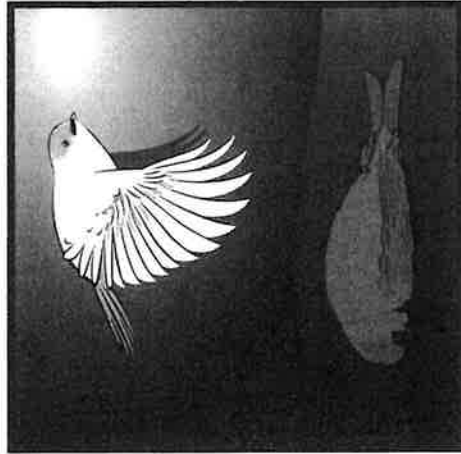
21 June 2026

Reflection by Greg Sunter

'Do not be afraid' is one of the most commonly repeated sentences in the Bible. In one form or another, the command to 'be not afraid' or 'fear not' appears several hundred times throughout the Old and New Testaments. Today's gospel passage is part of the sending out of the Twelve that occupies all of Chapter 10 in the gospel. It follows a little later in the chapter from last week's reading in which Jesus called the Twelve and sent them out as Apostles. The remainder of the chapter provides an extended teaching on what it means and what it costs to take the message of Jesus out into the world. Jesus teaches the Twelve that the message they bear will not always be well received and there will be those who will seek to silence the Apostles through violent means. But then the teaching comes to the section of today's passage and Jesus commands the Twelve, 'Do not be afraid'.

The message to not be afraid is as much for the original intended audience of the gospel as it was for the apostles. The community for whom this gospel was written were on the verge of being 'squeezed out' and forced into secret. The passage reminds them to have courage and to have the courage of their convictions; to shout from the house-tops their message, not whisper it in darkness. It is a reminder of the abundant love of God who cares for them and sees all their efforts to continue to live out the message and ministry of Jesus.

It is equally a message for us, today. We are called to continue the spread of the gospel message; continuing the work of those early Christian communities, the Twelve and Jesus himself.



Gospel Mt 10:26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

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First Reading Jer 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:
'I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace
will be theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe
with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you
will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68:10-14, 17, 33-35. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my
brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)
2. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)

3. The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants
in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth
give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man,
and through sin death, and thus death
has spread through the whole human race
because everyone has sinned. Sin existed
in the world long before the Law was given.
There was no law and so no one could be
accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet
death reigned over all from Adam to Moses,
even though their sin, unlike that of Adam,
was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the
gift itself considerably outweighed the fall.
If it is certain that through one man's fall so
many died, it is even more certain that divine
grace, coming through the one man, Jesus
Christ, came to so many as an abundant free
gift.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:26, 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Spirit of Truth will bear witness
to me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my witnesses.
Alleluia!**

IN YOUR PRAYERS



SICK

Richard Fernandez

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maria De Luca

ANNIVERSARIES

Daniel Galen, Miriam Coco, Maria Abela, John Debono, Rosario Baera, Caterina Riga Ventrice, Domenico Riga, Scrofani family, Giovanni & Giuseppina Caserta, Elizabeth Ngai Thi Bui, John Minh Ven Le, Andrew Quang Minh Le, Minnie George Joseph

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

JUNE 2026

Jacob Thomas McLeod
Alessia Lina-Caterina Usai

Please pray for these children and their families.

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued support. For those who prefer to, online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C BSB: 083 347 Account No. 665417521 Reference as your first initial then surname, or you may remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 535304676. Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. A-Smith T/G 500

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – Good Works

Do you need a helping hand?

St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers are committed to providing people with access to the resources and support they need to overcome personal hardship. If you require assistance, please phone their Welfare Assistance Line on free call 1800 305 330 Monday to Friday (except for public holidays). This service is free and confidential.

PARISH NEWS

FEAST OF STS PETER & PAUL - SUPPER INVITATION – 27TH & 28TH JUNE

To celebrate the Patron Feast of our Parish, St Peter, there will be a light supper in the narthex after all Masses on the weekend of 27th & 28th June. It would be appreciated if you could bring along a small plate of sweet or savoury finger food to share. All welcome to stay and enjoy a cuppa and chat with parishioners after the Mass.

PETER'S PENCE – ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY FATHER – 27/28 JUNE

Next weekend we will have the annual collection for the Holy Father. Peter's Pence is the name for the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the universal Church, and for the relief of those most in need.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or do you know someone who is? Are you a person in search of the meaning of life? Are you a Christian wishing to find out more about the Catholic Church? Are you a Catholic looking for an adult appreciation of your faith?

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)* is the normal process by which the Catholic Church welcomes new members, and we **will walk with you on your journey of discovery**. This journey of discovery begins with a time of discernment and *Enquiry*, continues through a period of *Catechumenate*, reaches its highpoint at the celebration of *Easter*, and concludes with a period of further deepening of and living the Christian faith.

There will be a series of *Enquiry Nights* for those interested in learning more about becoming a Catholic. They will take place on **Tuesdays 14th, 21st & 28th July at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre Meeting Room**. For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

MASS FOR MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES – Sunday 12th July at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne

Married couples and their families are cordially invited to join us as we celebrate the gift of marriage and family. Couples who register and are celebrating the following anniversaries—5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years and above—will receive a commemorative certificate. Please register for your spot by Tues 7 July www.trybooking.com/DMQDP. For any queries, please contact 9926 5761 or proclaim@cam.org.au Please see flyers on the table in the narthex.

MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for various positions in the Archdiocese. Further details can be found at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Prayer of the Parish of St Peter the Apostle, Keilor East

God our Father,
your parish family of St Peter's, East Keilor, thanks you for the faith we share.
Make us a people who cares for one another, and has a genuine concern for the wider community.

Help parents to give good example;
give children the grace of love and respect;
fill our youth with wisdom, hope and vision.
Their leadership is the future of our Church and Nation.

To our sick grant health;
to those of advancing years serenity,
and to those in sorrow your peace and joy.
Father, deepen our love and strengthen our faith.

Jesus, nourish us with your word and eucharist.
Holy Spirit, direct us in all we do
and help us to say always:
'Lord, it is good for us to be here.' Amen.

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST 2a Parkside Avenue Keilor East Vic 3033

Parish Priest: Rev. Anil Mascarenhas

Parish Secretary: Helena Meredith

Phone: 03 9337 4141

Parish Office Hours: 8.30am-4.00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: keiloreast@cam.org.au

Website:

<https://www.melb.catholic.org/keilorea>

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277)

[Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acting Principal: Anne Tadinac

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email: principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Siobhan Thompson

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm Sunday Masses

Weekday Mass Times

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon request of Parish Priest)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

END OF TERM 2

Friday 26th June

2026 PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

We are grateful for the school families ongoing support of the Parish Thanksgiving Program (2026 family contribution), which continues to sustain the life and mission of our parish. May God bless your families with peace and joy.

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.