

# St Kevin's Catholic Parish



PO Box 985, Templestowe 3106 Telephone: 9850 5983 Fax: 9850 1545

26 Herlihy's Road, Lower Templestowe 3107 Parish Office Hours: Tue to Fri: 9am to 4pm Email: templestowe@cam.org.au **Pastoral Worker:** Mrs Ana Saro Lay Ecclesial Leader: Mrs Tiziana D'Costa **Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves** 

Website: stkevinsparish.org.au Facebook: 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.

Year A

## Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023 Father's Day Weekend

*Our Presiders today are:* Fr Barry Caldwell (5.30pm Saturday evening)

Bishop Leslie Tomlinson (8.30am and 10.00am Sunday morning)

#### A Word From the Lay Ecclesial Leader...

When I teach my students about public policy (the solution) we first look at the social problem. The way we describe a social problem will necessarily impact on the policy solution we implement. Take the problem of illicit drug use as an example. If this social problem is viewed as a criminal, law and order issue, the social policy will be a law-and-order approach of criminal deterrence. On the other hand, if we view the problem of illicit drug use as a mental health problem, the social policy will be one based on public health away from the courts and the criminal justice system.

It is difficult to identify what is actually the problem. Social problems are 'wicked' in the sense that they are persistent and complex. To be effective, social policy must be multilayered - there is no such thing as one solution for a complex problem.

You could apply this analysis to the problem of declining participation in the faith. A problem faced all over Australia and in the Western World. What is the actual cause of the problem? There are several factors at play - the rise of secularism and distrust of institutions, clericalism, sexual abuse scandals, the 'spiritual but not religious' movement - to name a few.

What's the solution? As in public policy, for our solution to be as effective as possible it must be multipronged. One initiative alone won't fix such a complex problem.

There are several things we are already doing: thoughtful and welcoming liturgy, social justice action, the men's social group, meditation, the knitting group, a revamped sacramental program, the bookish morning tea and our community cupboard. Reaching out to our local retirement homes; and to our schools' community - the youth group is a good example.

We need to do more. Find ways to be a relational church rather than an institutional church (words I have borrowed from Fr Tony Kerin). This makes sense to me because it is in relation to one another that we can be truly disciples of Jesus and we come to experience the love that Jesus has for us: individually and through community.

We are currently looking at the viability of programs such as Alpha to help us do this. We will also be a voice for change and continue our parish tradition of advocacy for Church reform in line with the recommendations of the Plenary Council and the Synod of Bishops. We will continue to walk in solidarity with our First Nations brothers and sisters as Jesus would have us do. And follow Pope Francis' lead by supporting responsible stewardship of this beautiful planet of ours.

We are adopting a multipronged approach to tackle a complex problem. We are doing it together, in synodality, walking together as the

#### Social Justice Reflection on Father's Day

While Father's Day itself might not be directly linked to social justice, it provides a platform to address various issues related to behaviour, family, and parenting that intersect with the broader goals of promoting equality and fairness in society. From the Catholic Commission for Social Justice, Archdiocese of Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies, comes the following Father's Day Reflection: Obama once said: "I sure wish I had had a father who was not only present, but involved. Didn't know my dad...I want to be a better father, a better husband, a better man...Be the best father you can be to your children. Because nothing is more important...It's hard work that demands your constant attention and frequent sacrifice...Everything else is unfulfilled if we fail at family, if we fail at that responsibility." And then there are the children who treat their fathers— and mothers—really badly, but in spite of this, their parents continue to love them. As Pope Francis said: "Everyone knows that extraordinary parable of the Prodigal Son, or better yet, the Merciful Father (Lk 15:11–32). What dignity and what tenderness there is in the expectation of that father who stands at the door of the house waiting for his son to return! A good father knows how to wait, how to love, and he knows how to forgive from the depths of his heart. - John Costa SJA

## What's happening in our Parish this week?...

Saturday	5.30pm	Mass		
Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am			
Tuesday	8.30am	Adoration		
	9.15am	Mass		
	1.00pm	Needlecraft Group		
Wednesda	<b>y</b> 9.30am	Meditation – via zoom only – all welcome.		
Please contact the parish office so we can send you the link				
	10.15am	Adoration		
Thursday	8.30am	Adoration		
	9.15am	Mass Look What's Happening		
Saturday	5.30pm	Mass 🛛 🖉 🎸		
Sunday	8.30am &	10.00am Masses		

#### Feast Days this week:...

8<sup>th</sup> September The Nativity of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** This feast originated in Jerusalem about the sixth century, a development of the feast of the dedication of the church of St Anne: built in Jerusalem where Mary was born. Observed in Rome in the seventh century, it was later used to determine the date of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Because of her importance in salvation history, Mary's birthday is celebrated as well as those of her son Jesus the Lord, and of St John the Baptist (24 June).



#### We pray for Better Health:

Fr Brendan Dillon, Rick Gaillardetz, Bastine D'Cruz, Mary Calleja, Batoul Barak, Louise Dipetro, Mary Hodgekinson, Lianney Susanto, Kevin Parker, Melissa Wirata, Jane O'Brien, Dorothea (Dot) Sharkey, Trish Wilson, Danielle Hardy, Maeve & John Reardon, Eugenia Pozzebon, Margaret Turner, Graham & Jason Gooden, Miriam Ayoub, Lynda O'Meara and Milda Sarzetakas.

#### Anniversaries:

Peter Raymond Murphy, Angela Castellucci, Frank Delaney, Neta Meagher, Sharon Hammet, Elisa Ruggieri, Peter Coade and Erminia Theuma.

Recently Deceased:

#### **LITURGY ROSTER** Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Read: Ieremiah 20: 7-9 2<sup>nd</sup> Read: Romans 12: 1-2 Gos: Matthew 16: 21-27

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Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion			
5.30pm	Rachel Marini	Lucy Halliburton	Lynne O'Brien			
8.30am	Paul Po	Penny Teo				
10.00am	Miriam Ayoub	Tony Byrne	Kaye Byrne			

#### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 9/10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 1st Read: Ezekiel 33: 7-9 2nd Read: Romans 13: 8-10 Gos: Matthew 18: 15-20

Time	Commentator	Lector	Communion
5.30pm	Margaret Turner	Rachel Marini	Lawrence Cecconello
8.30am	Frank C	Mary Waddick	
10.00am	Frances Johnson	Carmel Shiel	Geraldine Williams



The next St Kevin's Men's Social Group takes place on Friday, 8th September @ 7.30pm in the Church Gathering Apace. Open to men of any age (older teenagers are welcome (with their guardian) - parishioners and non-parishioners alike. All are welcome. Invite a friend, relative or neighbour along. Supper is provided. BYO alcoholic drinks. \$7 donation suggested to cover costs. For catering purposes, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the entry of the church, or you can ring the parish office on 9850 5983, or email Tiziana at tiziana.dcosta@cam.org.au

## This Sunday (Father's Day) we are holding the **Annual Priests Retirement Foundation Appeal.**



**PRESTS RETIREMENT** The Priests Retirement Foundation was established in 1990 and contributes to the ongoing care of retired priests across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This includes, but is not limited to, the provision of suitable accommodation and



## God our Father,

in your wisdom and love you made all things.

#### V V health care and medical out of pocket expenses. Caring for those who cared

'We spent our lives trying to do things for other people and now we need a bit of assistance ourselves. And the Foundation helps us enormously.' —Fr Ted Teal, retired priest

Within the Archdiocese, there are two purpose-built retirement homes: Justin Villa in North Balwyn and George Maher House in Clifton Hill. Priests may also choose to live privately in their own house (often inherited) or a house or unit where the rental is funded by the Foundation. The physical and mental wellbeing of all retired priests is continually overseen by two highly qualified nurses also funded by the Foundation.

## Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we may honour them always with a profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## St Kevin's Christian Meditation, each Wednesday 9:30am ONLINE via Zoom. Why not try it?

#### Contact the Parish House for the online link. All welcome.

The real aim of meditation is simply to learn to become fully aware of what is. Be aware of the discipline of stillness as you start. In saying the mantra you may wish to breath in and breath out silently. In saying your mantra you are breathing in God's Spirit who is your life. Breathing out in silence is like returning your life to God in faith and with love,

## COME AWAY DAY AT PASSIONIST HOLY CROSS RETREAT CENTRE, TEMPLESTOWE

The Come Away Days program resumes at Holy Cross on **Wednesday 13 September.** 

The theme of the day is **"Invitation to new beginnings."** The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, reflection and fellowship in the peaceful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross, situated at 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe. All are welcome. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The day concludes at 2pm with a celebration of the Eucharist. You are invited to support these days financially according to your means, using \$25.00 per person as a guide. For further details contact Frank Burke on 0407998781 or <u>burke.frank942@yahoo.com.au</u>

#### Musings from the PP ...

ready to receive it all over again.

Last Monday I had a routine colonoscopy (my Father had bowel cancer so regular tests are recommended as a preventative measure). All was Ok, no worries!

Afterwards, I emailed a report out to my brothers and sons, because of course they share the same risk profile as me. I got a whole range of comments back that went beyond "good to hear:" "Do I hear a hint of loneliness?" "You sound worried about your mortality?" None of which was what I meant, nor do they have any basis in reality for me.

What struck me through these comments, and why I am imposing my minor health matter on you, is how easily we can misunderstand each other, especially when we are not face to face, and doubly so it seems with electronic communications compared to letters (which hardly get used these days).

We can misunderstand each other face to face too, but when we are together, most often, we can correct any misunderstandings on the spot—we can see the expressions on each other's faces and they give us clues about what lies behind the words spoken; we can see how a person is standing, we can hear a tone of voice, we have the context of a conversation ... lot's of extra cues to help understand each other.

All of these cues are missing from texts and emails and tweets and Instagram and Facebook.

I suspect part of the reason for confusion and mis-interpretation is that we can do the electronic communications so quickly: type, glance back, hit 'send' - no time for real reflection before sending. Perhaps if I had waited a day instead of sending my health-report to my brothers—perhaps that would have allowed the after effects of the anaesthetic to dissipate and I would have been able to phrase my words more accurately or clearly. Perhaps if I called around my brothers and spoke with them more often we would have been more in tune and my words would have been clear.

I remember getting a hand written phone message after a long morning at an intense management workshop. All the message said was "Hit by a truck, all ok, Tanya." WHAT!!! How could my wife be hit by a truck and all ok? ... I took the message at face value that all was Ok since I trust Tanya. I called: her CAR had been hit a glancing blow by a truck—she was shaken but not injured. Four words extra by the person taking the message would have helped wouldn't they "<u>My car has been</u> hit by a truck, all ok, Tanya" would have been so much better.



Thanksgiving

The next batch of Thanksgiving Envelopes have been prepared by our ever efficient Peter Norman (thank you very much Peter) and are now ready for collection from the table in the Gathering Space. Please remember to collect yours before leaving

> TGI's Youth Group

Let's all try and be more careful in our words and more charitable in our interpretations of what we hear and read and how we respond.

It occurs to me that if I am / we are rushing so much in our communications with each other—perhaps we're doing that with God too. Maybe this is a gentle call to me to put a little more time into talking with and listening to God's words to me. And so maybe a call to you also in your lives.

A quick prayer is great when that is all time permits—but maybe, just maybe, make an extra five minutes or ten minutes (or dare one even imagine thirty minutes) each day—to stop ... to listen ... to allow ourselves to be present with God so that we can better understand his words to us: because we listen we have the sense of God within us: the smell and sound and feel and touch and look of God surrounding us as we receive his guidance. God bless, Fr Charles



For information on our Parish Schools please contact:

St Kevin's Primary School Phone: 9273 9999

St Charles Borromeo Primary School Phone: 9842 7634

## **Responsorial Psalm**

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

## **Response to Prayers of the Faithful**

Lord, hear our prayer.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS OF THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
First Reading	Second Reading			
Jeremiah 20: 7-9	<u>Romans 12: 1-2</u>			
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah	A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans			
The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.	May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.			
Chapters 11 to 20 of the book of the prophet Jeremiah	Having come to a Job-like resolution of the			
contain several intense passages, often called the	agonising problem of his own people's fate, Paul			
"laments," "confessions" or "complaints" of the prophet.	embarks on an exhortation about the Christian life.			
Today's reading is the first part of the last of these	Several of his letters follow this pattern of			
powerful passages. Jeremiah feels trapped between the	theological debate followed by ethical advice. If			
unrelenting demands God has made of him and the active	obedience to the Law (and the sacrificial cult it			
opposition he has had to face from the people. No wonder he cries out against God in pain, anger and	sanctioned) is no longer the path to salvation, as he has argued, then what kind of life are believers to			
anguish.	lead?			
The language he uses in this lament is shockingly violent.	Today's reading offers the answer. Against the			
He accuses God of forcing him to undertake his prophetic	defining horizon of God's mercy, they are to lead			
mission, using terms related to sexual assault.	lives of self-sacrifice. Their "new mind" will show			
God has seduced and overpowered him.	them what accords with God's will and is therefore			
To make matters worse his preaching only provokes	good and perfect. This guidance will come from			
"insult, derision, all day long".	within. Paul makes it clear that, while this way of			
In spite of all that, he cannot escape the "fire burning in	life is not governed by prevailing social norms, it			
my heart".	isn't "otherworldly" either. It's that of "living bodies".			
The lectionary spares us the rest of Jeremiah's diatribe. It	The baptised are to offer bodily service to others			
culminates in the desperate curse he utters at ever having	and in the process give true worship to God. This			
been born.	might remind some of Jesus' quote from Hosea: "What I want is mercy, not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13).			
The rationale for choosing this disturbing text becomes clear when we hear Jesus foreshadowing his own rejection,	Paul's vision of the Christian life is holistic. Body,			
suffering and death in the gospel.	mind and spirit are at one in the service of God and			
But we hear nothing from Jesus like Jeremiah's fierce	neighbour. This is the basis for Paul's ensuing			
complaint, only his plea in the Garden of Olives to be	exposition on the concrete form of self-sacrificing			
spared the cup he must drink.	love. This reading may be short but it sets the scene			
There is no more impassioned text than this in the whole	for the remaining chapters of the letter.			
of the scriptures.	It is faith-filled, positive and encouraging.			

We need a few extra members for the Parish Pastoral Council and within that we desperately need someone from each parish who will take on the role of Chair – helping run meetings and helping draw together the priorities needed and the agenda. I consider the Parish Pastoral Council important, now and in the future. Can you help? I don't know you all, and certainly with most of you not well enough to know your gifts. Code and following these simple steps:

- 1. Wave your mobile camera over it
- 2. Click on "Web Address"
- 3. Indicate your payment

options

All contributions go directly and securely into the Church account.

# Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

