



PARISH OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE
KEILOR EAST
23rd August 2026
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
Volume 47, Number 30

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a centre of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Philippi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

Gospel Mt 16:13-20

You are Peter; to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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First Reading Is 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;

do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

**You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!**

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Rosemarie Cini

RECENTLY DECEASED

Victoria Portelli

ANNIVERSARIES

Fr Andrew Doan Thanh Dien, Fr Peter Mai Dao Hien, Fr Peter Pham Huu Lai, Br Frances Tran Van Anh, Anthony Doan Trung, George Rodrigues, Rancee Murtiah, Jacinta Menezes, Sonia Care, Luis Marijares Villanueva, Paul & Connie Xuereb, Saverio Pastore, Maria Cammarano

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Next meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 25th August, in the Parish Centre Meeting Room.

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

20th September 2026 at 12noon

Audrey Josephine Hearnaden
Rafael Nicholas Sampieri

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 pews if you would like to give electronically. Instructions can be found on the table in the narthex.

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will be available to purchase next weekend and prizes will be displayed in the narthex. Raffle drawn on Father's Day, 6th September, after the 10.30am Mass. Thanks to all who have donated prizes for hampers.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH MASTER PLAN

Following the recent parish consultation sessions to inform the parish master plan for the next ten years, a parish vision has been developed. Further updates will be provided as the parish develops the master plan. Consultation with CAM, MACS, School and Parish will be conducted when relevant.

St Peter's Vision

St Peter's Parish seeks to be a vibrant, vital and viable, centred on Christ and Eucharist, where people of all generations are welcomed, formed, connected and encouraged to serve; where the parish and school work together closely; where young people and families are actively involved; exercising responsible stewardship of the property and resources entrusted to us. Where parish facilities are used creatively to generate income to support worship, community life, outreach, discipleship, and the mission of the Church.

Six focus areas that will enable the vision and master plan are:

- **Parish Office**- relocate or develop so that it is visible and accessible
- **Sustainable Use of Unused Land** – contribute to long-term sustainability and the parish pastoral mission
- **Parish Centre** – renovate or redevelop to meet pastoral, formation, fellowship, youth and community needs
- **Eucharistic Adoration Chapel** – establish a dedicated place for Eucharistic Adoration and prayer and spiritual renewal
- **Marian Grotto and Memorial Prayer Garden** – for Marian devotion, prayer, remembrances, reflection and community gathering
- **Future Church expansion** – expand the Church should school, and community participation demonstrate a genuine pastoral need.

We will also consider the feedback in the ongoing work of parish groups including the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee.

CONFIRMATIONS – 6PM SATURDAYS 29TH AUGUST & 5TH SEPTEMBER

At the next 2 Saturday 6pm Vigil Masses, the Year 6 children will be celebrating their Confirmation. With larger crowds expected at the Vigil Masses, parishioners may consider attending on Sundays over the 2 weekends.

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2026

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Last weekend's Special Collection raised \$915,00. Our total donation amount will be known once all envelopes and online donations are tallied by the Archdiocese.

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.

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.

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/keiloreast>

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

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon 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.