



St Kevin's Catholic Parish



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Parish Office Hours: Tue to Fri: 9am to 4pm
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Christmas Thoughts From the Desk of the PP...

It is Friday and Christmas starts tomorrow evening: ALLELUIA ALLELUIA!!.

I have a weakness for Christmas.

It is a time of deep, lasting, complete joy for me.

The joy of waking at 5:30 am, creeping quietly downstairs and being joined by my elder brother to search out my Christmas stocking. We were allowed up at 6.00 am but I'd be awake and go down and get my stocking and wait till 6.00 am to start opening all the little gifts. Not the "real" gifts but the little things my wonderful mother and father (probably mostly my mother) had gathered for each of us. They were gifts of love that we knew came from Mum and Dad: no mention of "Santa Claus". Tiny things—a torch and batteries (each individually wrapped) - always lots of little things. The joys of midnight Mass and falling asleep under the pews; the joys of waiting till mid-afternoon to be permitted to hop on my bicycle and ride to see my best friend Michael. The joys of presiding for my first Christmas Masses at St Catherine's and St Dominic's Churches in Melton. The joys of finally meeting up with so many of the St Kevin's and the St Gregory's parishioners after all the lock downs of 2021. The joy of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide me towards some words for your homily seeking to bring something fresh to celebrating the truth of Jesus Christ: God-is-with-us.

I know that there is great sadness: listening to Sherry at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and members of St Vincent de Paul Society and receiving appeals from the Smith Family and Catholic Mission and Salvation Army and others and then as I type hearing news of storms with 3 cm hail destroying homes around Geelong/Melbourne. Yes, the world is not the perfect place that boy seeking his Christmas stocking may have thought it. And I pray and I seek to alleviate the sadness and help as much as I can. But ...

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS BORN! Jesus the Christ is among us! God is with us. The possibility of growing into goodness exists. The reality that being created in the image of God can translate into the capacity to turn always towards what is good and right and just and merciful. Yes: Christmas brings me joy. Deep lasting joy.

I know in myself that that joy does not easily express itself in my face and in joyful laughter. I know my face can resist that joy and laughter bursting through to quirk my lips and crease my eyes and shake my belly. The moment of delight that expresses in laughter can be gone before my face and body responds. But the joy is there because Jesus Christ journeys with me.

Jesus journeys with me, Sherry Balcombe and Vicki Clark through their incredible passion for justice for their people. Jesus journeys with me through the smile and optimism of those Iranian families I met recently who have lived through persecution for their faith. Jesus journeys with me through the abiding love shown by Margaret and Pat and Iris and Carmel and Fiona and Mal and Noella and James and Vianney and Brian ... all the others who have helped prepare us for Christmas. Jesus journeys with me in my family.

Joy! Abiding! Deep! Real! Arising from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit moving me to love as God loves by accepting Jesus the Christ into my heart once again. Thank you for joining me in this Joy and accepting me as your pastor and leader.

God Bless, Fr Charles



LITURGY ROSTERS

Christmas Eve/Day – 24/25th December 2022

1st Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10 2nd Reading: Hebrews 1: 1-6 Gospel: John 1: 1-18

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
6.00pm	Fiona Watson	Lucy Halliburton	Lyn Murphy Lawrence Ceconello Rebecca Sandwell
9.00pm	Tiziana D'Costa	Lyn Robinson	Tony Robinson
9.00am	Frances Johnson	Pauline Erickson	TBA



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – 31st December 2022/1st January 2023

1st Reading: Numbers 6: 22-27 2nd Reading: Galatians 4: 4-7 Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Janet Parsons	Margaret Turner	Lawrence Ceconello
8.30am	Frank Ozzimo	Julie O'Donnell	Pat Rowland
10.00am	Lucy Halliburton	Carmel Shiel	Raffaella Dinelli

Epiphany of the Lord – 7/8th January 2023

1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Pauline Erickson	Kathy Pearce	Anne Maguire
8.30am	Paul Polidano	Miriam Ayoub	Mary Waddick
10.00am	Carmel Purdey	Carmel Shiel	Joe Batiller

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14/15th January 2023

1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6 2nd Reading: Corinthians 1: 1-3 Gospel: John 1: 29-34

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Bredenia Raquel	Maryanne McNamara
8.30am	Rebecca Sandwell	Pauline Erickson	Adrian Teo
10.00am	Vianney Shiel	Julie O'Donnell	Lyn Murphy



We pray for Better Health:

Michael Doyle, Fr Brendan Dillon, Jill Hodson, Betty Natoli, Rick Gaillardetz, Bastine D'Cruz, Mary Calleja, Batoul Barak, Louise Dipetro, Mary Hodgekinson, Izabella Fantin, John Nigro, Lianney Susanto, Kevin Parker and Melissa Wirata.

Anniversaries:

John Rowland (1st)
and Nina Luca

For some the wonderful gift of shared joy and hope.

For others the suffering of solitude, ill health, unsupported material needs, or little opportunity for even temporary relief.

It's instinctive to think of this special Christmas season as uplifting for all, when pressured lives can relax, where shared goodwill is strongly sensed, where people pray and celebrate together, and where daily challenges are given needed respite. For those of faith, and others, this joyful season very much includes these, though not without their own challenges. For those who are lonely, ill, forgotten or neglected, Christmas is a time where disadvantage is often amplified. The true spirit of Christmas calls each of us to reach out in simple ways, with joy and kindness. There are so many opportunities both within and beyond the Christmas season to reach out to fellow humans very much in need. Beyond donating to 2nd Collections for a wide variety of causes the Social Justice website has just added new timely opportunities, including preparing for Indigenous Voice discussions in 2023. Christmas joy to all - **John Costa SJA**

A Christmas message from Archbishop Peter Comensoli

As this year comes to a close, please be assured of my deep gratitude and prayers for all you have done, and continue to do, in bringing the Gospel to our people and walking with them.

In whatever ways you gather this Christmas, please keep in your hearts and prayers those who are alone, estranged, suffering or lost.

May the Christ child be an ember of hope in their darkness, and may we all be filled with the everlasting joy and peace that He brings.

Wishing you a safe holiday and a gentle start to 2023.

Happy Christmas!

Yours in Christ Jesus, Archbishop Peter



Tiziana, Nadia and Fr Charles wish you all peace and joy this Christmas season.

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

Christ Is Born

PEACE

Christmas is a time to reflect on the ways we embody God's love.

May those who meet us encounter God in us:

through our smile,

our attentive listening,

our wholehearted acceptance,

our laughter and our tears,

our generosity of spirit,

our time and energy spent in the service of others,

and our willingness to speak up for those without a voice.

We pray that when people spend time with us,

they will see the face of God.



A word from the Lay Ecclesial Leader

It is almost one year since I took up my post as Lay Ecclesial Leader. I am grateful for your acceptance, goodwill and support. I thank Fr Charles and Nadia, Liza and Rebecca for their help and patience in showing me the ropes.

In this first year since the pandemic lockdowns, it has been wonderful to rekindle friendships, revive ministries, and celebrate Mass in person, offline. A lot has happened. We have a new website, a revived Social Justice Action group, a Men's Social Group and we set things in motion to kick start a Youth Group early in the new year. We have become better acquainted with our friends at St Gregory's and collaborated with them on shared celebrations (Fr Charles' 70th birthday) and liturgies (the Reconciliation Service). The liturgy group has gifted us with thoughtful and inspiring liturgies throughout the year. The industrious knitting group has donated beautiful blankets and beanies to the needy. The Christian meditation group has thrived under the guidance of three skilled facilitators. And these are just some of the highlights.

We have wonderful volunteers who through their time and effort give so much to the parish. Thank you so very much to each of you. Without you we would not be the parish we are.

I am excited about 2023. We welcome two new staff members: Frances Johnson, for bookkeeping and accounts, and Ana Saro, pastoral worker. Frances and Ana are experienced, enthusiastic, faithful and I know they will be an asset to our parish.

Together as a community, we will strengthen and revive our parish and find ways to grow and reach out to others. Each of us has special gifts and strengths, when we use them, our parish can only thrive.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas season and a happy new year. Take care.

Blessings, Tiziana

Parish Staff Movements

Recently, we farewelled our loved Pastoral Worker and Finance Co-Ordinator, Rebecca Sandwell and Liza Jansz respectively.

We now say a big St Kevin's 'HELLO' to Ana Saro and Frances Johnson.

Ana comes to us with many years' experience as a Pastoral Worker/Parish Secretary and is looking forward to meeting you all and learning about our beautiful St Kevin's parish and of course its parishioners.

Frances will be joining our team as our Bookkeeping/Accounts person. Some of you may already know Frances as she helps out at our Masses in either commentating or reading, so she will be a familiar face.

Please come forward and introduce yourselves and give a big St Kevin's welcome to our newcomers to our parish team.

Frances' first day in the parish office will be January 19th whilst Ana will be commencing on January 31st.

Exciting times ahead for our parish of St Kevin's.

We now have a new way to undertake parish collections – please use this QR Code to make quick and easy contributions to our parish by following these simple steps:

1. Wave your mobile camera over it
2. Click on “Show Options”
3. Click on “Open in Browser”
4. Indicate your payment options



All contributions will go directly and securely into St Kevin’s Church Account.

Thank you all for your generous donations.

New Year's Day Weekend Masses

will be celebrated here at St Kevin’s Church as usual on the weekend of

31st December, 2022/1st January, 2023.

That is: 5.30pm on New Year’s Eve and and 8.30am and 10.00am on New Year’s Day.



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

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



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.

Thank You

for the cards, gifts and best wishes expressed to me over this Christmas Season.

You are very special people.

Fr Charles

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!

