

26 Herlihys Road,  
Lower Templestowe 3107  
PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106  
Telephone: 9850 5983  
E-mail: templestowe@cam.org.au  
Website: [stkevinsparish.org.au](http://stkevinsparish.org.au)

Facebook: St Kevin's Parish

**Parish Office Hours:** Tue to Thu: 9am to 4pm

**Parish Priest:** Fr Charles Balnaves

**Pastoral Worker:** Mrs Rebecca Sandwell



## ST KEVIN'S PARISH

### VISION STATEMENT

St Kevin's Templestowe Parish is a Catholic community called by God and trusting in Jesus. We aspire to care for and connect with the wide world and to be hospitable and generous so that all may live life to the full.

*Merry Christmas*

2021

### *Christmas*

This is the time of year to become entranced by the little things! I took this photo recently because this little thing entranced me: it is a bamboo root, from underneath paving stones. It had grown along the interface between the pavers and the sand upon which they were laid. That meant the root came up with all the fine detail of fine tendrils as well as the bigger pieces. I think this is the first time I've really SEEN a root in such fine detail. The fine patterns, the different scales, the interconnectedness. The endless similarities and differences. The delicacy. The functional beauty.



We remember another entrancing small thing: the perfect detail of fingers and toes and eyes and ears and nose and hands and knees and hair – the adult in miniature perfection: a baby who is more than we can possibly imagine: Jesus Christ. And he lives on in us, the Body of Christ. Let us be open to the little things in our lives – the little ways in which we are graced by those around us, the little ways in which we are able to come into the lives of others with a gentle touch and a loving hand and a kind word and a helping hand.

May you have a Christmas filled with God's love.

*Fr Charles*





Liza, Nadia, Rebecca and Fr Charles wish you peace and relaxation this Christmas season.

May you bask in the wonder of God's care for each one of us.

## Christ Is Born

# Congratulations!

to our blanket raffle prize winners:

\* Gabrielle Cunico

\* Maureen

\* Miles

\* Nellina Sebastian

\* C Maher

You have won yourselves a lovingly created bespoke blanket. Thank you to all who bought tickets and in doing so supported our Needlecraft Group to continue in 2022.

A very Merry Christmas to all!

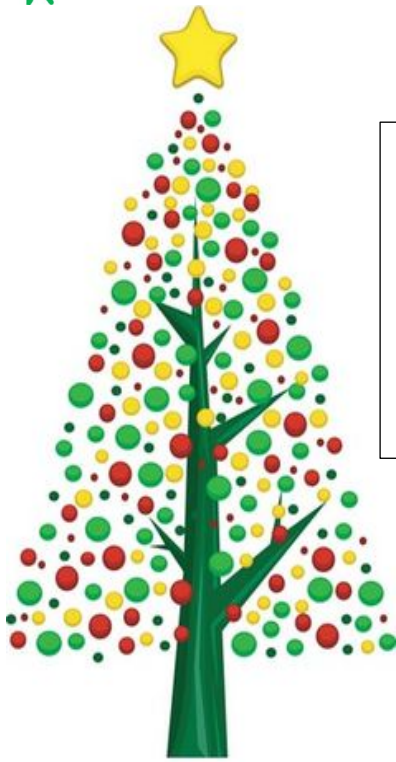
### Can't help but feel we have "learnt" this Christmas.

While we are aware of our need for social distance and social awareness, let us rejoice in each other's disciplined commitment to keep us safe.

Please be careful amidst all the joys of Christmas and New Year.

We are responsible for each other, to care as Jesus cares.

Fr Charles



### New Year's Day Mass

will be celebrated here at St Kevin's Church on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> January at 9.00am.

Please note that even though this day is a Saturday, Mass will ONLY be celebrated at 9.00am. The Masses on Sunday will be as usual ie 8.30 and 10.00am.



# Thank you!

### Great liturgies don't just happen

they come about because people dedicate themselves to helping us celebrate wholeheartedly. Let us join as a community in thanking the Lord, for the thoughtful and skillful work of many of our fellow parishioners.

Fr Charles



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND



## LITURGY ROSTER

The Epiphany of the Lord – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12



Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
9.00am New Year's Day	Vianney Shiel	Liz O'Connell	
8.30am (Sunday)	Frank Ozzimo	Paul Polidano	Betty Natoli
10.00am (Sunday)	Frances Johnson	Julie O'Donnell	Tony Whelan

**We pray for Better Health:** Jan Dalton, Jane O'Brien, Pat & John Rowland, Maria & Werner Beismer, Michael & Mardi Doyle, Angelina Amalfi, Fr Brendan Dillon and Jadwiga Krolkowski.

*Thank You*

for the cards, gifts and best wishes expressed to me over this Christmas Season. You are very special people. **Fr Charles**

### Gospel Focus – A Great Census?

The decree of a census for the whole Roman world appears to be an unlikely event. A census of people in local regions was not unusual but a census that required people to return to their place of birth carries no historical validity. The gospel writer correctly places Mary and Joseph in their home town of Nazareth but prophecy indicated the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. The author needed an excuse for Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem. We must remember that the gospels are not to be read as historical accounts but rather as faith accounts of the life of Jesus.

### Christmas Questions to Ponder...

- Q. What words or phrases from the passage appear to be particularly significant? Why?
- Q. How might Mary and Joseph have felt about their situation for having their baby?
- Q. What message about Jesus is portrayed by his mother laying him in a manger – an animal feed trough?
- Q. Does a close reading of this passage change your picture of the birth of Jesus in any way?
- Q. Why do you think the different infancy stories have been commonly combined into one?
- Q. Why might the Luke gospel go into detail about the Roman officials at the time of the census?
- Q. What is significant about Joseph being 'of David's House and line'?

### What's Christmas without some corny Christmas bon bon jokes?.....

- Q. What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees? **A. Horn-aments!**
- Q. What did Santa ask Rudolph about the weather? **A. Is it going to rain, dear?!**
- Q. Why didn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Eve party?  
**A. He had no body to go with.**
- Q. What do elves post on social media? **A. Elf-ies!**
- Q. What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? **A. The elf-abet!**





Loving

*Father*

help us remember

the birth of **JESUS**

that we may share in

*the song of the angels*

the gladness of the shepherds

and the worship of the wise men

Close the door of hate and

*open the door of love* all over the

world. Let kindness come with every gift and

good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from

evil by the *blessing which Christ brings*, and teach us

to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning

make us happy to be *Thy children*, and the Christmas

evening bring us to our beds with graceful thoughts,

*for giving and for given,*

for Jesus' sake

**AMEN**