



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.



Gospel Mt 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

16 August 2026

First Reading Is 56:1.6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R). O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.
(R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Jesus preached the Good News
of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!*

IN YOUR PRAYERS



SICK

Rosemarie Cini

RECENTLY DECEASED

Paul Minnici

ANNIVERSARIES

Michael DeBrincat, Minnie George Joseph, Sylvia Linda D'Mello, Mark & Rosina Pisano, Vincenzo D'Agostino, Michele & Rosalinda D'Agostino, Nicola & Lucia-Rosa Petrucci, Rocco Cornacchia, Assunta Raffaele

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

You can still join us in the Parish Centre Meeting Room at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 18th August, to make an enquiry about RCIA. For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

16 August 2026 at 12noon

*Giuseppe De Fazio
Hazel Kalabrezos*

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. ASmith T/G 500
NFC Tags can be found on pew if you would like to give electronically. Instructions can be found on the table in the narthex.

FOUND IN CHURCH - RING

A ring was found in the Church following the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 2nd August. Please contact the Parish Office on 93374141 if it belongs to you, or someone you know.

PARISH NEWS

FUNERAL – FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST

There will be a funeral on Friday, 21st August at 10.00am for the late Paul Minnici. Parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass.

Your generous gift supports ministries across the Archdiocese – bringing the Good News to life not only in word, but in action. Thank you.



ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2026

One major collection for the Archdiocese of Melbourne

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 and evangelisation ministries. 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/archbishops-campaign, via the QR code on the campaign materials, or via the banner on our Parish Website. **A special collection will be held at all Masses this weekend.**

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027

Join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli with other young people from across the Archdiocese to launch the pilgrimage to WYD Seoul 2027. When: Thursday, 20th August Where: St Patrick's Cathedral Time: 6.30pm-9.00pm. All Welcome.

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE – PRIZES NEEDED We are planning to have a Father's Day raffle. Donations of suitable prizes to make up hampers e.g. wine, chocolates, handyman items, men's pamper products, gift vouchers, etc would be much appreciated. Please bring to the Parish Office by **Friday, 21st August** or sooner, or call or email the Parish Office if you have something to offer: keiloreast@cam.org.au
Raffle will be drawn after the 10.30am Mass on Father's Day, September 6.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Parishioners interested in being considered for nomination as a lay member of the **Melbourne Synod** (4–6 December 2026), or who wish to nominate a fellow parishioner, are invited to contact the Parish Office.

Nominees should be active in parish life, committed to the Church's mission, interested in the synodal process, and willing to participate fully in Synod formation activities and sessions. Young adults and those whose voices may not always be well represented are especially encouraged.

Please contact the Parish Office by **Wednesday, 2nd September** to express your interest or for more information.

SILENCE IN CHURCH

A reminder that we should make every effort to keep the Church quiet in order that people have the opportunity to spend time in quiet prayer. A useful maxim to remember is **Speak to God before Mass; speak to friends after Mass**. If you need to have a conversation with someone prior to the beginning of Mass, please use the Narthex – that is its proper role and the proper place in which conversation may take place.

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.melbocatholic.org/keiloreas>

Facebook:

<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

***No Morning Mass on Friday 2nd August**

RECONCILIATION

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

request of Parish Priest

request of Parish Priest

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

2026 PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

We are grateful for the school families who are supporting 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.